

## PROJECT TEAM



120 S. Ash Avenue Tempe, AZ 85281

Contact: Christopher Jones Phone: 480.994.0994

Email: cjones@rviplanning.com



4700 E Southern Avenue Mesa, Arizona 85206 Contact: Dennis Roberts Phone: (480) 218-8831

Email: dennisroberts@atwell-group.com



4365 E. Pecos Road, Suite 140

Gilbert, Arizona 85281 Contact: Brad Young

Email: brad@betterchoicehomes.com

# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

SECTI		: INTRODUCTION	
	A.	Request	1
SECTI	ON 2	: EXISTING DESIGNATIONS AND SITE CONDITIONS	1
	A.	Existing General Plan Designation	1
	B.	Existing Site Conditions	
- 1	C.	RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING PROPERTIES.	
SECTI	ON 3	: THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL	2
	A.	SITE PLAN	2
	B.	OPEN SPACE	3
	C.	Streets	
	D.	Walls	3
SECTI	SECTION 4: PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES		
	A.	UTILITIES AND SERVICES	3
	B.	WATER AND WASTEWATER	
	C.	Drainage Solutions	4
SECTI	ON 5	: PD DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND JUSTIFICATION	5
	A.	REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS:	5
SECTION 6: JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS		: JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS	6
	A.	Required Findings	6
SECTI	ON 7	: IMPLEMENTATION	7
	A.	Purpose and Intent	
	B.	Public Participation.	7
	C.	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.	7
	D.	RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION.	7
	E.	AMENDMENTS TO THE PD	
SECTION	ON 8	: CONCLUSION	7

# PLANNING + LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

# LIST OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT 1: VICINITY MAP	8
EXHIBIT 2: EXISTING ZONING MAP	9
EXHIBIT 3: PROPOSED ZONING MAP	10
EXHIBIT 4: GENERAL PLAN MAP	11
EXHIBIT 5: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN	12
EXHIBIT 6: FLOOR PLANS & ELEVATIONS	13
EXHIBIT 7: CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN	17
EXHIBIT 8: OPEN SPACE DATA PLAN	18

#### SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

RVi Planning + Landscape Architecture, on behalf of Better Choice Builders (the Developer), is pleased to submit this project narrative, site plan and related exhibits in support of a Planned Development Rezoning request for a proposed residential community on approximately 2.50 acres at the southwest corner of Tepee Street and Idaho Road in Apache Junction. The site is identified by the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 100-31-001A. See *Exhibit 1: Vicinity Map*.

#### A. REQUEST

Our request to the City of Apache Junction is to rezone the property from General Rural Low Density Single-Family Detached Residential (RS-GR), to High Density Multi-Family Residential (RM-1) with a Planned Development (PD) Overlay, to allow for the development of a 12-lot, single family, detached residential community.

This change in zoning will allow the Developer to build a unique middle-housing community that conforms to the current housing market and the desires of today's homebuyers. The addition of the Planned Development Overlay will give the Developer the flexibility to adjust the development standards of the RM-1 zoning district to further customize the development to this contemporary product. See *Exhibit 2: Existing Zoning Map* and *Exhibit 3: Proposed Zoning Map*.

#### SECTION 2: EXISTING DESIGNATIONS AND SITE CONDITIONS

#### A. EXISTING GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION

The site is currently designated as Medium Density Residential (MDR) in the General Plan with a maximum density of 6 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). The proposed development has a density of approximately 5 du/ac. See *Exhibit 4: General Plan Map*.

#### B. EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The project is located at the southwest corner of Tepee Street and Idaho Road. Tepee Road exists as a  $\pm 24$ ' two-lane road with no curb and sidewalk, half street improvements are anticipated as part of this development. Tepee roadway section will be built to meet the Apache Junction standard minor arterial 80' ROW section. Idaho Road is fully built out to meet the Apache Junction standard 100' ROW, there are also improvements associated with tying into Tepee Road's half street improvements. The property is currently vacant, undeveloped land with a couple of abandoned concrete pads that were once used for mobile homes.

#### C. RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING PROPERTIES

The site is bound on the north by Tepee Street and a few homes, on the east by Idaho Road and vacant land, on the south by the Quail Creek Condominiums and on the west by a few homes and vacant land. *Table 1: Surrounding Uses & Classifications* shows the General Plan Designations, Zoning Classifications and Existing Uses for the surrounding parcels.



