



May 2, 2011

Christopher Riordan
Acting Community Development Director
City of Saratoga
1377 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

RE: Status of Unincorporated Lands within the City of Saratoga’s Urban Service Area Boundary (i.e. Unincorporated Islands)

Dear Mr. Riordan:

In late October 2010, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Clara County directed its staff to develop an inventory of the remaining unincorporated islands within each city’s urban service area and to report back to the Commission on each city’s plans regarding its islands.

Six Unincorporated Islands Remain in the City of Saratoga

The City has six unincorporated islands within its Urban Service Area (USA). See table below and attached maps.

SARATOGA	
Island ID #	No. of Acres
STG01	89.5
STG02	8.5
STG04	92.0
STG05	206.9
STG06	0.4
STG07	103.6
Total	500.9

Annex Islands that Qualify for the Streamlined Annexation Process

Islands STG02 and STG04 consist primarily of private residential development and are eligible for annexation through the streamlined annexation process. Islands such as these are substantially developed and create inefficiencies / confusion in terms of provision of emergency and other municipal services. Furthermore, residents of such islands are politically disenfranchised from the city government that surrounds them.

Annexation of such islands is a high priority for LAFCO and the County. In order to encourage these annexations, LAFCO continues to waive its fees for island annexations and the County continues to provide financial incentives including covering the costs for preparing Assessor and Surveyor reports and maps, paying the State Board of Equalization filing fees, and budgeting for road improvements in islands approved for annexation. As you may be aware, the law streamlining the annexation process for qualified unincorporated islands sunsets on January 1, 2014.

We encourage the City to take advantage of this process and the incentives currently being offered by both the County and LAFCO for such annexations. Please provide us with an update on the City's plans and time-line for annexing islands STG02 and STG04.

Review Remaining Islands

In terms of the City's four other remaining islands (i.e. STG01, STG05, STG06, and STG07), please review these islands that may or may not qualify for the streamlined annexation process, and determine whether the City intends to retain them within the City's USA boundary for eventual annexation.

For those islands that the City intends to retain in its USA boundary, please explain what the City's rationale is for retaining them in its USA and when the City plans to annex them.

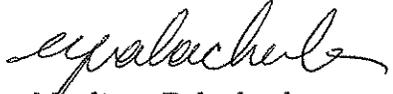
For those areas not appropriate for eventual annexation, the City should consider whether to exclude these areas from its USA Boundary. Please contact LAFCO staff to discuss the USA amendment process and time-line for resolving these islands.

A Response from the City is Greatly Appreciated

LAFCO staff is willing to work with and assist the City in resolving these island issues. We would appreciate knowing the City's annexation and/or urban service area amendment plans for these islands as soon as possible and no later than June 10, 2011. If you have any questions or concerns or would like to meet to discuss

the City's plans, I can be reached at (408) 299-5127 or at neelima.palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org or you may contact Dunia Noel, LAFCO Asst. Executive Officer, at (408) 299-5148 / dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org. Thank for you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Neelima Palacherla
LAFCO Executive Officer

Attachment:

Maps of Unincorporated Islands in City's Urban Service Area prepared by the Santa Clara County Planning Office

Cc:

Dave Anderson, City Manager, City of Saratoga
Saratoga City Council Members

Jody Hall Esser, Director, Dept. of Planning & Development, Santa Clara County
LAFCO Members



SANTA CLARA COUNTY
Urban Islands 2011

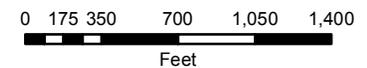
Maps depicting unincorporated lands located within the cities' Urban Service Areas (USAs)

 Urban Service Area

 Incorporated Areas

 Urban Island ≤ 150 Acres

 Urban Island > 150 Acres



This map created by the Santa Clara County Planning Office. The GIS data was compiled from various sources. While deemed reliable, the Planning Office assumes no liability.
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SANTA CLARA COUNTY
Urban Islands 2011

