

Political Sign Free Zones

OCTOBER 14, 2024



ARIZONA LAW

A.R.S. 16-1019. Political signs; printed materials; tampering; violation; classification; definitions

C. Notwithstanding any other statute, ordinance or regulation, a city, town or county of this state shall not remove, alter, deface or cover any political sign if the following conditions are met:

1. The sign is placed in a public right-of-way that is owned or controlled by that jurisdiction.
2. The sign supports or opposes a candidate for public office or it supports or opposes a ballot measure, question or issue.
3. The sign is not placed in a location that is hazardous to public safety, obstructs clear vision in the area or interferes with the requirements of the Americans with disabilities act (42 United States Code sections 12101 through 12213 and 47 United States Code sections 225 and 611).
4. The sign has a maximum area of sixteen square feet, if the sign is located in an area zoned for residential use, or a maximum area of thirty-two square feet if the sign is located in any other area.
5. The sign contains the name and telephone number or website address of the candidate or campaign committee contact person.



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D. If the city, town or county deems that the placement of a political sign constitutes an emergency, the jurisdiction may immediately relocate the sign. The jurisdiction shall notify the candidate or campaign committee that placed the sign within twenty-four hours after the relocation. If a sign is placed in violation of subsection C of this section and the placement is not deemed to constitute an emergency, the city, town or county may notify the candidate or campaign committee that placed the sign of the violation. If the sign remains in violation at least twenty-four hours after the jurisdiction notified the candidate or campaign committee, the jurisdiction may remove the sign. The jurisdiction shall contact the candidate or campaign committee contact and shall retain the sign for at least ten business days to allow the candidate or campaign committee to retrieve the sign without penalty.



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F. Subsection C of this section does not apply to commercial tourism, commercial resort and hotel sign free zones as those zones are designated by municipalities. The total area of those zones shall not be larger than three square miles, and each zone shall be identified as a specific contiguous area where, by resolution of the municipal governing body, the municipality has determined that based on a predominance of commercial tourism, resort and hotel uses within the zone the placement of political signs within the rights-of-way in the zone will detract from the scenic and aesthetic appeal of the area within the zone and deter its appeal to tourists. Not more than two zones may be identified within a municipality.



CITIES/TOWNS WITH POLITICAL SIGN-FREE ZONES

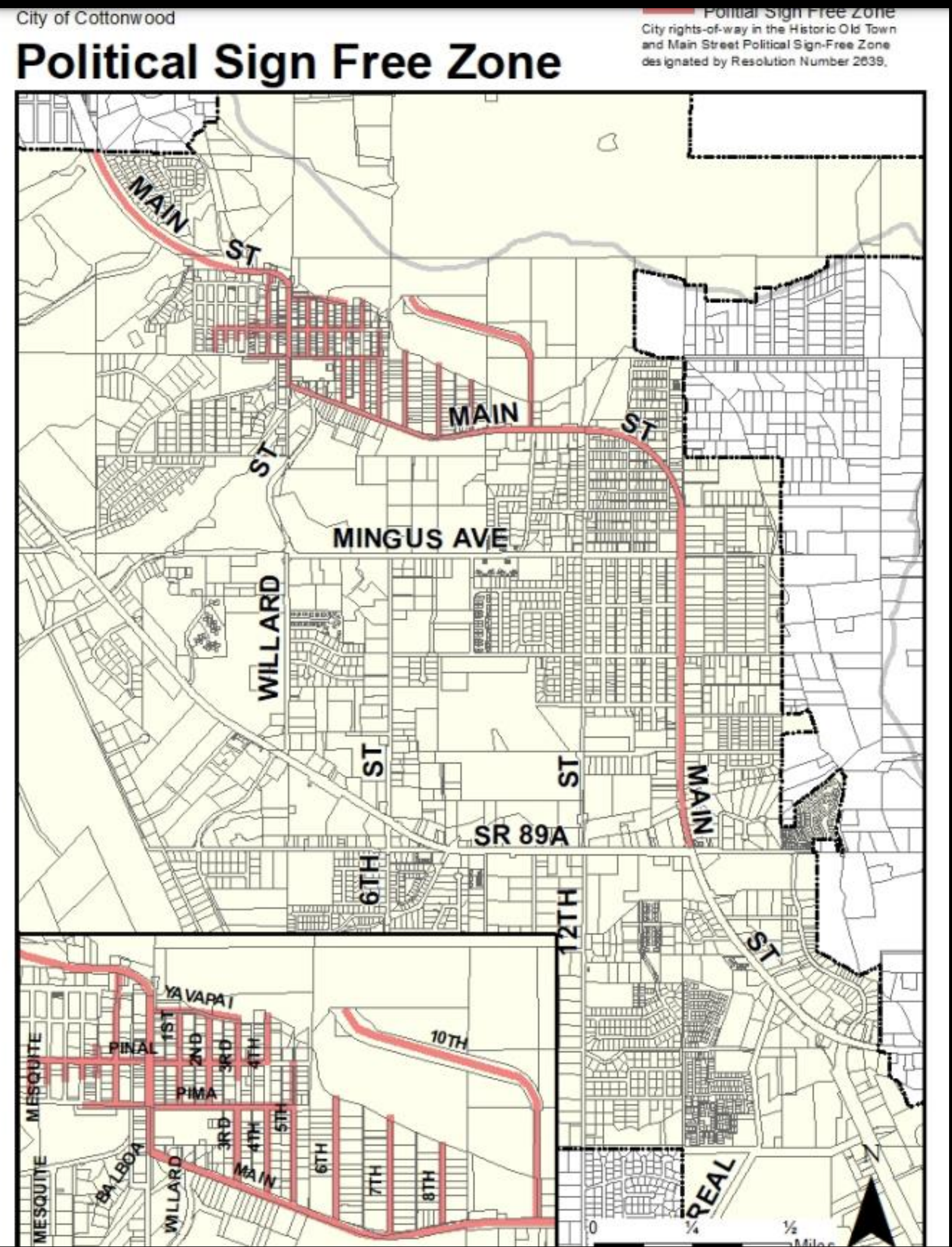
- Clarkdale (2016)
- Cottonwood (?)
- Flagstaff (2016)
- Fountain Hills (2012)
- Goodyear (2023)
- Lake Havasu City (2022)
- Paradise Valley (2011 – post-session)
- Prescott (2019)
- Prescott Valley (2012)
- Scottsdale (2011 – post-session)

**City of Apache
Junction**



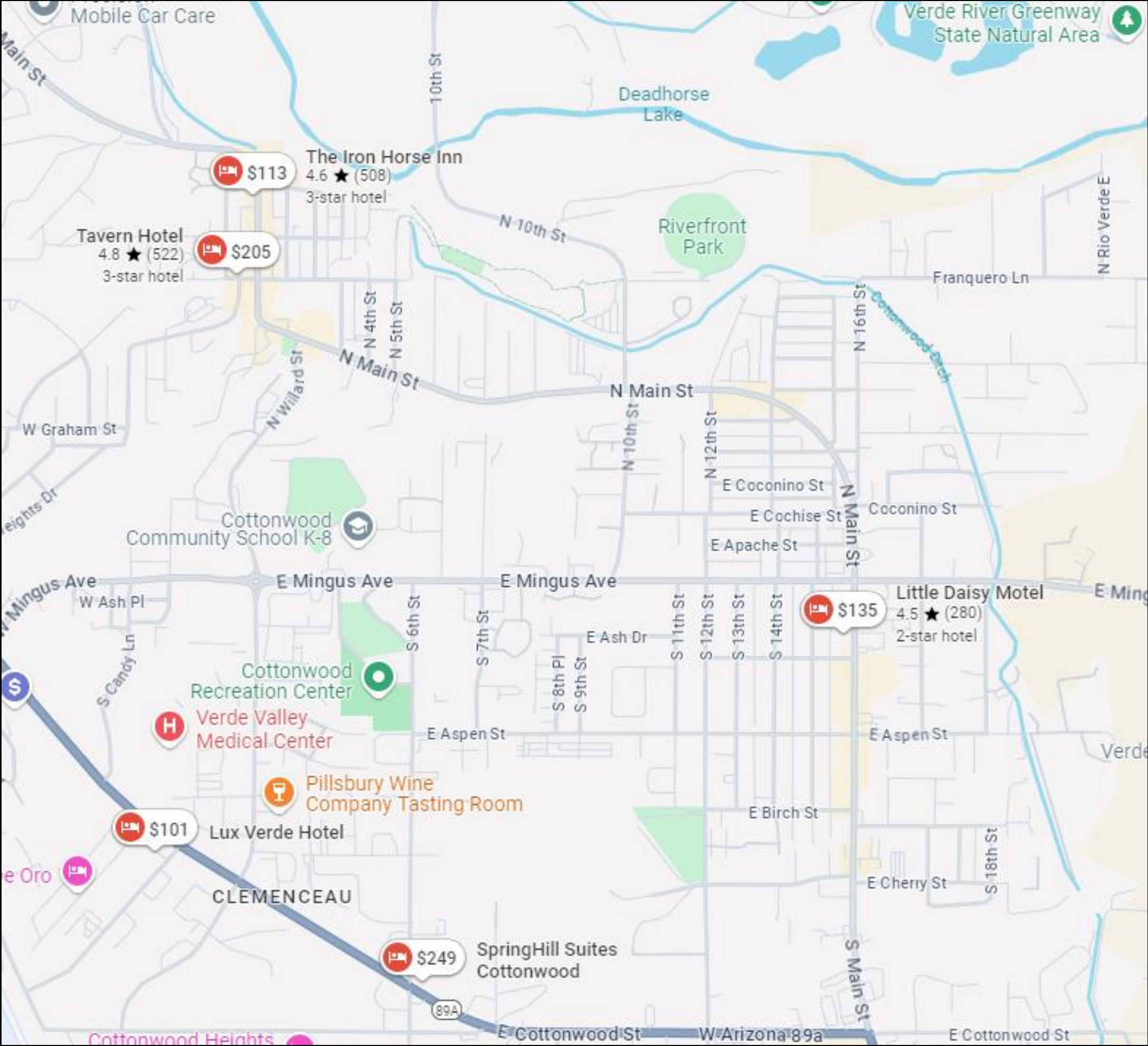
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COTTONWOOD