Table 1: Surrounding Uses & Classifications							
Direction	General Plan Designation	Zoning	Existing Use				
North	Low Density Residential	RS-GR	Vacant Property, Residential				
East	Public Parks & Public/ Institutional	RS-GR, PI	Vacant Property, School				
South	Medium Density Residential	RM-2/PD	Residential, Multi-family Residential				
West	Medium Density Residential	RS-GR, RM-2/PD	Residential				

In addition, the site is located less than one mile south of a regional public park, Prospect Park; approximately a quarter of a mile north of the Apache Junction Public Library; and less than a quarter of a mile from the Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley and Four Peaks Elementary School.



SECTION 3: THE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

#### A. SITE PLAN

As shown on the Conceptual Site Plan provided with this application, this community has been designed with access from Tepee Street. There is a 15-foot landscaped setback along the adjacent rights-of-way that surround the development on two sides. Together the collection of materials for the homes, the hardscape and the landscape have been carefully curated to complement each other and to assimilate into the surrounding desert landscape. See Exhibit 5: Conceptual Site Plan.

Homes in this development are two-story with typical lot dimensions of 37' x 105' and a minimum lot dimension of 37' x 82.5'. There are three proposed elevations with traditional styles, clean lines and simple forms. The floor plans include small covered porches. Materials for the homes include stucco as a base with accents of stone and/or siding and punctuated by ornamented front and garage doors. See Exhibit 6: Floor Plans & Elevations. Front yard landscape design options will be offered to homeowners at time of purchase. Residents may select either a Standard or Enhanced design to be installed by the builder, or they may hire a third party to implement a custom design only if the landscape is installed by the completion of the construction of the home. All front yard landscape shall meet the minimum requirements of two trees and 10 shrubs per home.

The layout of this development with a single cul-de-sac provides for a quiet, close-knit community sheltered from the noise and traffic of through-streets and local traffic. This secluded enclave of singlefamily detached homes acts as a transitional land use between the denser condos and townhomes to the south and the low density residential homes to the north and west. Additionally, the homes are internally focused with the front door to the street but also take advantage of the extraordinary views of the nearby Superstition mountains and Four Peaks beyond.



#### B. OPEN SPACE

Coyote Crossing encompasses approximately 0.41 acres of open space, 16.4% of the total acreage of the site. As shown on *Exhibit 7: Conceptual Landscape Plan*, the majority of the open space is located toward the south end of the site and includes dense desert planting and the stormwater retention for the development. The proposed plant palette for the site has been designed to complement both the rural architecture and the surrounding Sonoran landscape. The landscape for the site incorporates several species of desert shade trees to elevate the aesthetic of the project as well as provide a more comfortable environment for residents. The limited size of the site and the small number of units on the site reduces the need for traditional amenities; however, the site is ideally located less than one mile from Prospect Park, less than a half mile from the Apache Junction Public Library, and is directly adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club of the East Valley to the northeast. These public facilities in combination with the open spaces provided on the site offer the residents many opportunities for recreation, entertainment and social interaction. See *Exhibit 8: Open Space Data Plan*.

#### C. STREETS

The entry to Coyote Crossing is off Tepee Street. Visitors and residents will traverse the site via a 50-foot wide public roadway that terminates in a cul-de-sac at the south end of the property surrounded by open space and stormwater retention with enhanced desert landscaping. This central street is not gated, and features detached 6-foot sidewalks that are attached at the cul-de-sac with street trees within the landscape strip. Parking will not be allowed on the street.

#### D. Walls

The theme walls in Coyote Crossing will be comprised of a pattern of decorative split-face CMU and slump block with a pre-cast concrete cap in pleasing earth-tone colors. The aesthetic goal is to complement and blend with the surrounding dessert landscape. As shown on *Exhibit 7: Conceptual Landscape Plan*, the homes that back on to the public rights-of-way will be enclosed with the community theme wall, while the portions of the property adjacent to neighboring parcels will be enclosed with a standard builder wall. All walls within the development will be 6 feet in height. There will also be a 3'-8" block sign wall at the entry to the community with pin maounted metal letters announcing to residents and visitors their arrival at the community.