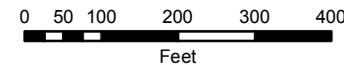
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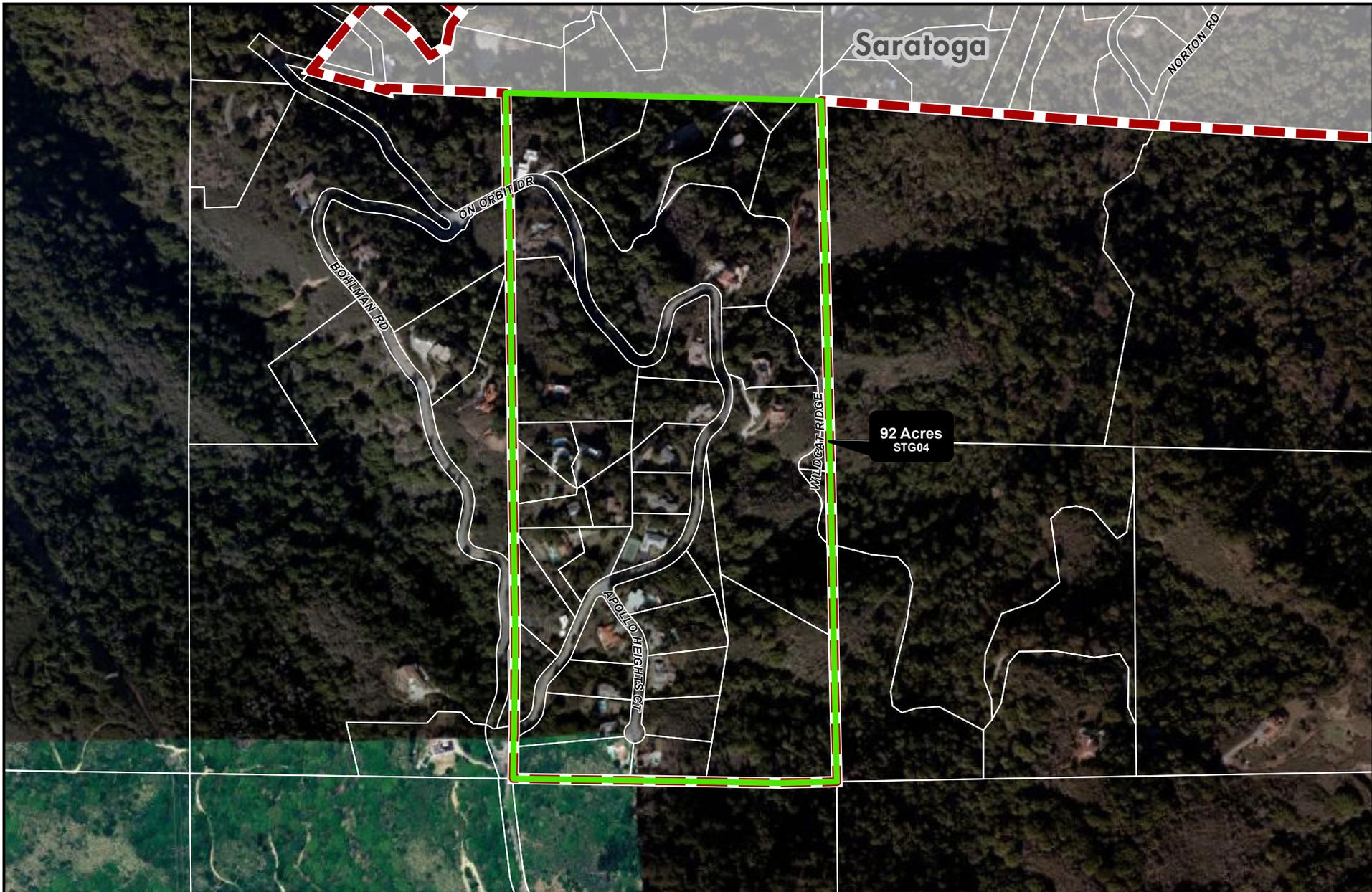
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92 Acres
STG04