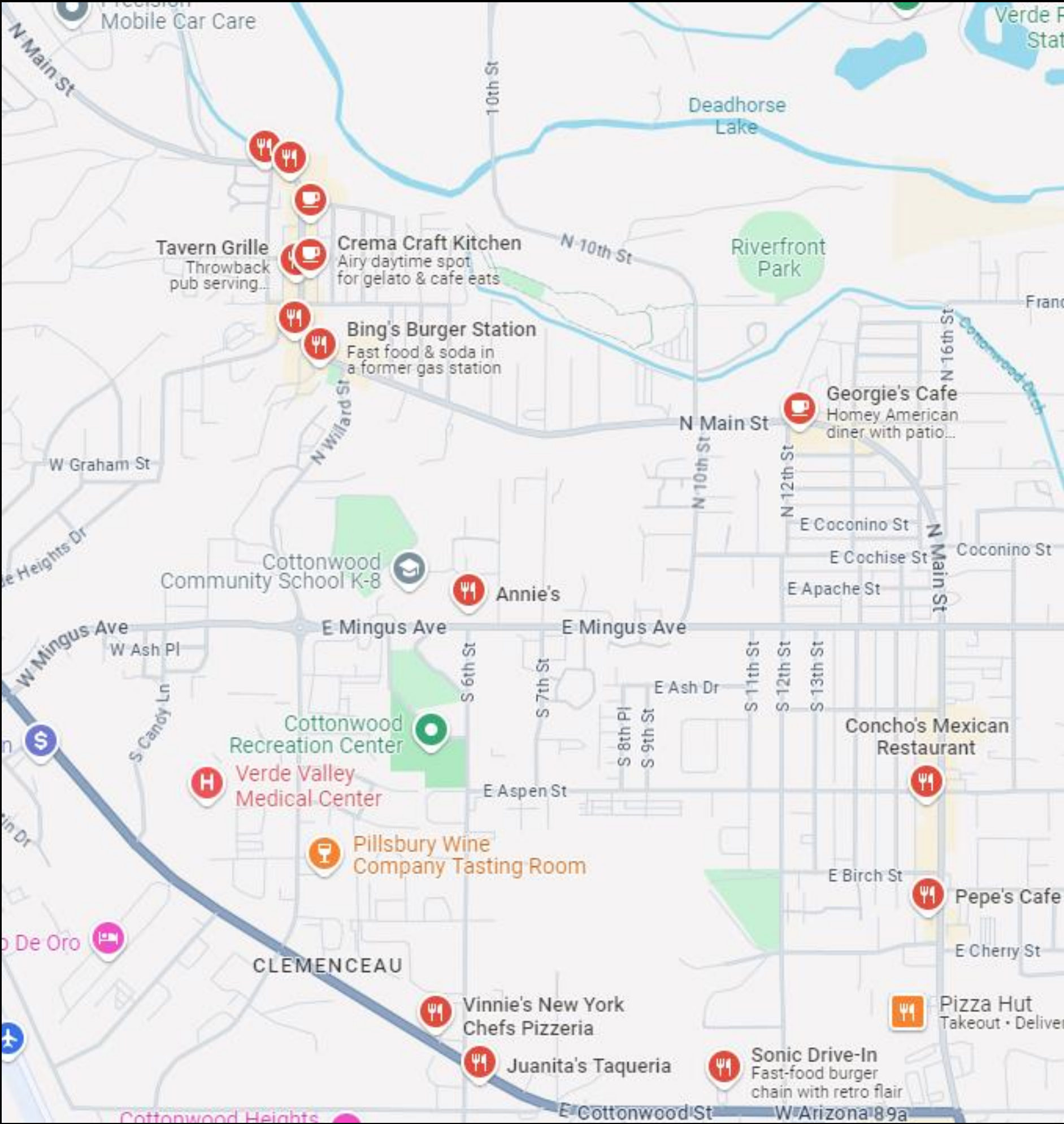
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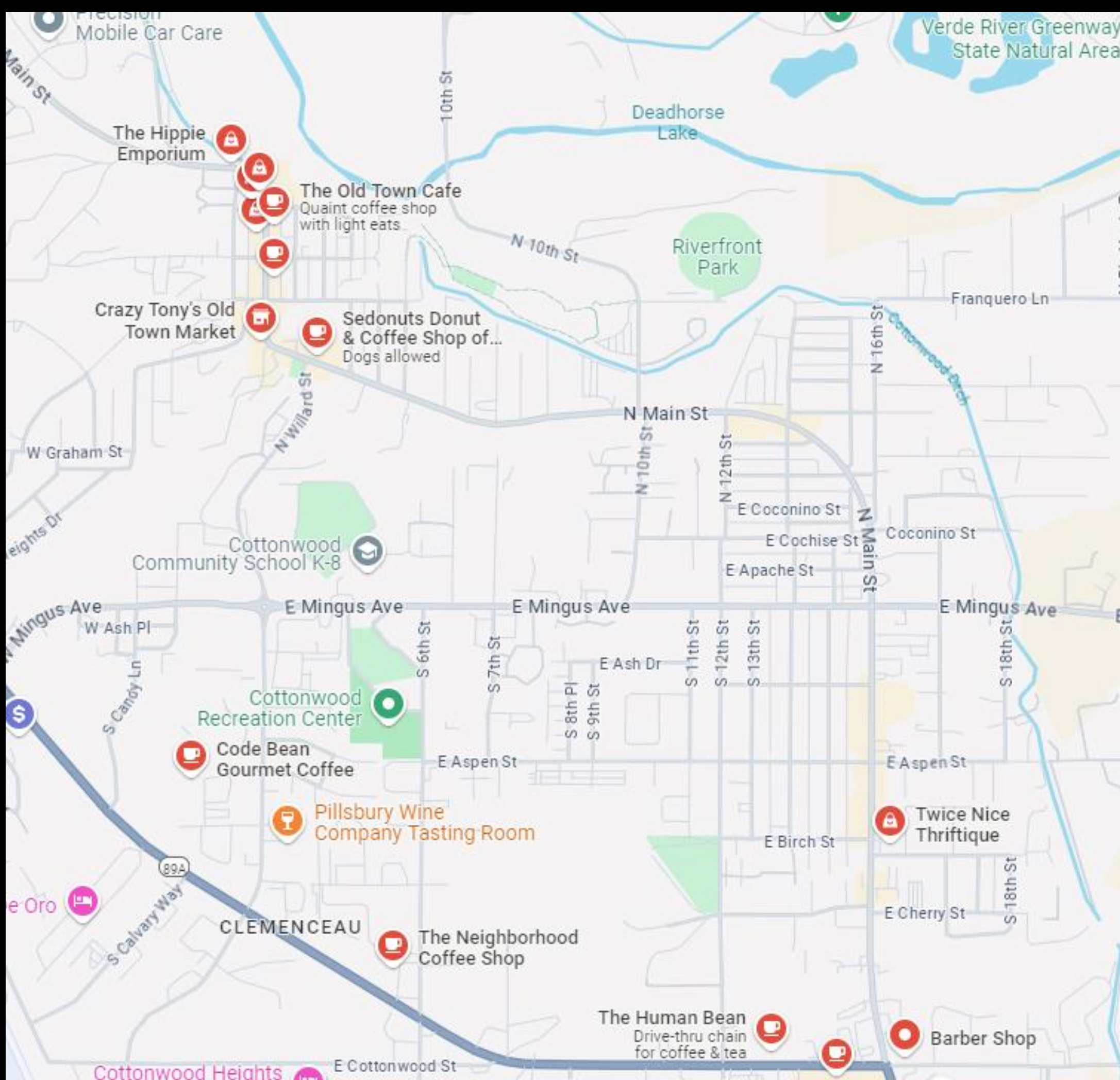
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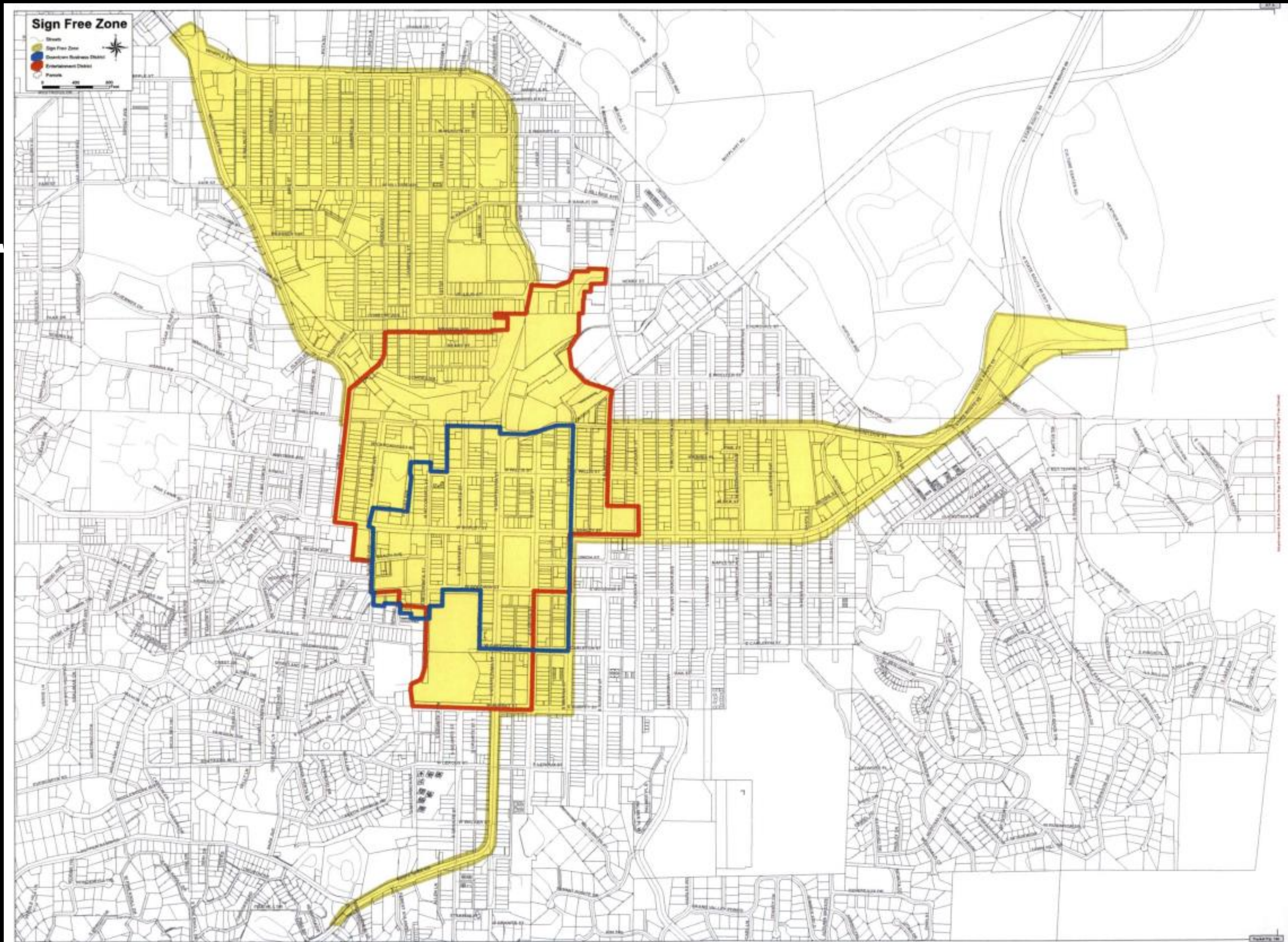
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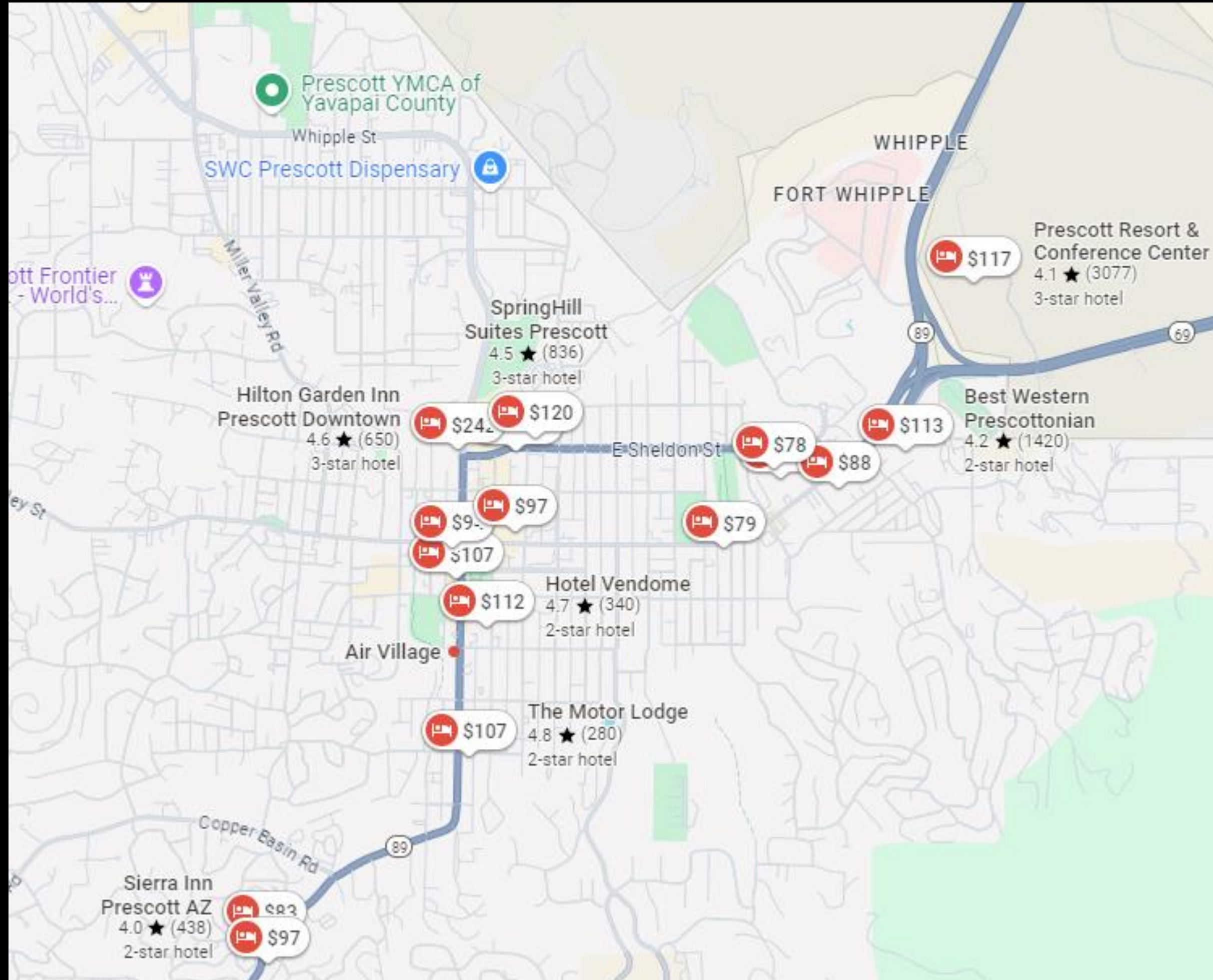
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PRESCOTT