#### SECTION 4: PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

#### A. UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Public Utilities and services for this community will be provided by the entities shown below:

<u> Table 2: Utility Providers</u>					
Service	Provider				
Water	Arizona Water Company				
Sanitary Sewer	Superstition Mountain CFD#1				
Solid Waste Collection	Republic Services				
Electric	Salt River Project				
Gas	Southwest Gas				
Cable	Century Link or Mediacom				
Telephone	CenturyLink				
Law Enforcement	Apache Junction Police Dept.				
Fire	Apache Junction Fire District				



#### B. WATER AND WASTEWATER

Arizona Water Company will be providing potable water to this project. The water for the site will be provided through a proposed 8-inch water line connecting to an existing water main within Tepee Street.

Superstition Mountain Communities Facility District No.1 will be providing sewer services to this Project. The wastewater conveyance for the site will be provided through a proposed 8-inch sewer line connecting to an existing sewer main within Tepee Street.

#### C. Drainage Solutions

The Preliminary retention calculations included on *Exhibit 8: Conceptual Civil Plan* within this application demonstrate that the Coyote Crossing project will be developed in accordance with City of Apache Junction's Engineering Standards. This concept will provide for the safe and efficient collection and conveyance of all offsite and onsite runoff. Development of this Project is in accordance with Apache Junction's Stormwater Master Plan and is not anticipated to produce any adverse effects for adjacent or downstream property owners.

This preliminary drainage study has determined:

- Offsite flows calculated based on Apache Junction's Stormwater Master Plan
- Offsite flows are managed in accordance with Chapter 10 of Apache Junction,
- AZ Land Development Code
- · Onsite flows are conveyed to surface retention basins throughout the site via
- · surface flow and 4-inch roll curb or 6-inch vertical curb
- Onsite retention basins are provided to accommodate 110% on-site retention
- requirements of the 10-year, 24-hour storm event (2.40-inches, 0.20-feet)
- The retention basins will be drained within 36 hours. The dewatering of the
- drainage facilities will be accomplished using surface percolation and
- · drywells, when required
- All finished floor elevations are set a minimum of 14 inches above the outfall
- elevation and the low top of curb.



#### SECTION 5: PD DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND JUSTIFICATION

As discussed in the Apache Junction Zoning Ordinance, the purpose of the Planned Development Overlay District (PD) is to allow site and building design flexibility which may not otherwise be allowed through conventional base zoning. The intent of this district is to enable the following:

- Provide opportunity for mixed-use development that may include a combination of different dwelling types and/or a variety of land uses which complement each other, and which are compatible with existing and proposed land uses in the vicinity.
- 2. Promote the most appropriate land use.
- Facilitate adequate and economical provision of streets and utilities.
- 4. Facilitate flexible building design, site design, and amenities that create a unique and more sustainable alternative to conventional development.

The PD development tool enables the City to allow unique and creative design solutions on small or otherwise constrained sites that, among other things, promote the most appropriate use of a parcel, preserve and utilize open space and provide for the unified control of land development.

#### A. REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS:

To meet the development requirements of the project, Better Choice Builders is requesting modifications to the RM-1 development standards as permitted by the City of Apache Junction through the Planned Development overlay provision.

The requested modifications are shown in red in the table below:

Table 3: Coyote Crossing Planned Development Standards						
Standard	RM-1 (Required)	RM-1 PD (Proposed)				
Maximum Density	13 du/ac	5.0 du/ac				
Minimum Lot Width	60'	37'				
Minimum Lot Area (s.f.)	3,350 s.f.	3,000 s.f.				
Lot Coverage	50%	70% (1)				
Maximum Building Height	35'	35'				
Minimum Setbacks:						
Front Setback	20'	15' <sup>(2</sup>				
Side Setback	10'	5'				
Side Setback (Street)	10'	10'/5' when adjacent to a landscape tract				
Rear Setback	20'	5' <sup>(3)</sup>				

<sup>(1)</sup> Only Lots 6 & 7 will require this adjustment in lot coverage all other lots shall meet or exceed the standard 50% maximum lot coverage.

<sup>(2) 18&#</sup>x27; minimum driveway length as measured from the back of sidewalk to face of garage.

<sup>(3)</sup> Only Lots 6 & 7 will require this reduction in rear setback all other lots shall meet or exceed the standard 15' minimum rear setback.

#### SECTION 6: JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

The proposed modifications are being requested to allow for smaller lots that satisfy the preferences of many homebuyers in the current market. It has been a common theme in the residential real estate market for several years, that homebuyers want smaller lots with less maintenance costs in a community with strong thematic elements. In addition, the density of the proposed product is in line with the newer developments to the south, the Quail Creek Condominiums and Apache Junction Townhomes. The quality of architecture and landscape proposed for the site in conjunction with the public amenities provided in the area, including Prospect Park to the north, the Apache Junction Public Library to the south, create a desirable community elevating the standard of living in the area.