Saratoga

NORTON RD

ON ORBIT DR

EOFFMAN RD

APOLLO HEIGHTS CT

WILDCAT RIDGE

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
Urban Islands 2011

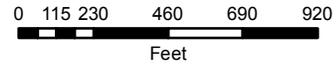
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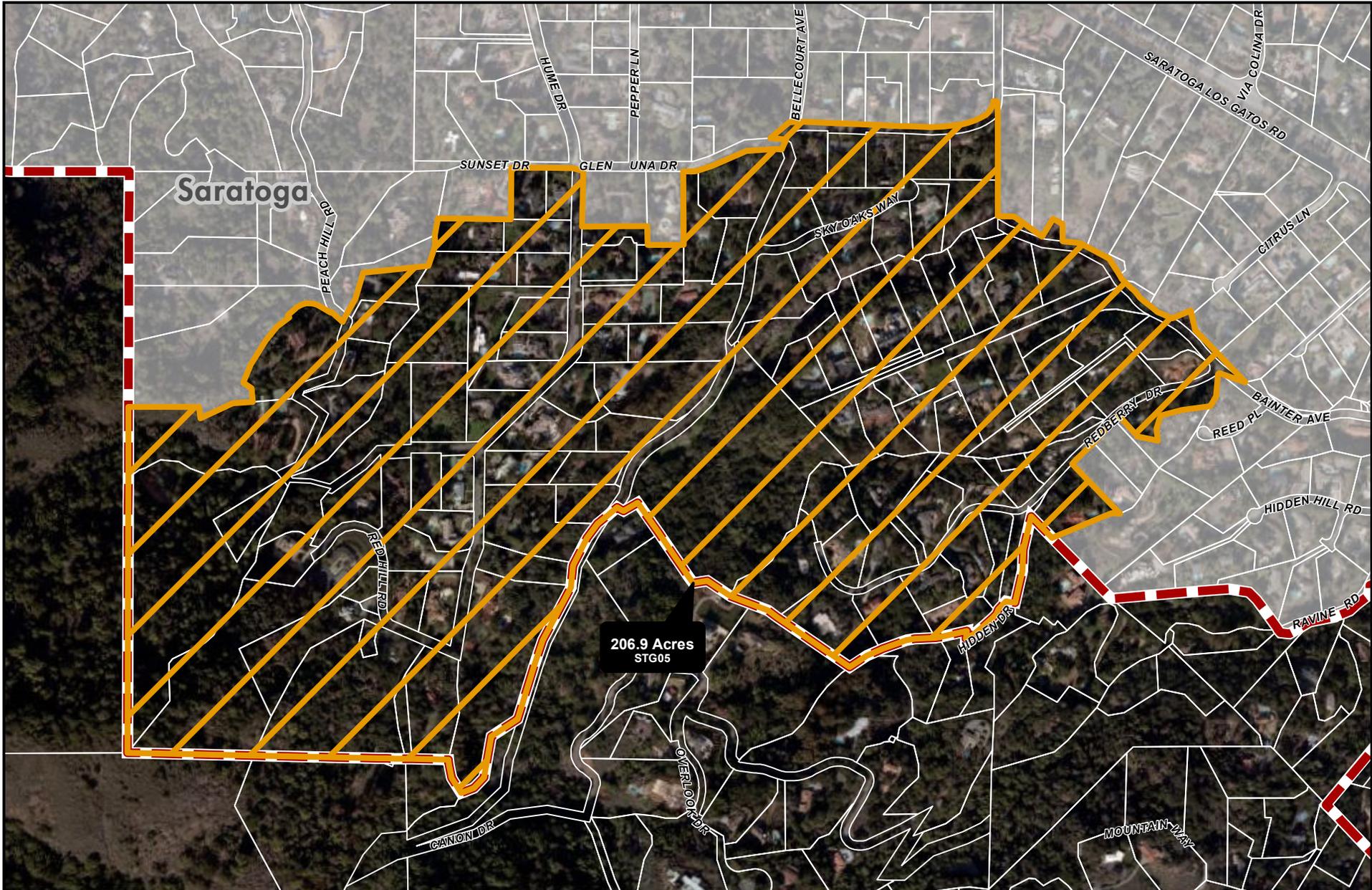
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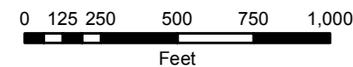


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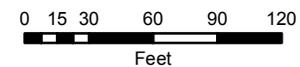
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