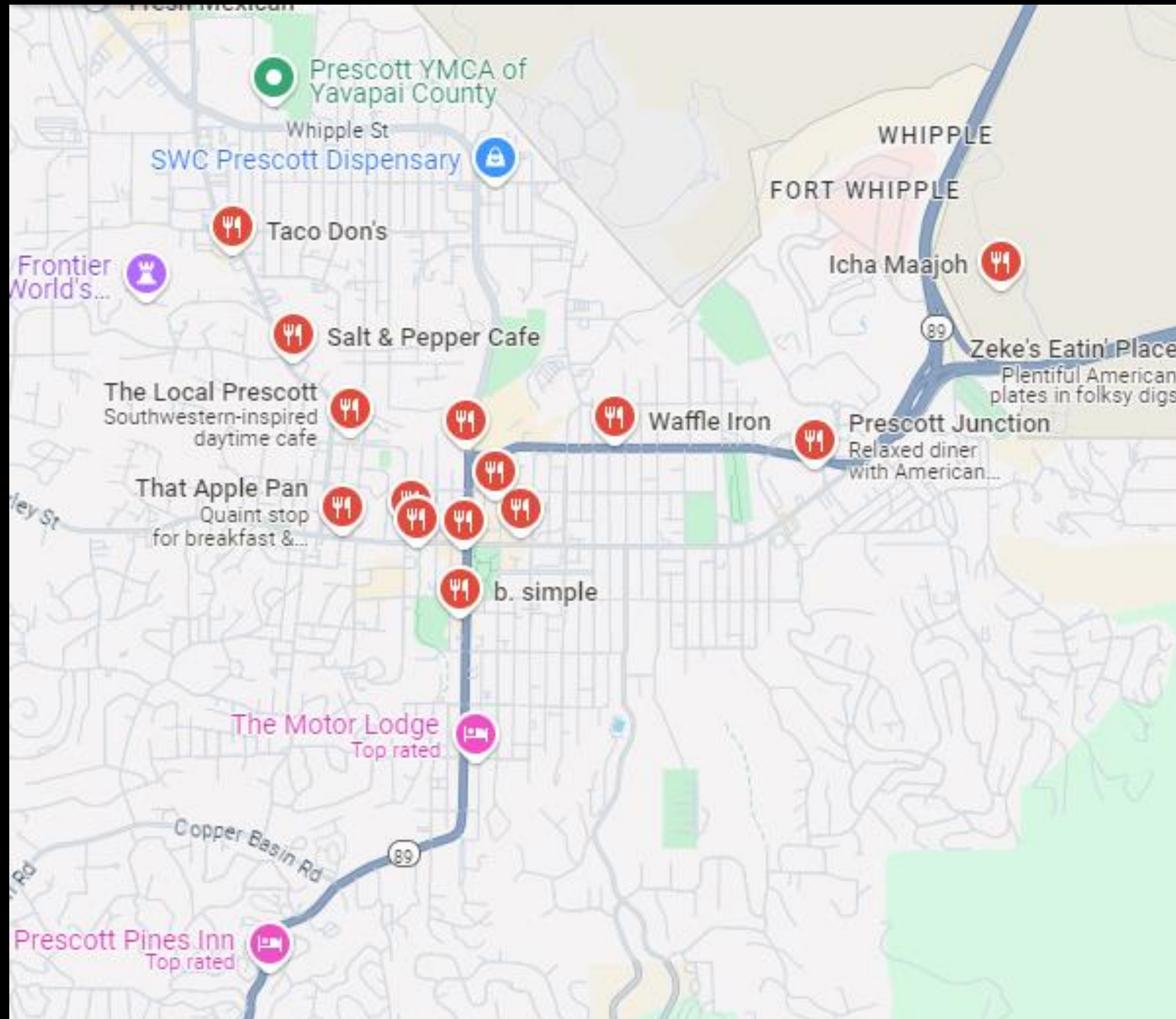
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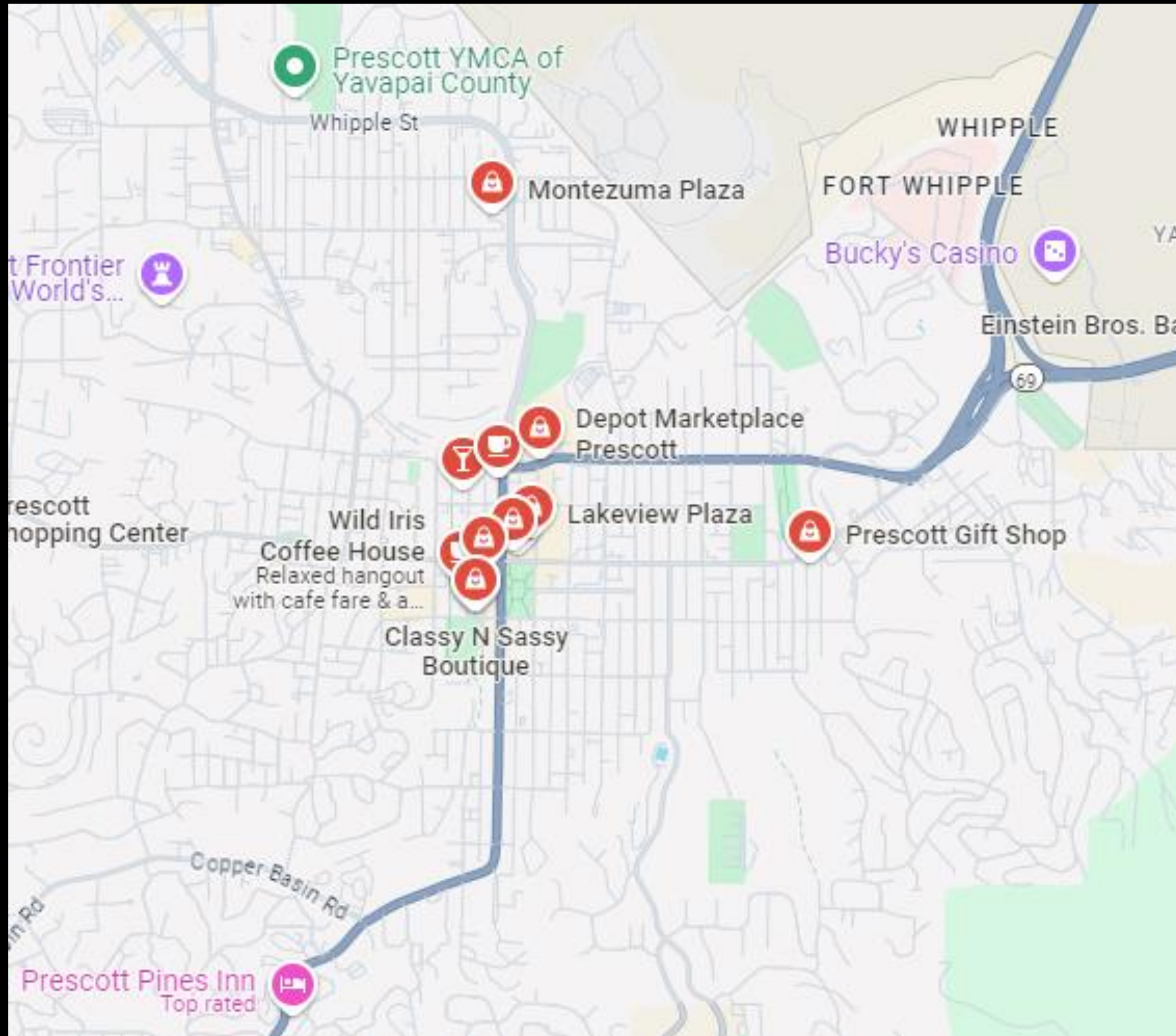
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PRESCOTT



2

PRESCOTT



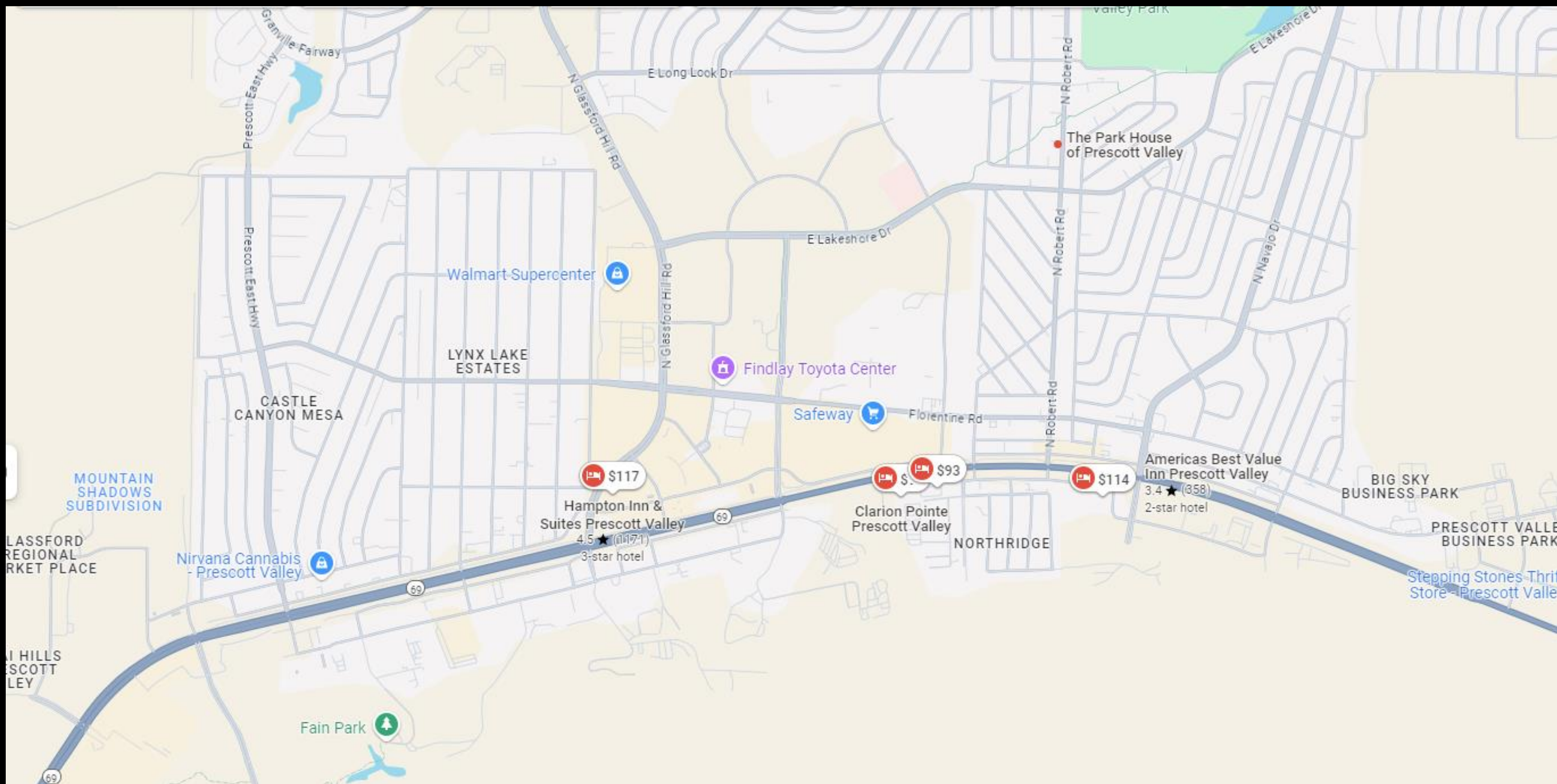
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PRESCOTT VALLEY



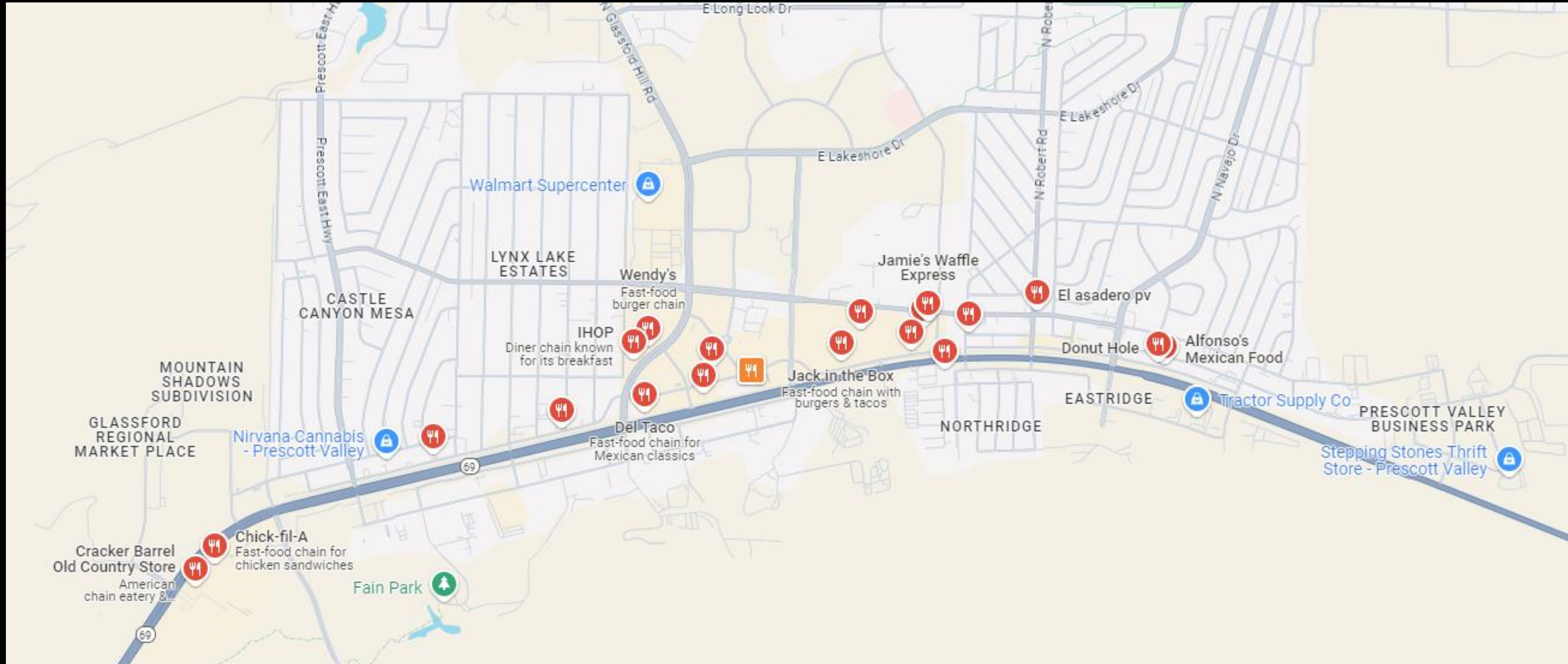
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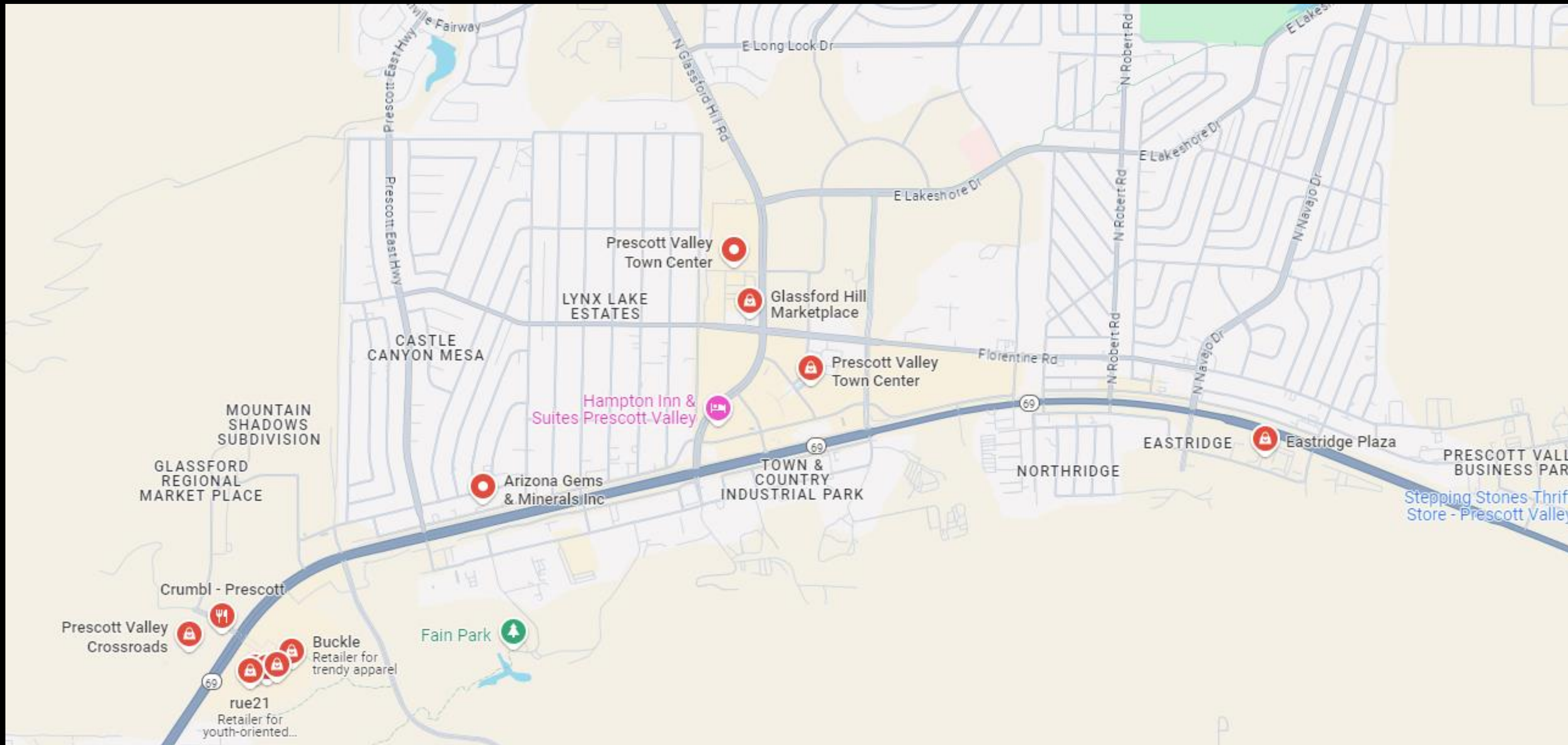
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PRESCOTT VALLEY