#### A. REQUIRED FINDINGS

As required in the Apache Junction Zoning Ordinance, a PD request may be approved by the City Council after consideration has been given to three different criteria. The required criteria are shown below in italics, and the manner in which this proposed development meets them are shown in **bold** text.

- That a better design cannot be achieved by applying the strict provisions of the underlying zoning district.
  - The modifications requested within this PD application have been thoughtfully crafted to allow for the development of a community featuring high-quality architecture, adequate lot sizes and appropriate home placement on the lots. The proposed smalllot development fits a niche popularly called "middle housing" that provides hopeful homeowners with attainable housing options such as starter homes for growing families or downsized homes for empty nesters. This design would not be possible without the proposed changes to the RM-1 Development Standards.
- That strict adherence to the provisions of the zoning ordinance is not required in order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the proposed development.
  - The Proposed modifications do not affect the health safety or welfare of the future residents or existing residents of the surrounding properties as all fire and emergency access standards are being met through the design of the public streets.
- That strict adherence to the ordinance is not required to ensure that property values of adjacent properties will not be reduced.
  - The goal of this community is to provide residents of Apache Junction with a type of housing product that features quality, contemporary architecture, and aesthetic landscape design. The housing product offered in Coyote Crossing will command a price that will contribute to an increase in comparable home values in the immediate area while matching the trend of development in the area.

# PLANNING + LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

#### **SECTION 7: IMPLEMENTATION**

#### A. PURPOSE AND INTENT

Development of Covote Crossing will be implemented in conformance with the development standards contained within this Planned Development. This section outlines the procedures for administration of the development detail contained herein.

#### B. Public Participation

A neighborhood meeting will be held in order to introduce the proposed development to adjacent neighbors and interested parties and to allow them to express their support or concerns regarding the project. All interaction between the public and the development team will be documented and assembled into a report for the City as required. The applicant and property owner will comply with the zoning procedures set forth in Article 1-16-7 of the City of Apache Junction Zoning Ordinance relating to citizen review.

#### C. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The Coyote Crossing PD will be administered and enforced by the City of Apache Junction Planning & Zoning Department in accordance with the City of Apache Junction Zoning Ordinance.

#### D. RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION

Residential lots within Coyote Crossing will be created through the Preliminary Plat, Final Plat and Residential Subdivision processes as outlined in the City of Apache Junction Subdivision and Minor Land Division Regulations.

#### E. AMENDMENTS TO THE PD

Minor modifications or alterations of the approved Coyote Crossing PD will be reviewed and approved by the Planning Director or designee. Major modifications or alterations require Council approval and shall be processed in accordance with §1-16-6.

The Director or designee shall interpret the proposed modification to be major if, in the Director's opinion, the modified project density, setbacks or height is proposed to be deviated from by more than 10%, the quality of project design is diminished, the types of proposed land uses are significantly altered and/or the overall character of the project is contrary to the intent and spirit of the original City Council PD ordinance approval.

#### SECTION 8: CONCLUSION

This Planned Development Overlay is being requested to enable Better Choice Builders to provide a community in Apache Junction that features updated architectural and landscape design that fits within the "middle housing" niche. Coyote Crossing will contribute to the overall aesthetic and character of the community. The proposed density is permitted within the Medium Density Residential (MDR) General Plan Land Use Category and development standards have been modified to meet the needs of future homebuyers. This proposed community will benefit the residents within the community as well as the immediate vicinity. Better Choice Builders and the entire development team looks forward to working with the City of Apache Junction to implement our vision for this development.