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PRESCOTT VALLEY



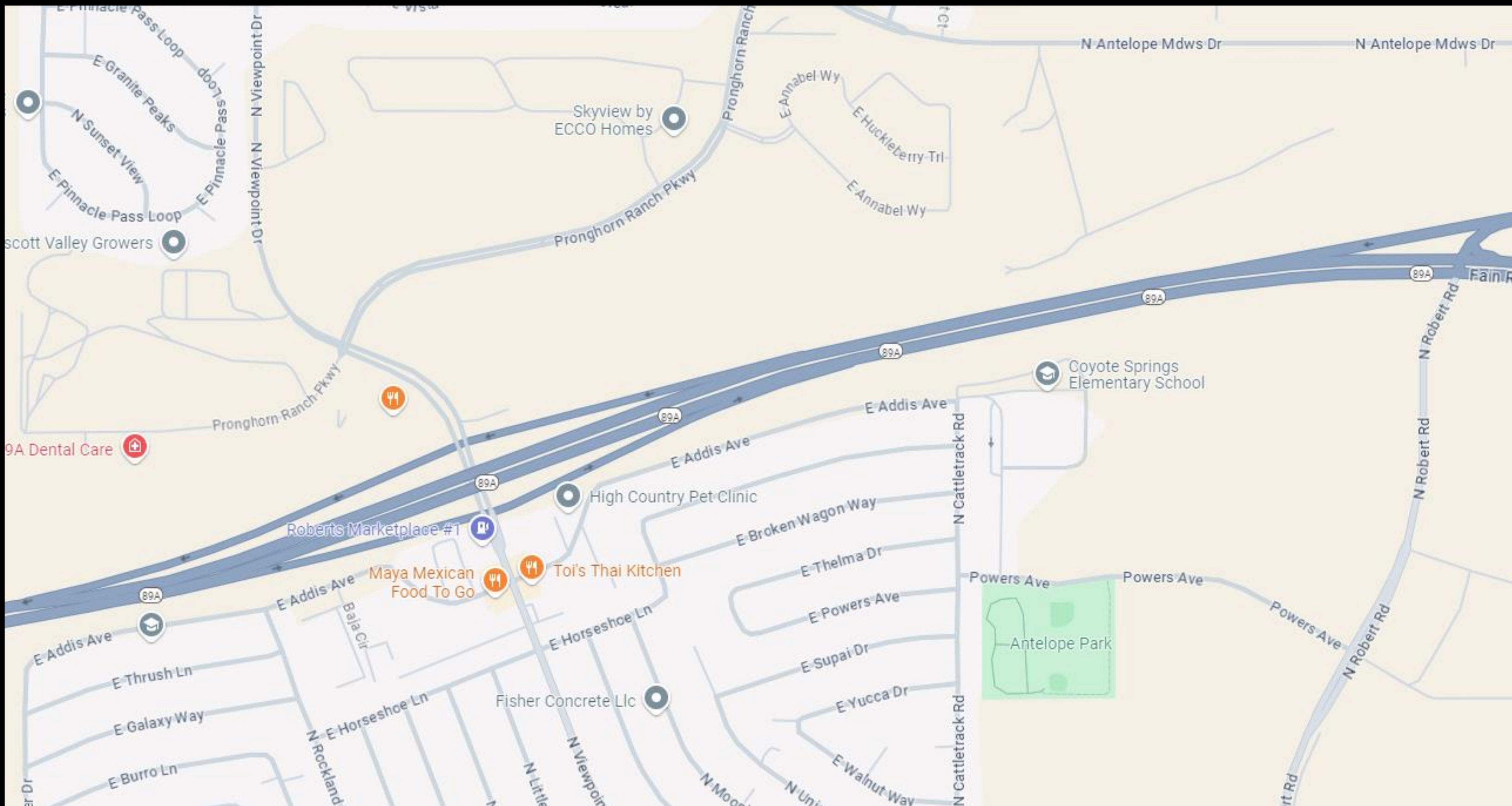
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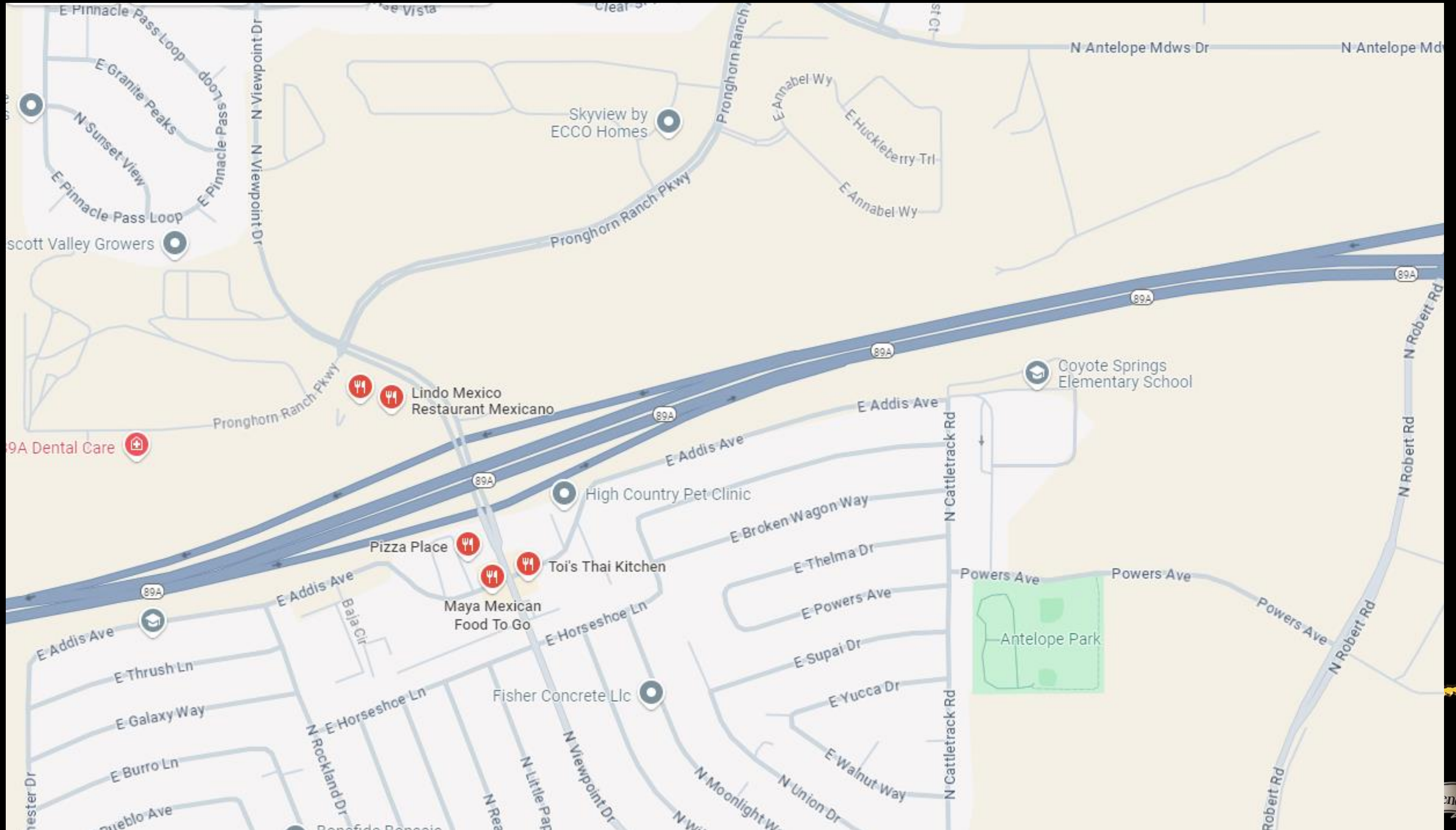
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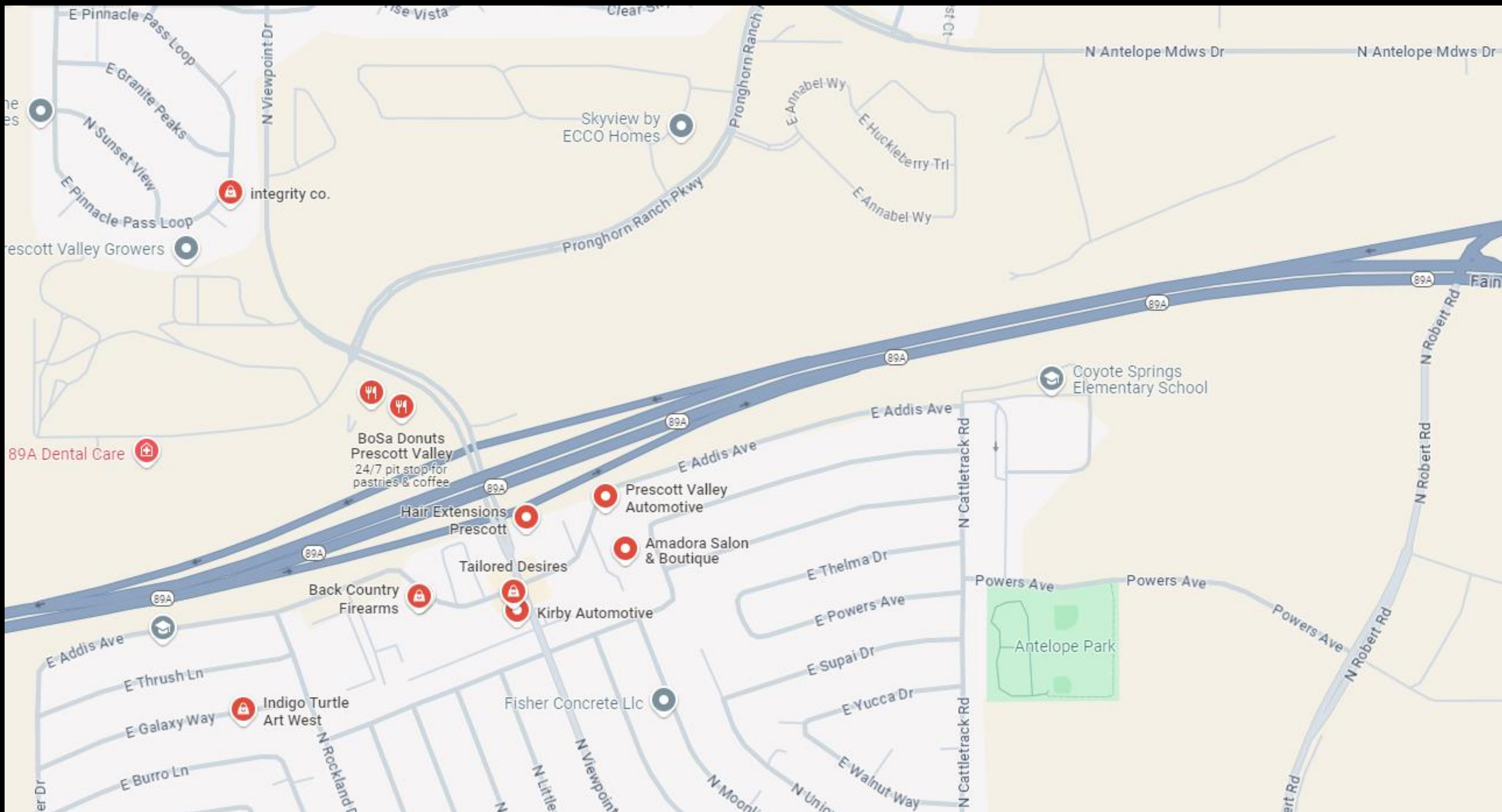
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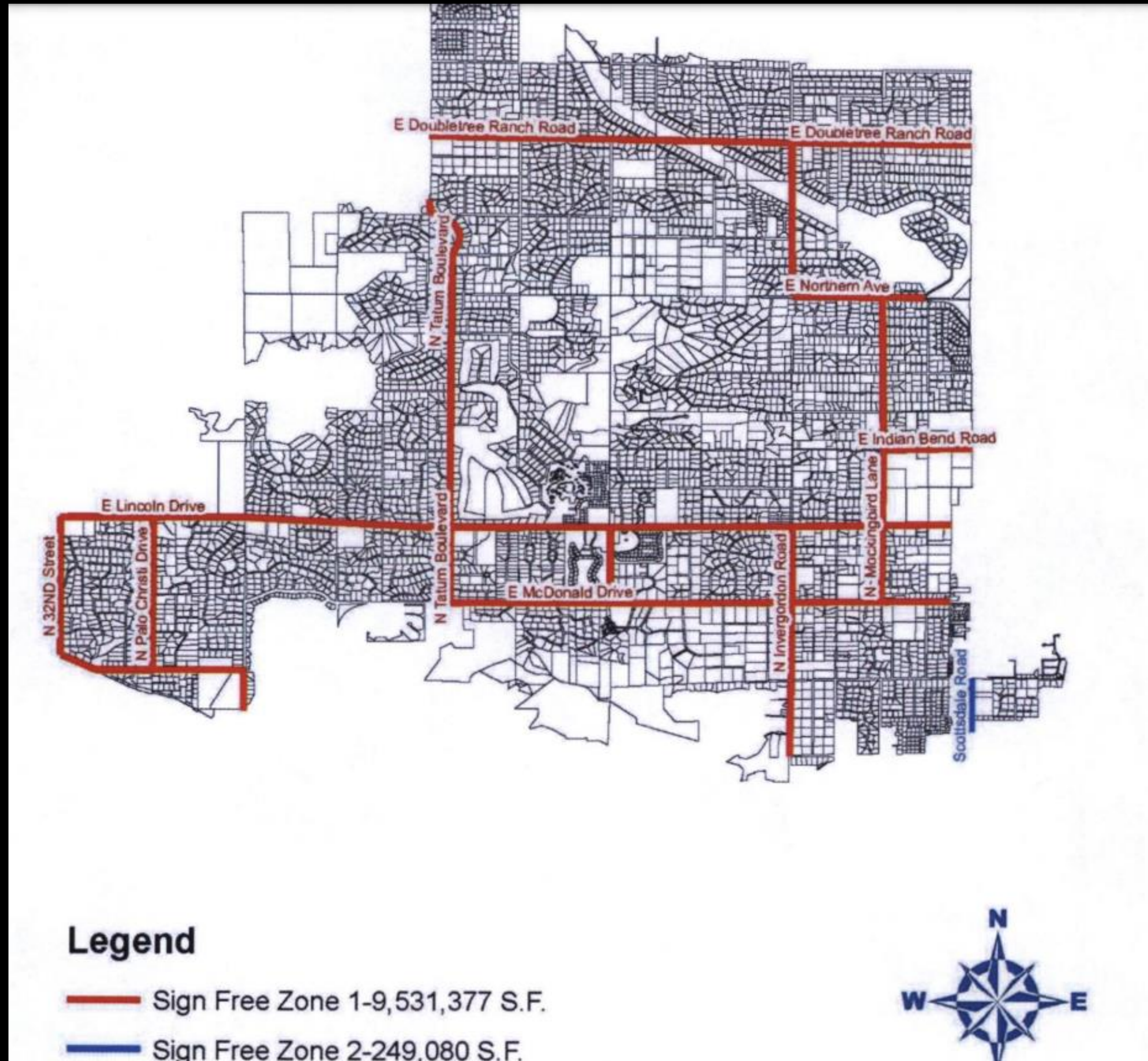
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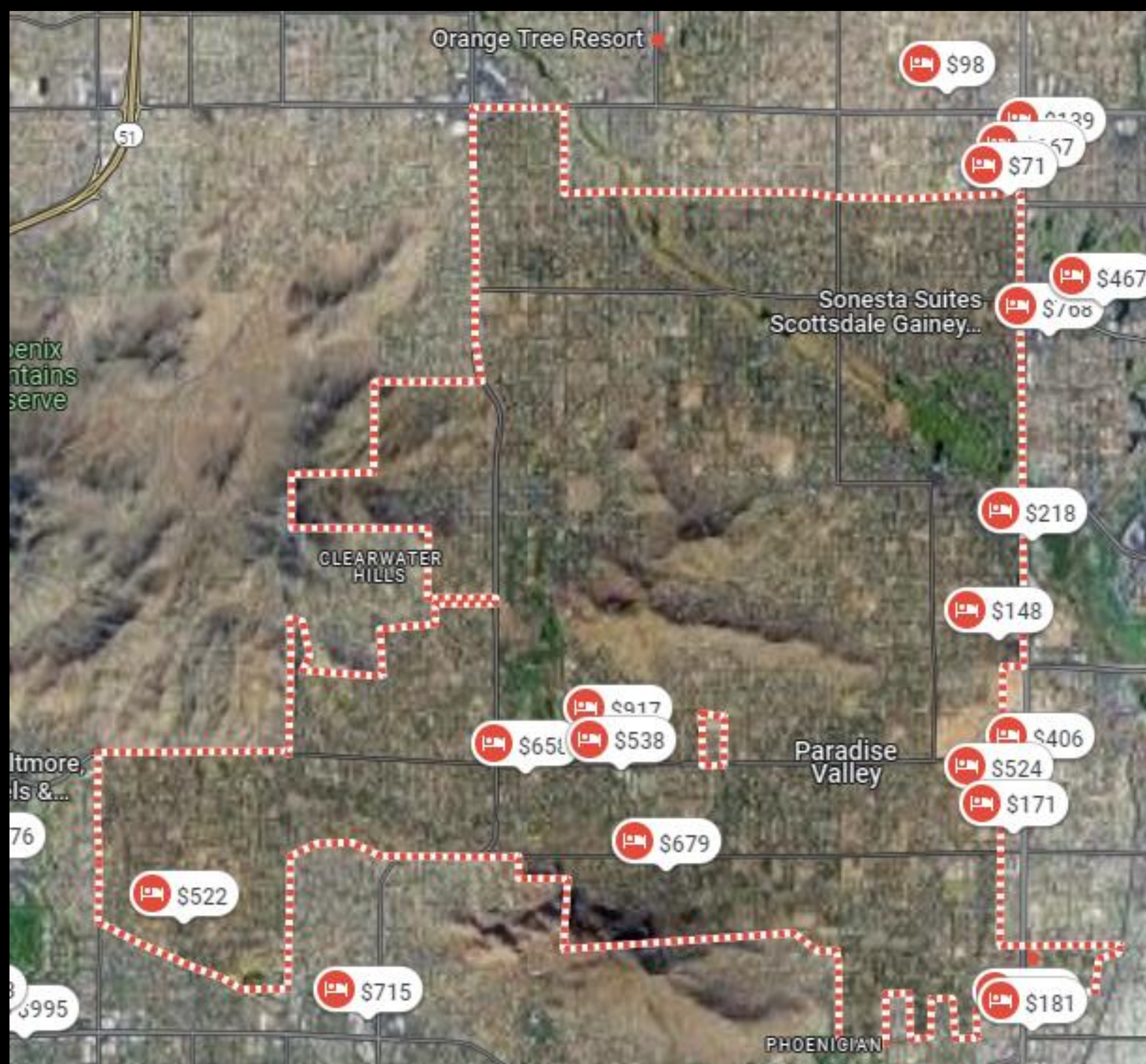
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PARADISE VALLEY