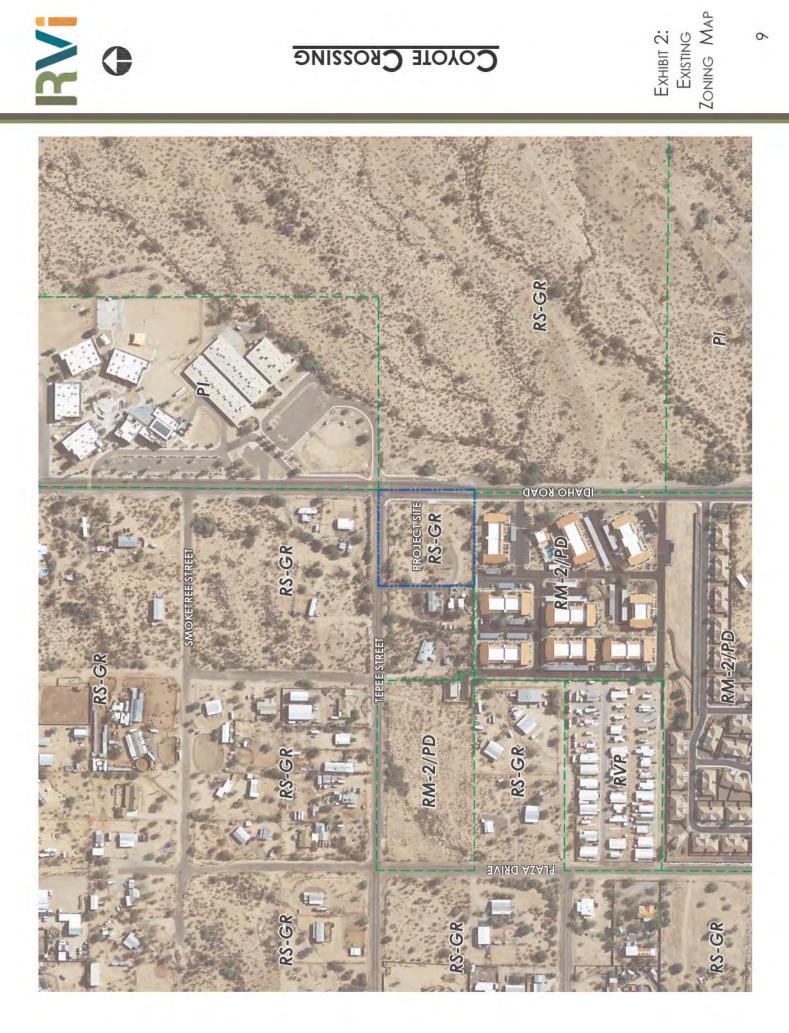


# EXHIBIT 1: VICINITY MAP



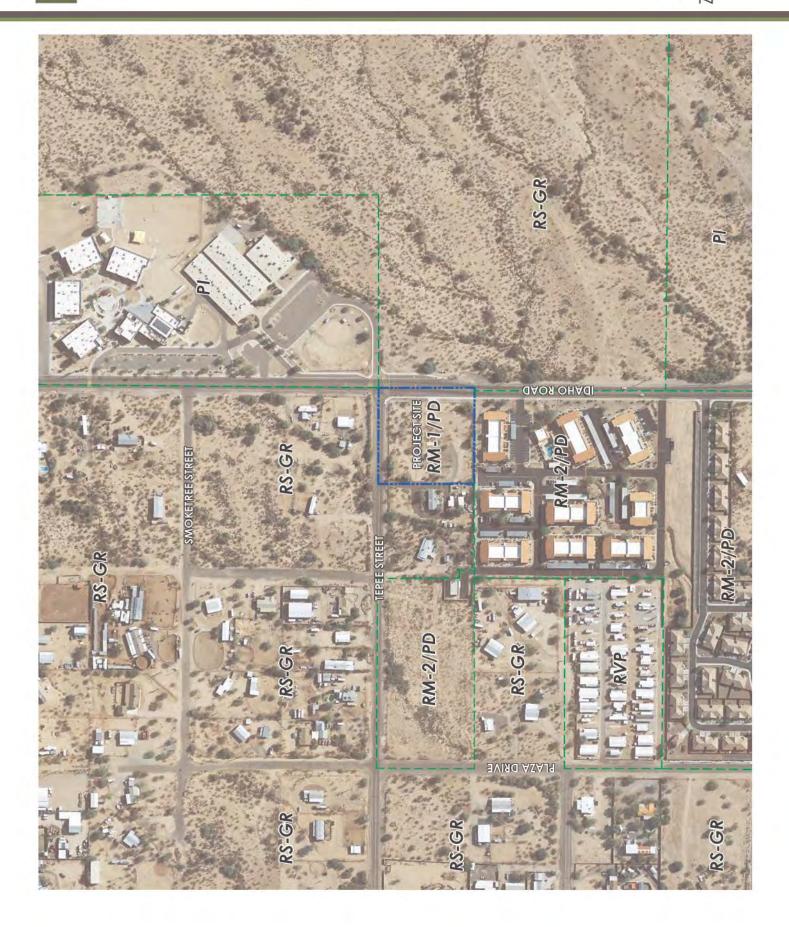






# EXHIBIT 3: PROPOSED ZONING MAP