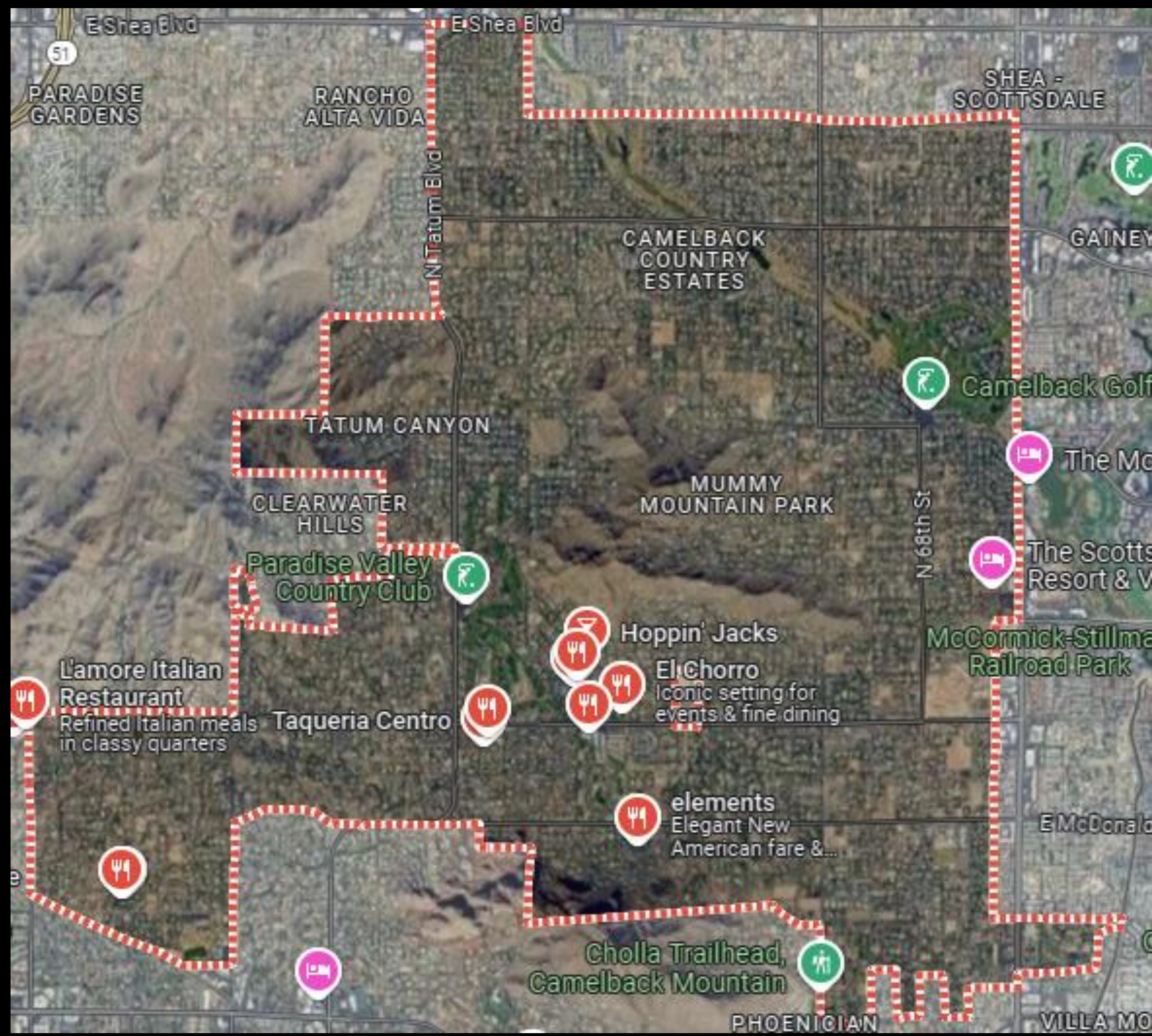
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PARADISE VALLEY



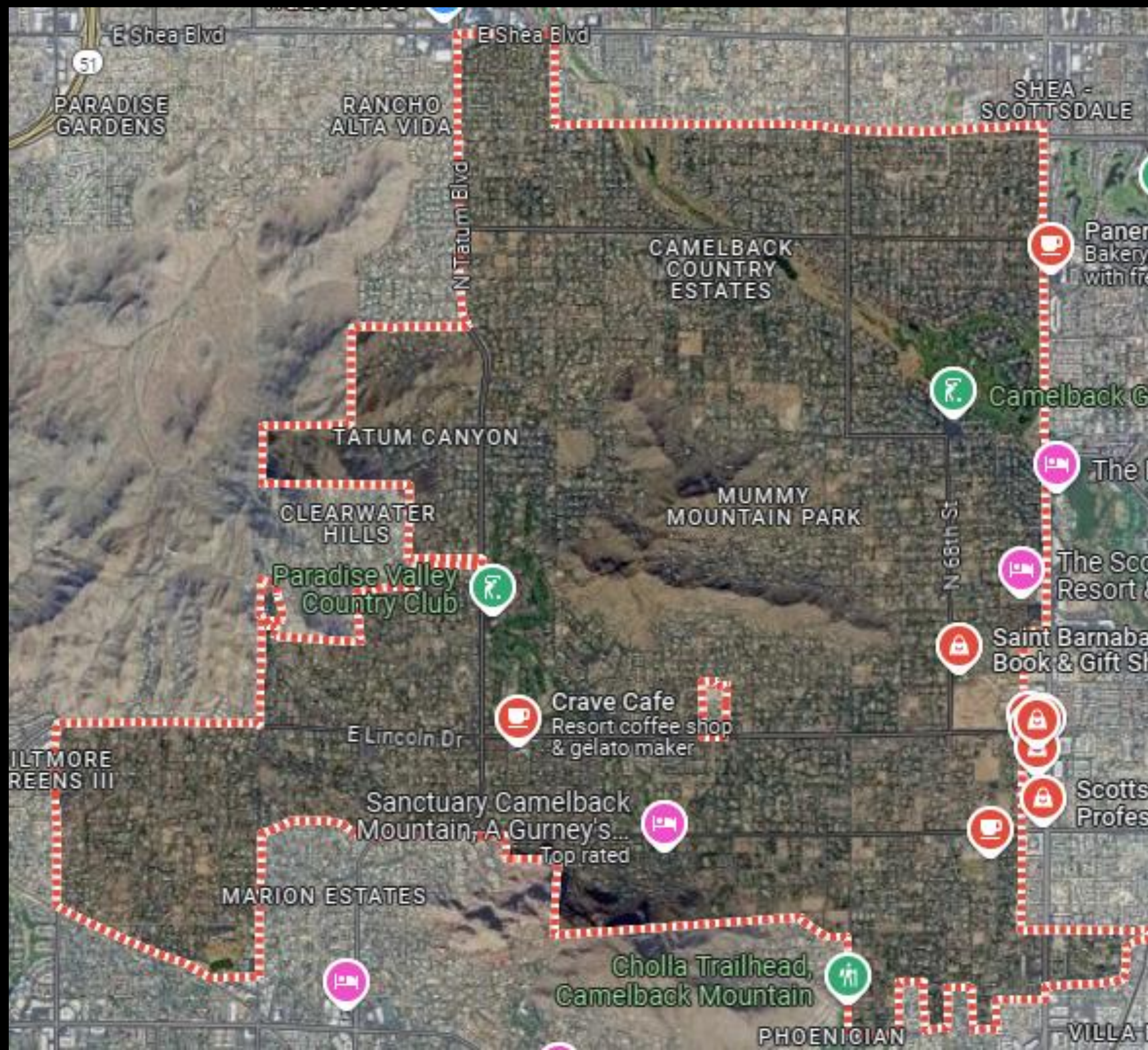
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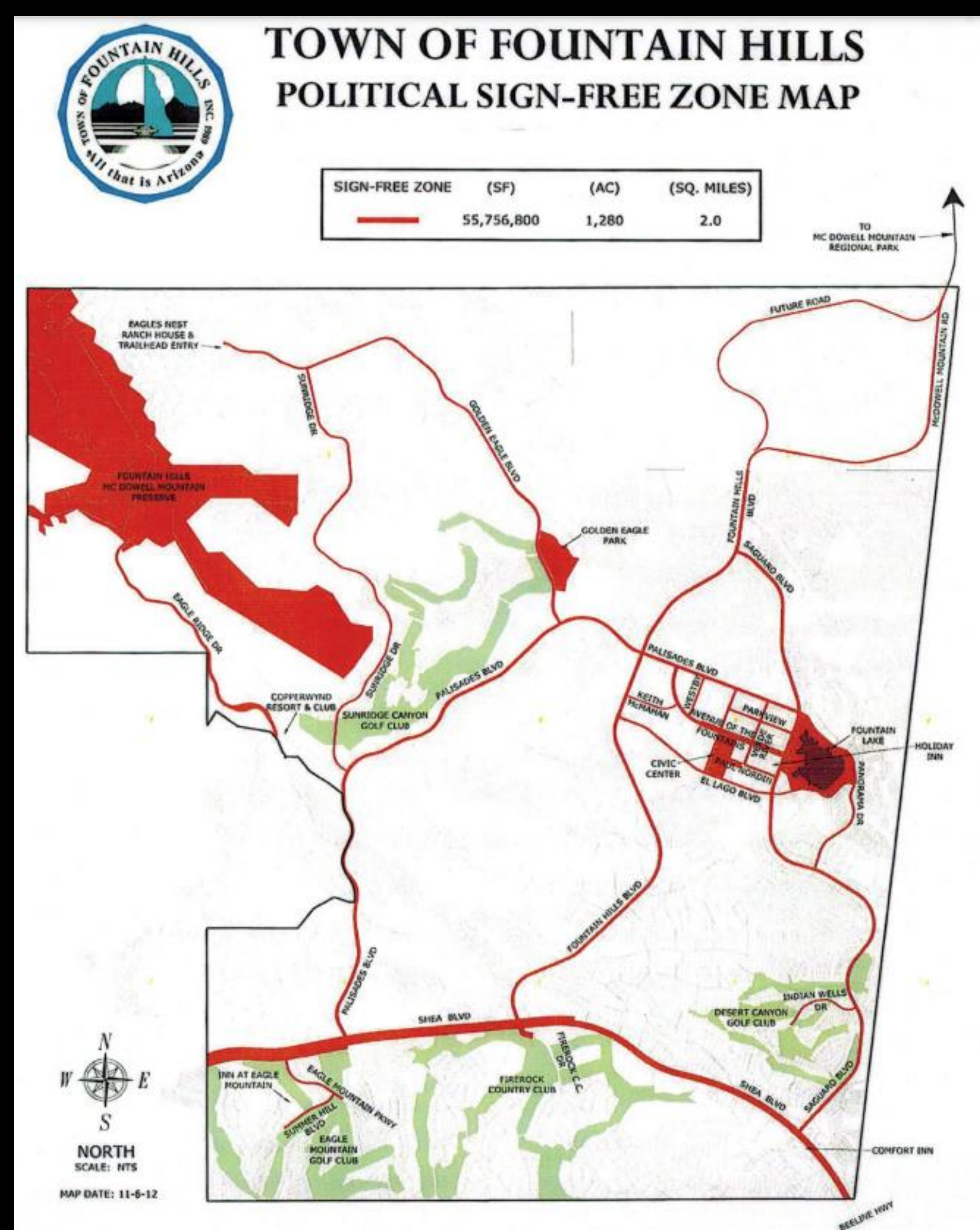
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PARADISE VALLEY



5

FOUNTAIN HILLS



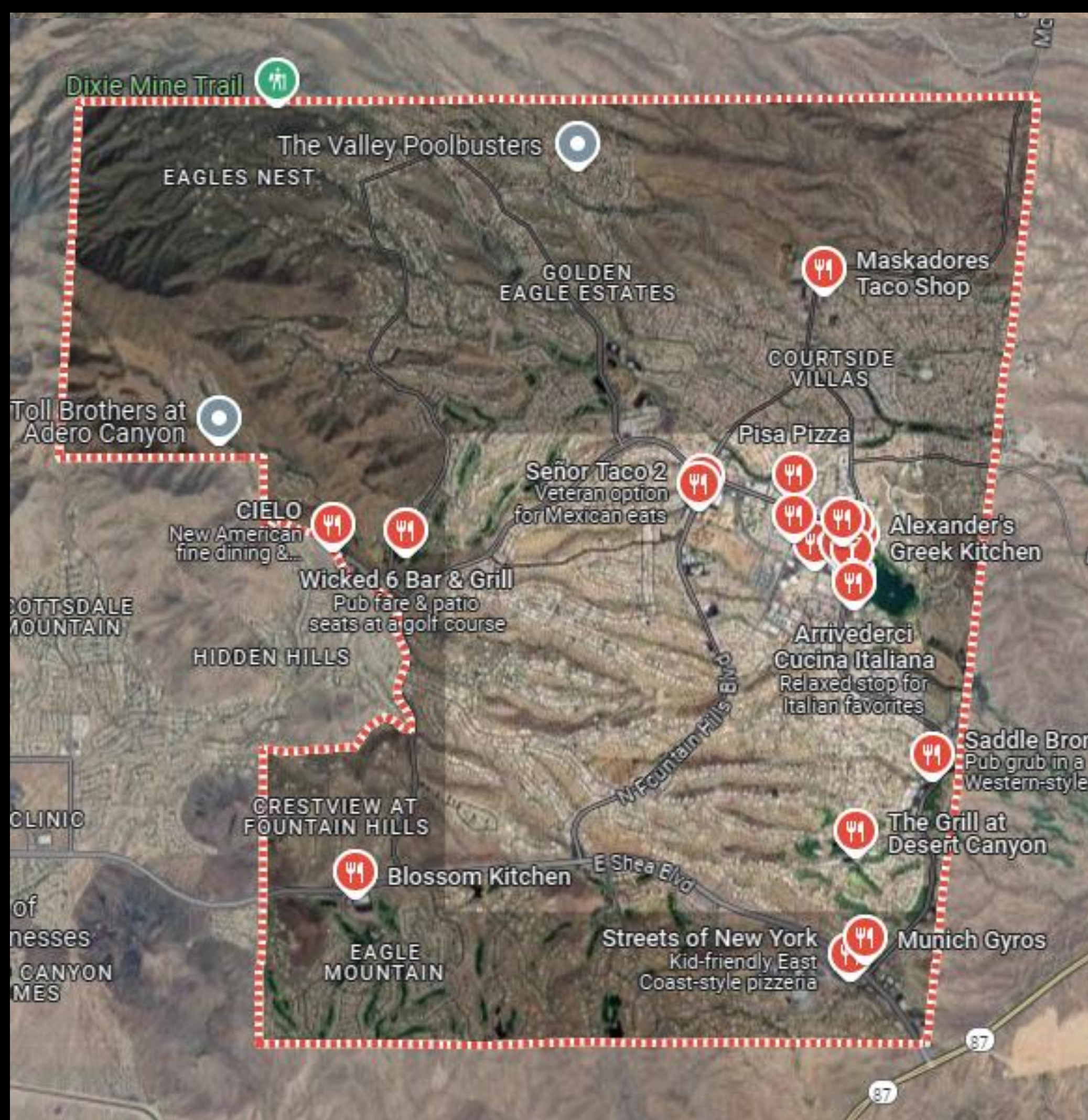
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FOUNTAIN HILLS



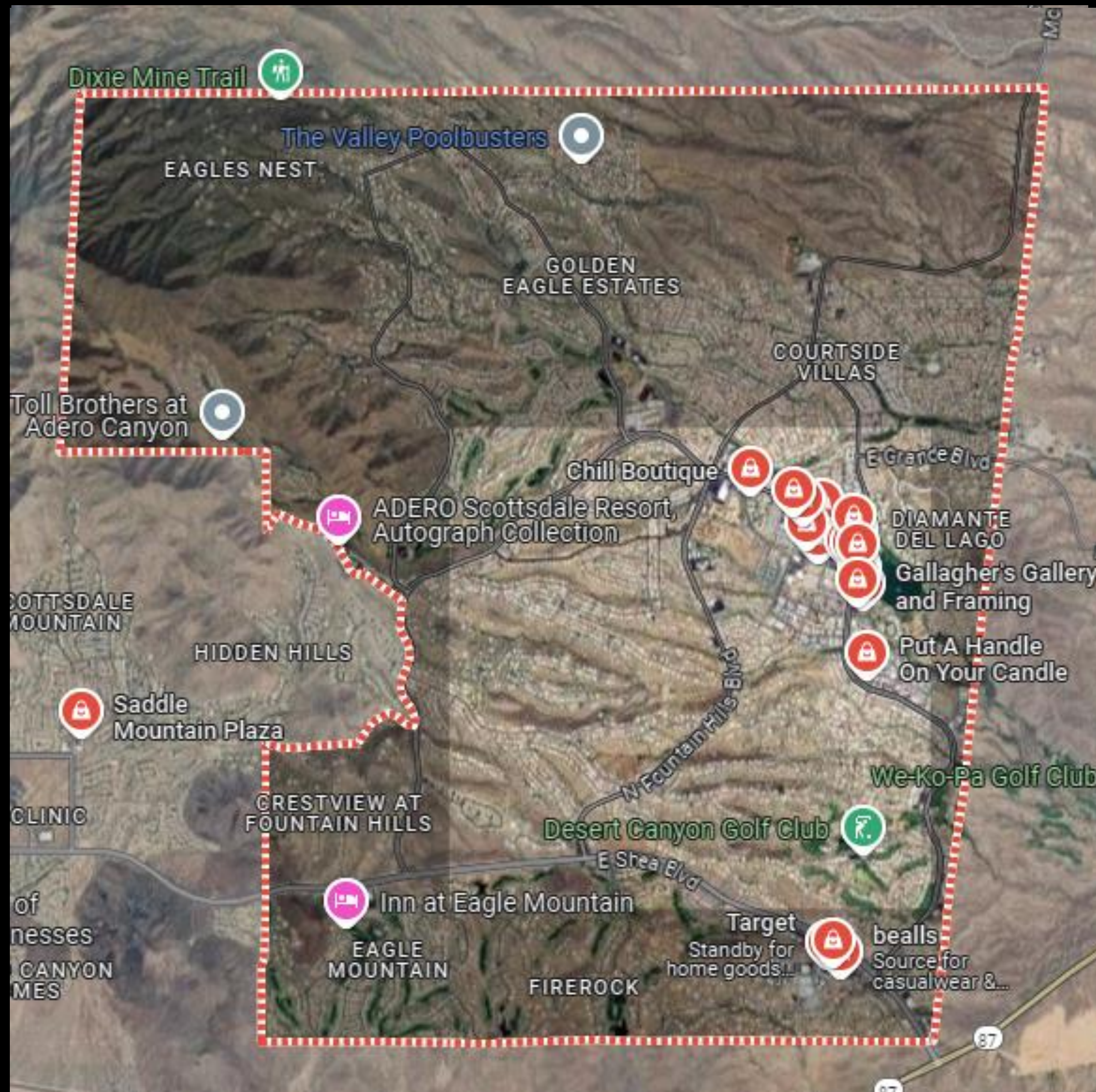
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FOUNTAIN HILLS