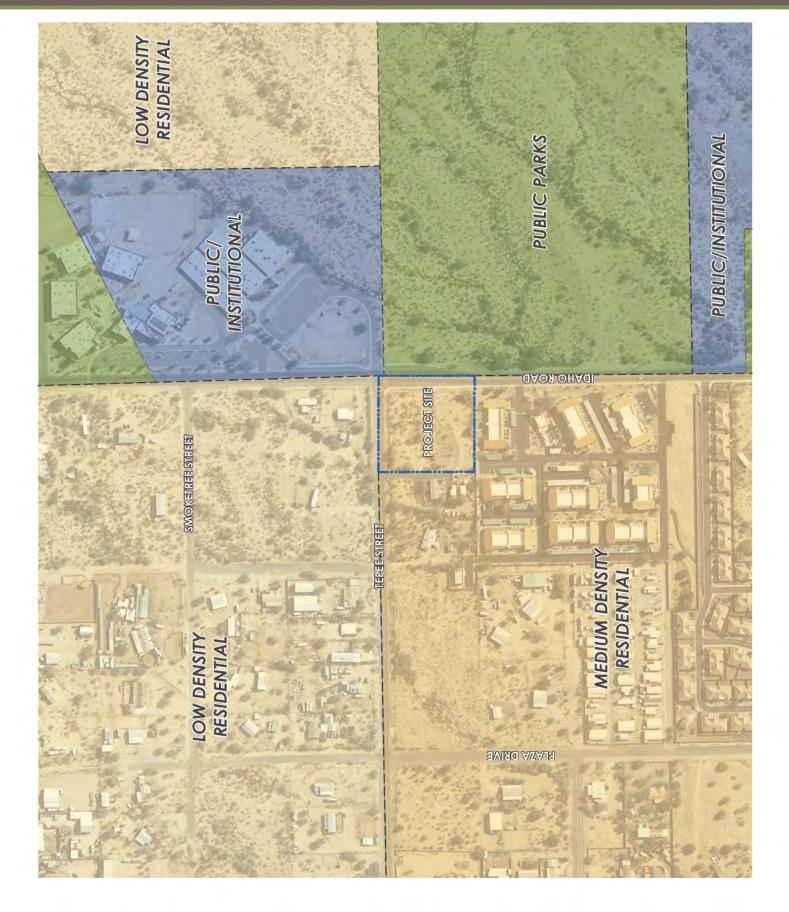












NTS





WALL LEGEND

- PERIMETER WALL (SEE CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE) --- DOOLEY WALL