5

FOUNTAIN HILLS

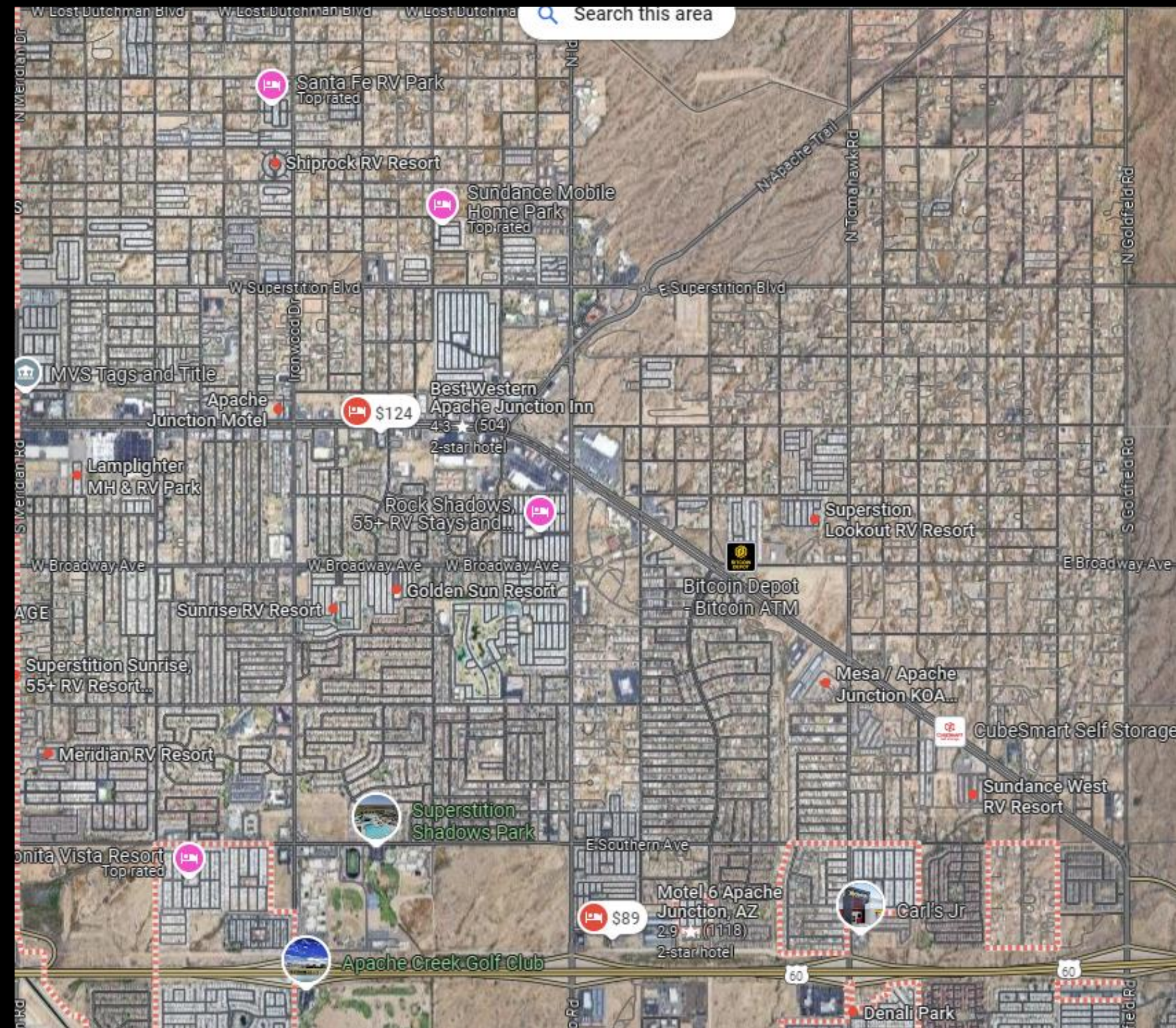


TAKEAWAYS

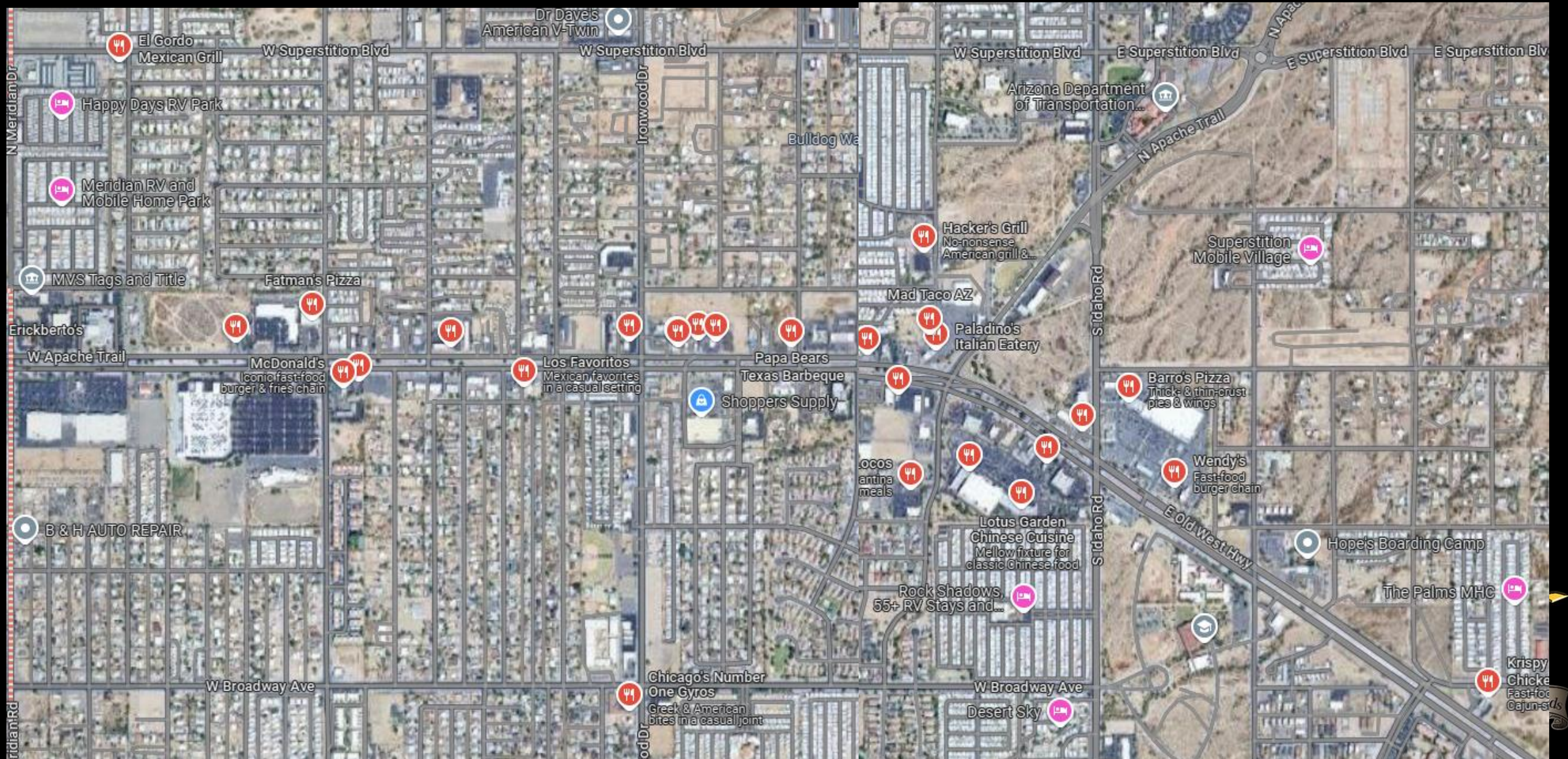
- **Application of Political Sign Free Zones are inconsistent across AZ Cities**
 - Cities do not necessarily have them near hotel/resorts
 - Some Cities have them stretching into or along residential areas
 - Most cities do have them around their commercial center/central business district where “commercial tourism” could take place
 - Many of these Sign Free Zones are older, dating back to the year after or just a few years after the 2011 State Law change, meaning they’ve not been successfully challenged in Court



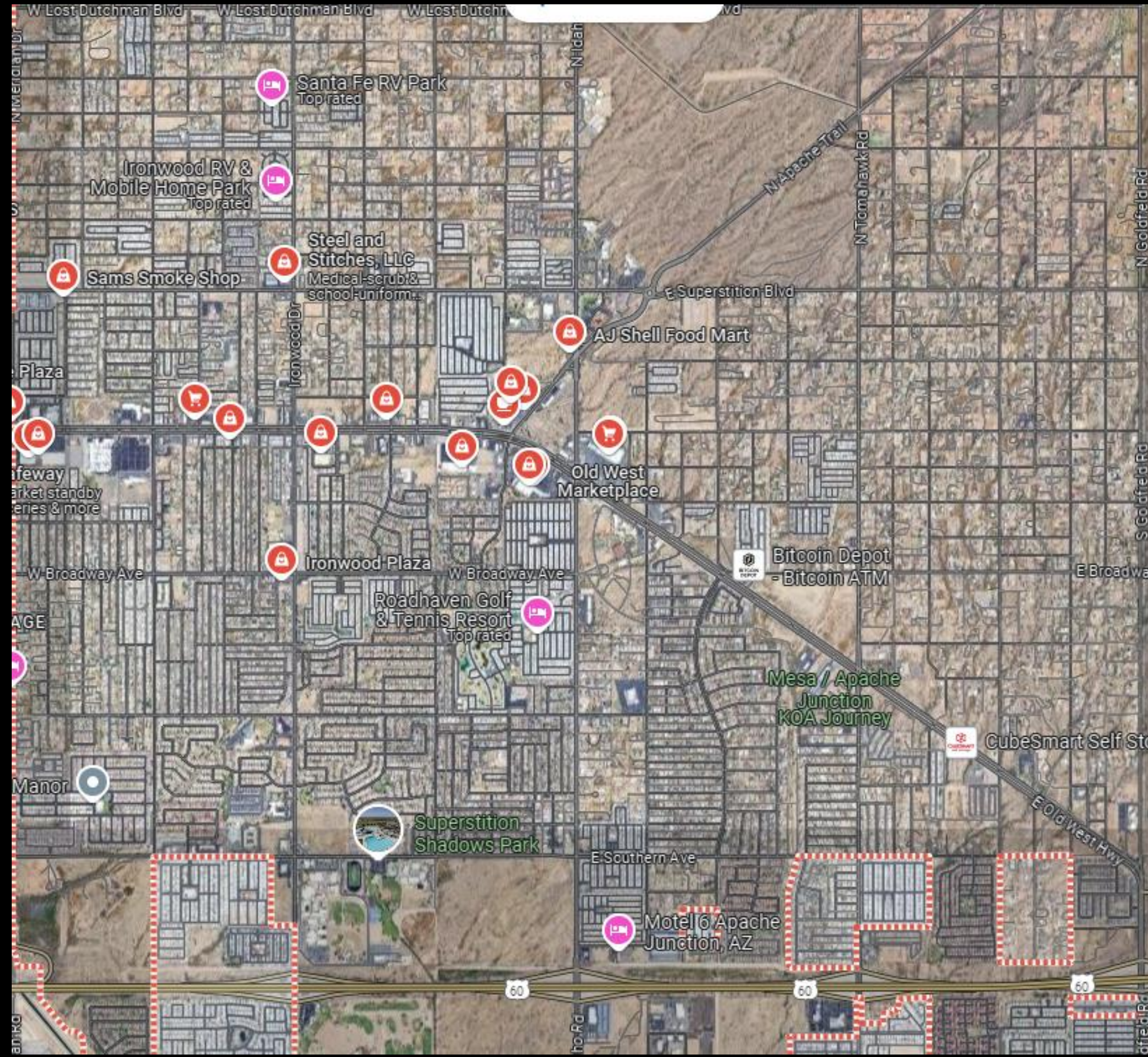
APACHE JUNCTION



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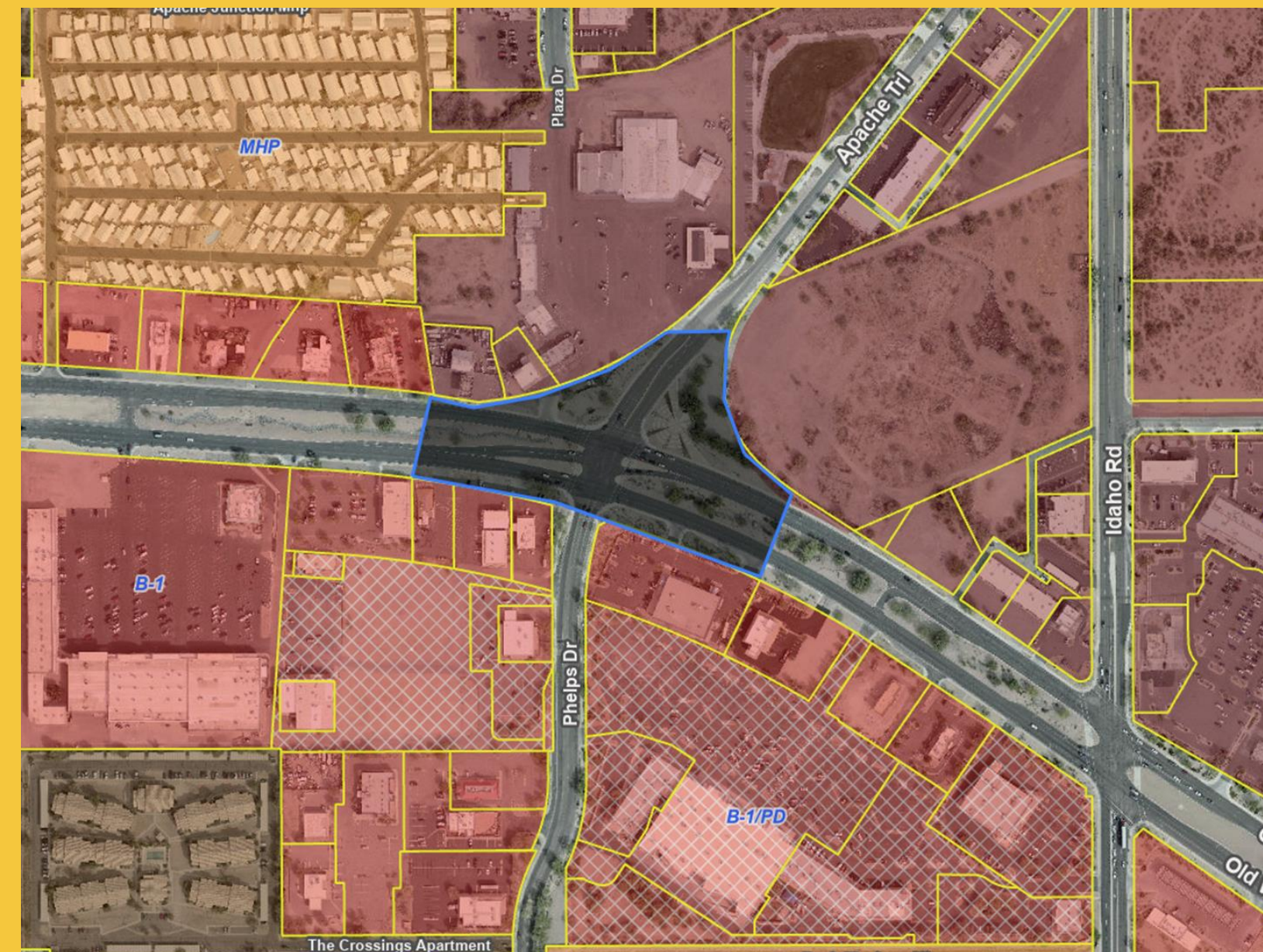


Potential Political Sign Free Zones

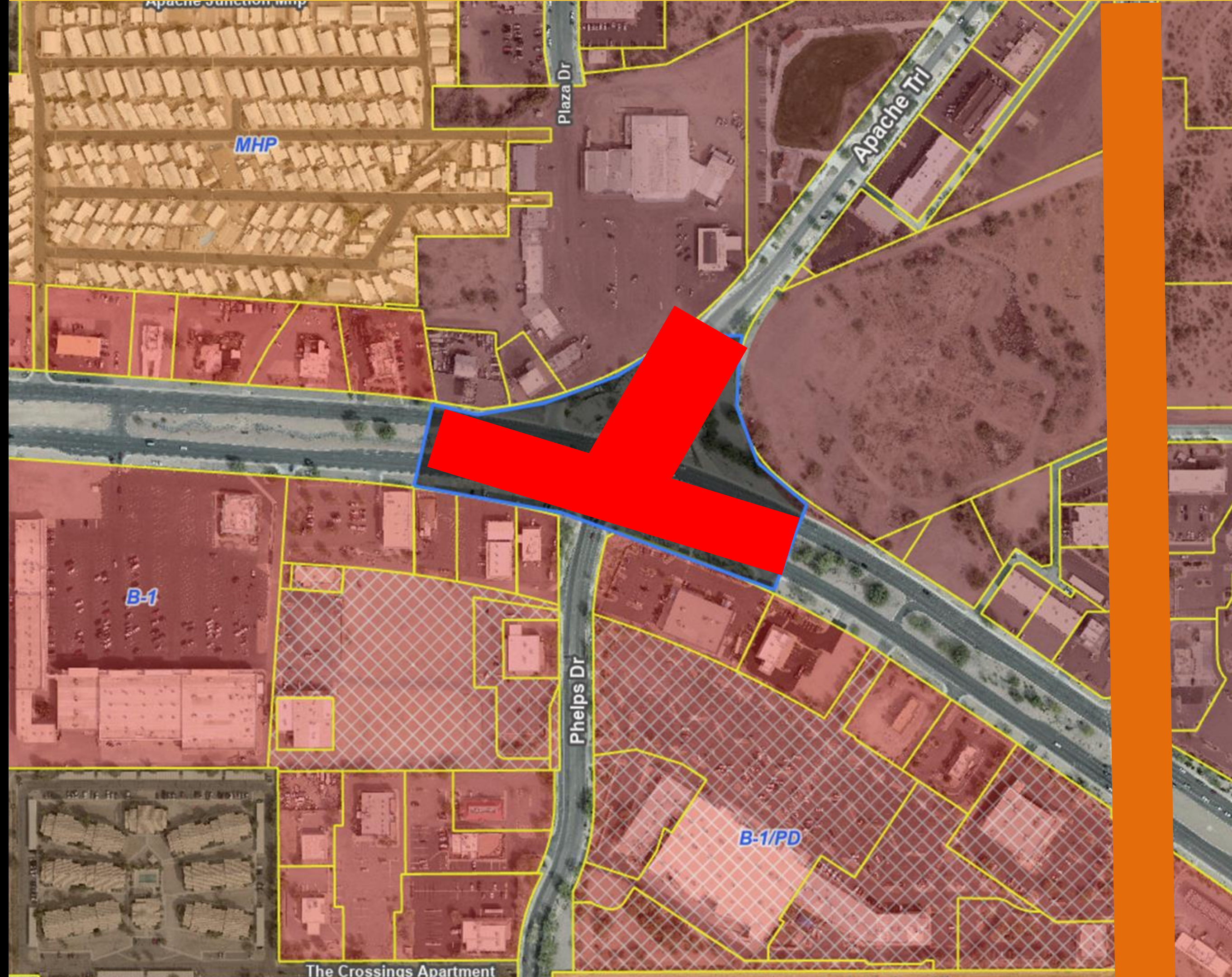


OPTION #1

- Size: .01 sq. mile
- Just ROW containing the Focal Point and Marquee

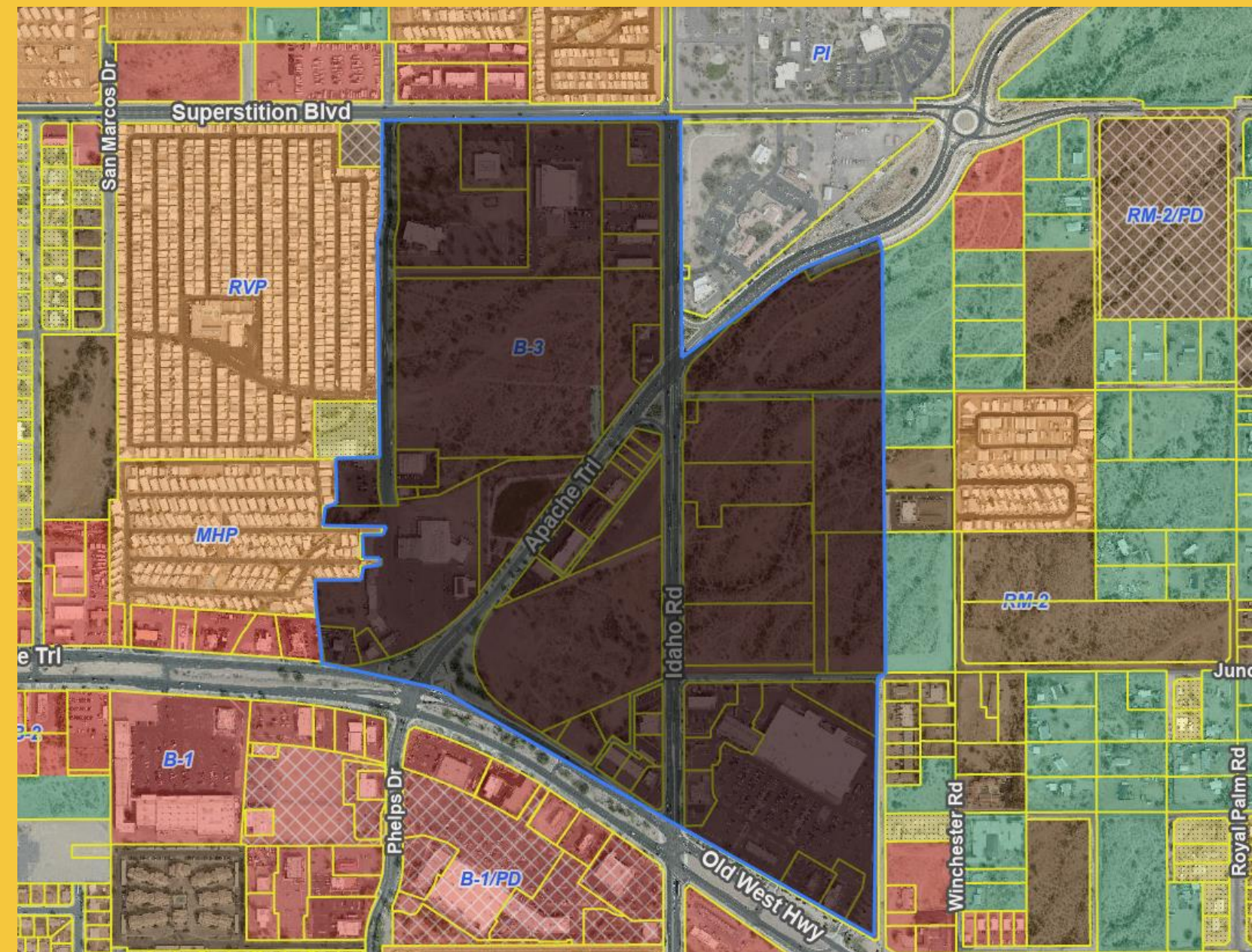


OPTION #1

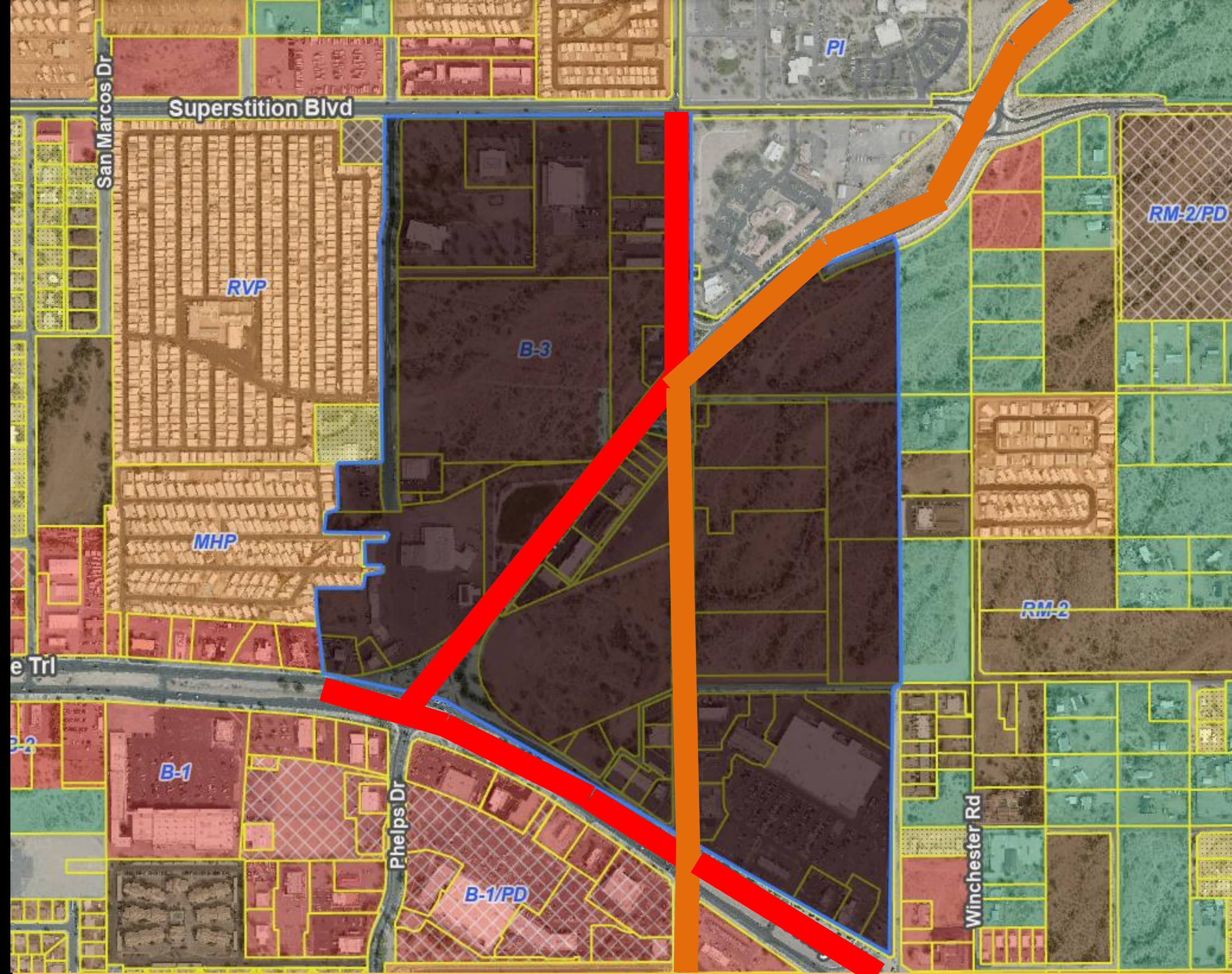


OPTION #2

- Size: .25 sq. mile
- Entire City Center (B-3) Zoning District including Focal Point, Marquee, and Downtown Master Plan Project



OPTION #2



Questions?