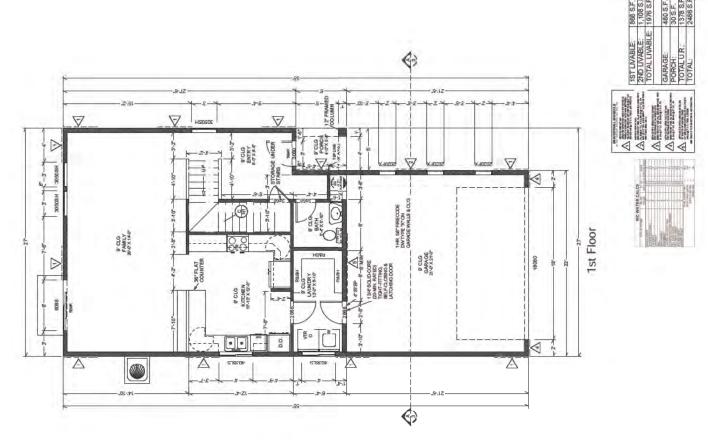


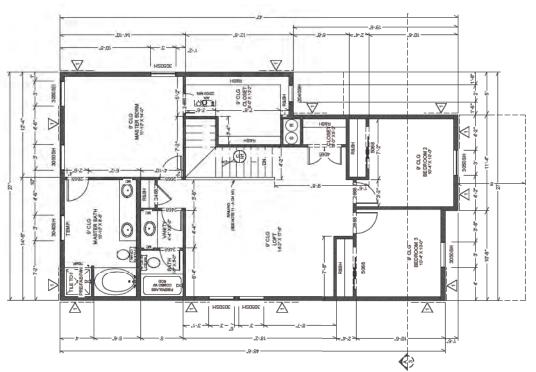
EXHIBIT 6: FLOOR PLANS & ELEVATIONS

# COYOTE CROSSING









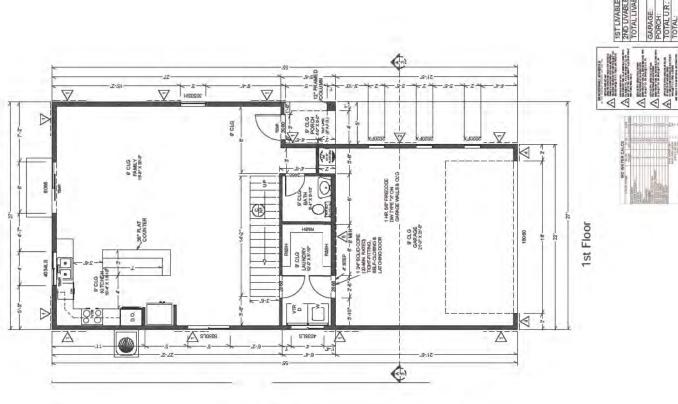


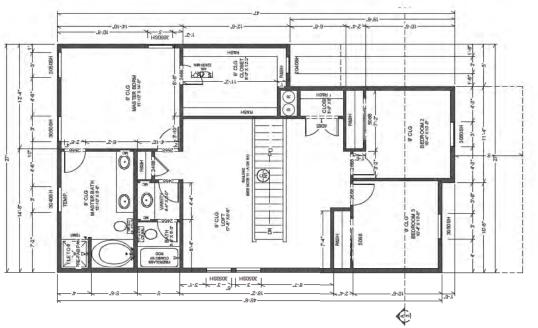
2nd Floor

# COYOTE CROSSING







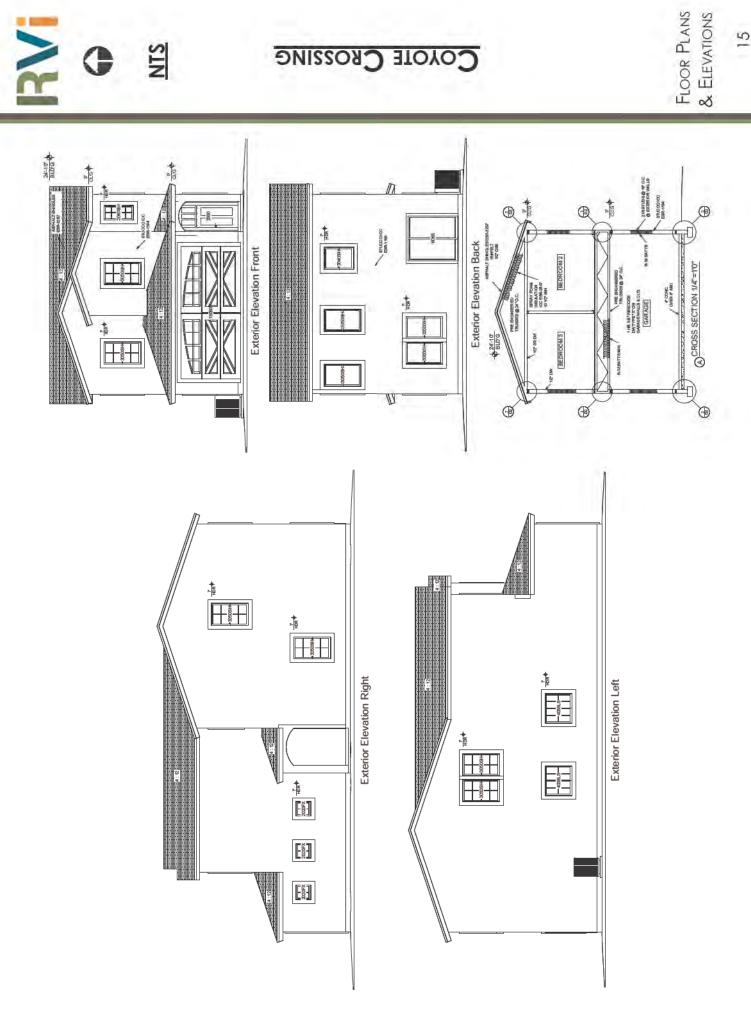


2nd Floor







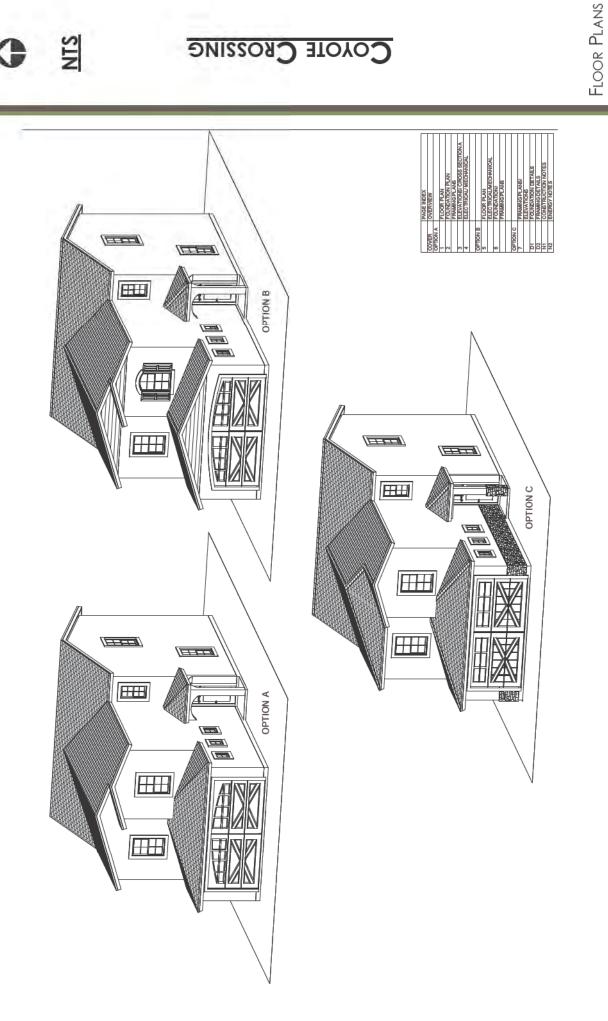


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## COYOTE CROSSING

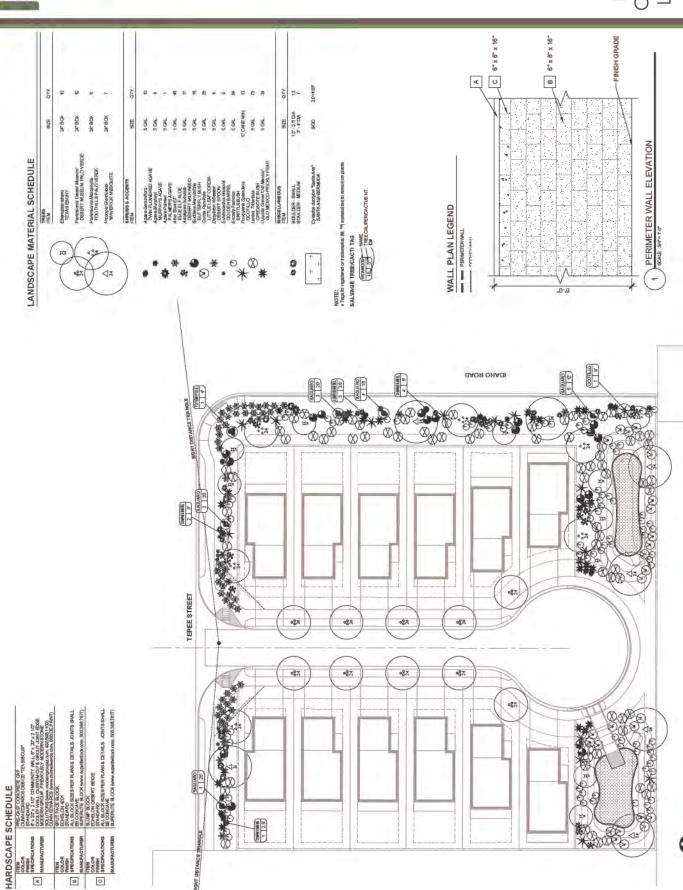
CONCEPTUAL Landscape Ехнівіт 7: PLAN





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# EXHIBIT 8: OPEN SPACE DATA PLAN

# COYOTE CROSSING





OPEN SPACE DATA:
GROSS AREA: 2.50 AC
NET AREA: 1.86 AC

TOTAL OPEN SPACE: 0.50 AC (100%) IN RETENTION: 0.15 AC (30%) OUT OF RETENTION: 0.35 AC (70%) IN RETENTION: OUT OF RETENTION:







