



## **Lead Agency Contact**

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## **Written Comments**

Please submit written comments by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025  
Email: [planning@cityofsoledad.gov](mailto:planning@cityofsoledad.gov) (subject line: Siempre Soledad General Plan 2045 EIR)  
Regular Mail: Community and Economic Development Department  
248 Main Street, Soledad, CA 93960  
Attn: Ariana Mora, Senior Planner

## **Public Scoping Meeting:**

The City will hold a scoping meeting to solicit public comment on the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held as part of the Siempre Soledad General Plan 2045 meeting on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at City Hall, located at 248 Main Street, Soledad, California 93960.

## **Project Location**

The City is in the northcentral portion of Monterey County, approximately 25 miles southeast of Salinas and 120 miles south of San Francisco. Nestled in the heart of the Salinas Valley, one of California's most productive agricultural regions, the city is surrounded by unincorporated rural and agricultural lands. Nearby communities include Gonzales to the north and Greenfield to the south. The Gabilan Range and Pinnacles National Park lie to the east, while the Coast Range and Los Padres National Forest border the west, beyond which stretches the Big Sur coast.

U.S. Highway 101 runs directly through the city in a north-south direction, serving as the city's primary transportation corridor and connecting it to the greater Salinas Valley, Monterey County, the San Francisco Bay Area to the north, and San Luis Obispo County to the south. State Route 146 intersects Highway 101 in Soledad and extends eastward, providing access to Pinnacles National Park. The Union Pacific Railroad runs parallel to Highway 101, offering freight rail service through the valley. There is no public airport located within Soledad.

Figure 1, *Local Vicinity*, and Figure 2, *Regional Vicinity*, illustrate the local and regional settings of Soledad. The proposed project considers land in three areas—within the existing city limits, the urban growth boundary, and the sphere of influence (SOI). Together, these areas define the General Plan's planning area, shown on Figure 3, *Planning Area*, which encompasses both incorporated land and surrounding unincorporated land the City may annex in the future.

## **Project Description**

The City is preparing a comprehensive update to its existing General Plan, which will guide land use, development, infrastructure, and environmental policy through the year 2045. The update, initiated in January 2023, is led by the Community and Economic Development Department in coordination with other City departments. General Plan 2045 consolidates required and optional elements—such as land use, circulation, housing, conservation, safety, and environmental justice—into seven integrated chapters and a separately updated housing element. Each element includes goals (broad desired outcomes), policies (decision-making guidance), and programs (specific actions for implementation).

The proposed project introduces updated land use designations that affect allowed densities, development intensities, and land use types across Soledad. These designations are shown on Figure 4a, *Proposed General Plan 2045 Land Use (Planning Area)* and Figure 4b, *Proposed General Plan 2045 Land Use (SOI and City Limits)*. This proposed map replaces the current map, shown in Figure 5, *Existing General Plan Land Use*. The EIR will evaluate potential environmental impacts based on projected development through the year 2045.

### Potential Areas of Environmental Effect

The EIR will describe the reasonably foreseeable and potentially significant adverse effects of the proposed project (both direct and indirect). The EIR will also evaluate potential cumulative impacts of the project in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. The City anticipates that the proposed project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts in the following topic areas, which will be further evaluated in the EIR.

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise
- Parks and Recreation
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Cumulative Effects
- Growth-Inducing Effects

The City has determined that the proposed project would have no impact on the following environmental topic due to existing conditions of the city and surrounding area. This issue will therefore not be analyzed in the EIR.

- **Mineral resources.** The California Department of Conservation, Geological Survey classifies lands into Aggregate and Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) based on guidelines adopted by the California State Mining and Geology Board, as mandated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1974. These MRZs identify whether known or inferred significant mineral resources are present in areas. A majority of the General Plan planning area is classified MRZ-4,<sup>2</sup> with a small east/northeastern portion of the sphere of influence and a small northeastern portion of the Windmills Property classified as MRZ-3 (see Figure 5 and Figure 6, Mineral Resource Zones Classification).<sup>3</sup> The General Plan planning area does not contain areas for mineral resources where there is adequate information indicating significant mineral deposits or the high likelihood that significant mineral deposits are present.<sup>4</sup> The nearest existing mining operation is the Stonewall Canyon quarry off Metz and Stonewall Canyon Roads, approximately 1.5 miles east of the planning area, and separated from the General Plan planning area by numerous foothills of the Gabilan Range. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, and there would be no impact; this issue will not be discussed in the EIR.

<sup>2</sup> MRZ 4 is an area where available geologic information is inadequate to assign to any other mineral resource zone category.

<sup>3</sup> MRZ 3 is an area containing known or inferred construction aggregate resources of undetermined mineral resource significance.

<sup>4</sup> Public Resources Code, Division 2, Chapter 9, Article 4, Section 2762(a)(1).

**Figures**

Figure 1, Local Vicinity

Figure 2, Regional Vicinity

Figure 3, Planning Area

Figure 4a, Proposed General Plan 2045 Land Use (Planning Area)

Figure 4b, Proposed General Plan 2045 Land Use (SOI and City Limit)

Figure 5, Existing General Plan Land Use

Figure 6, Mineral Resource Zones Classifications

**Project Title:** Siempre Soledad General Plan 2045

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**Project Applicant:** City of Soledad

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Date 10/2/2025

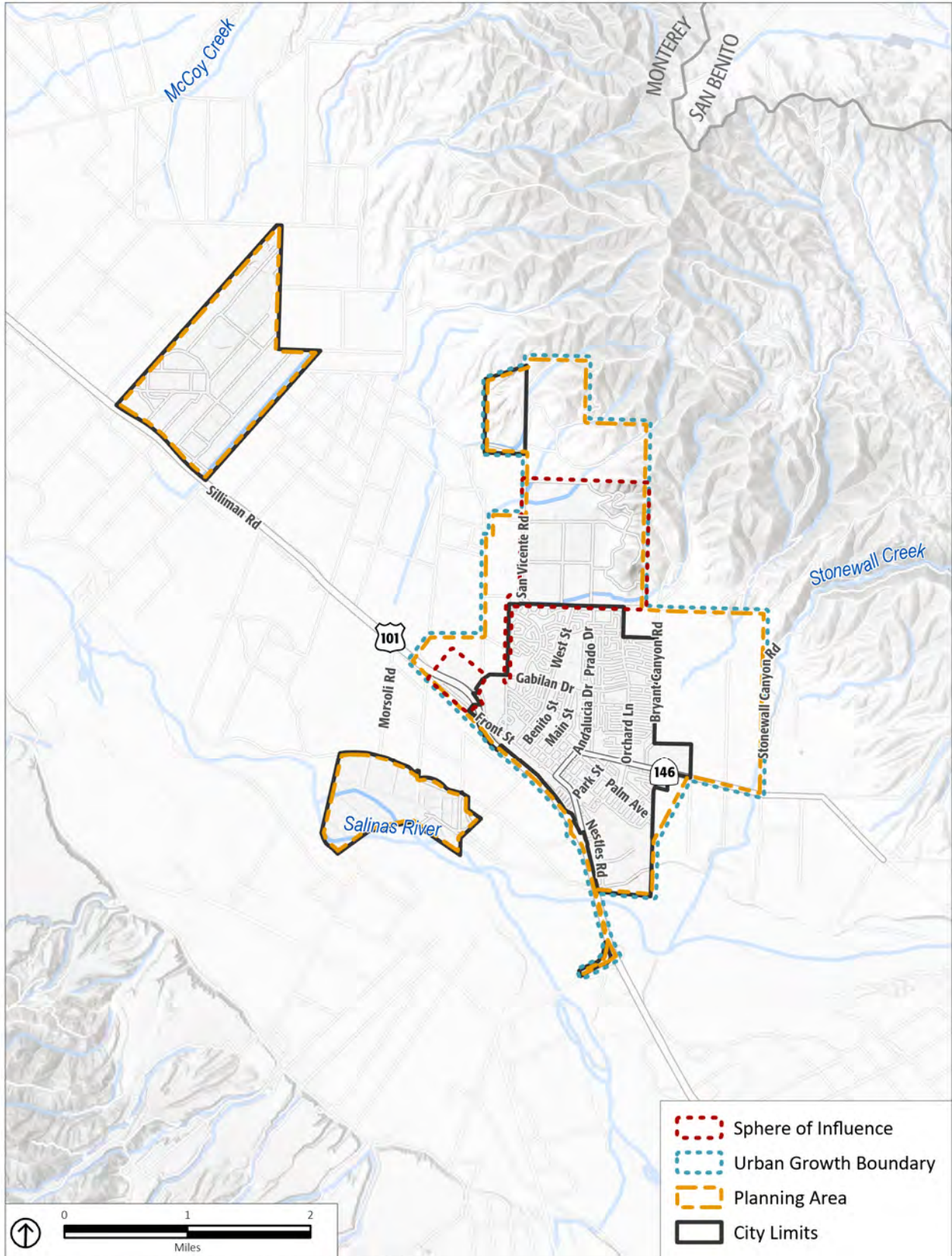
Signature



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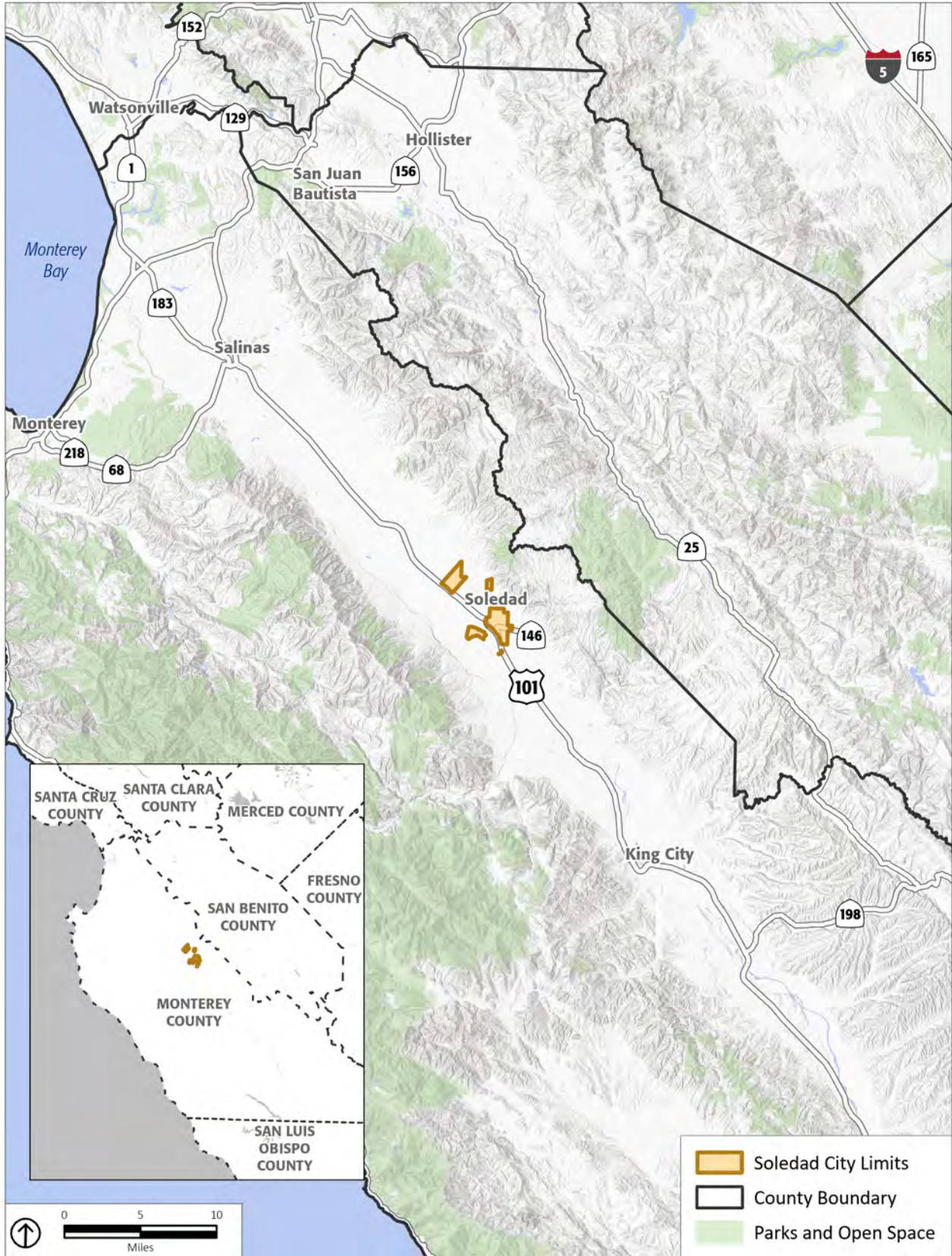
Title Ariana Mora, Senior Planner

Telephone 831-223-5020



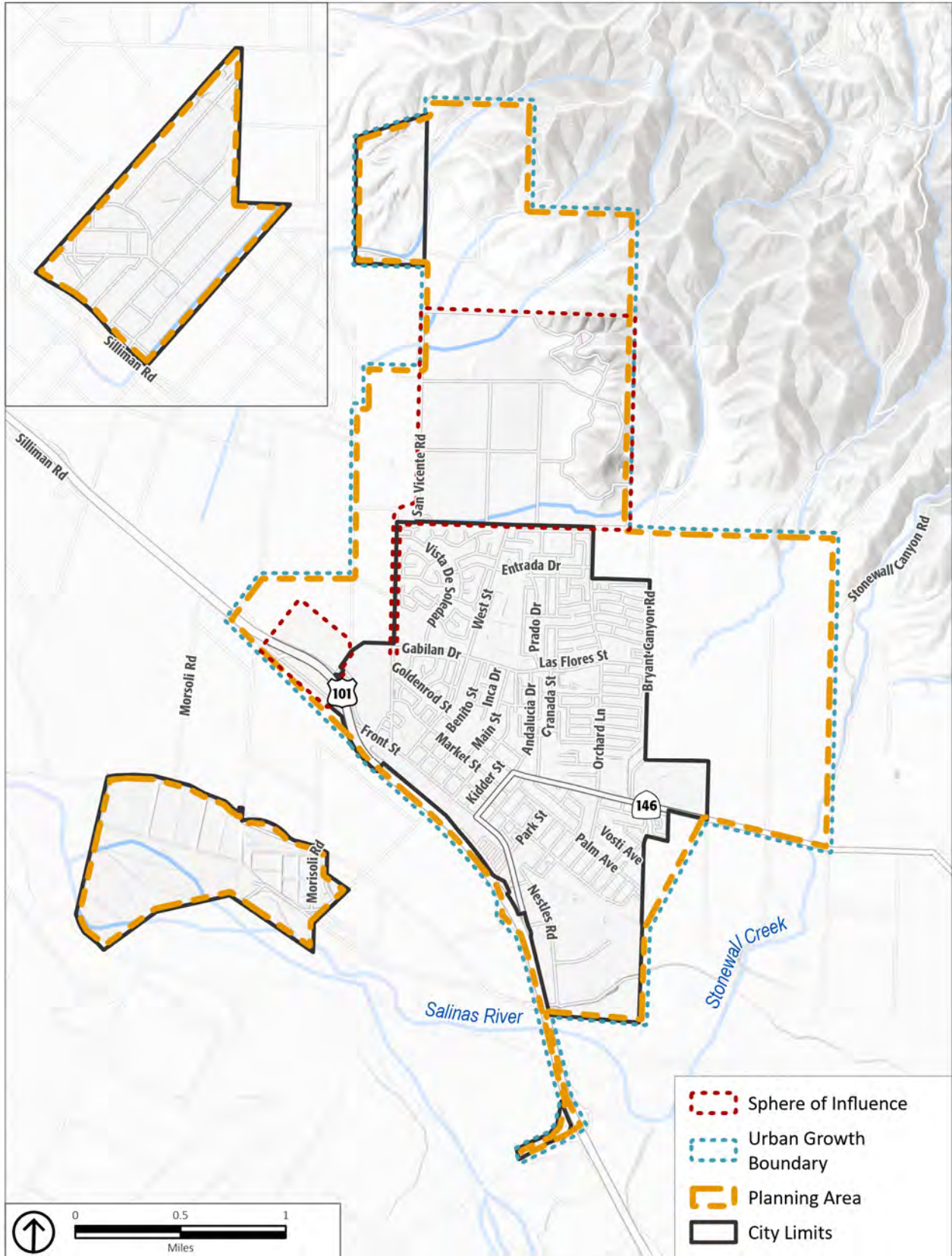
Source: AMBAG, 2022; ESRI, 2025; PlaceWorks, 2025

Figure 1  
Local Vicinity



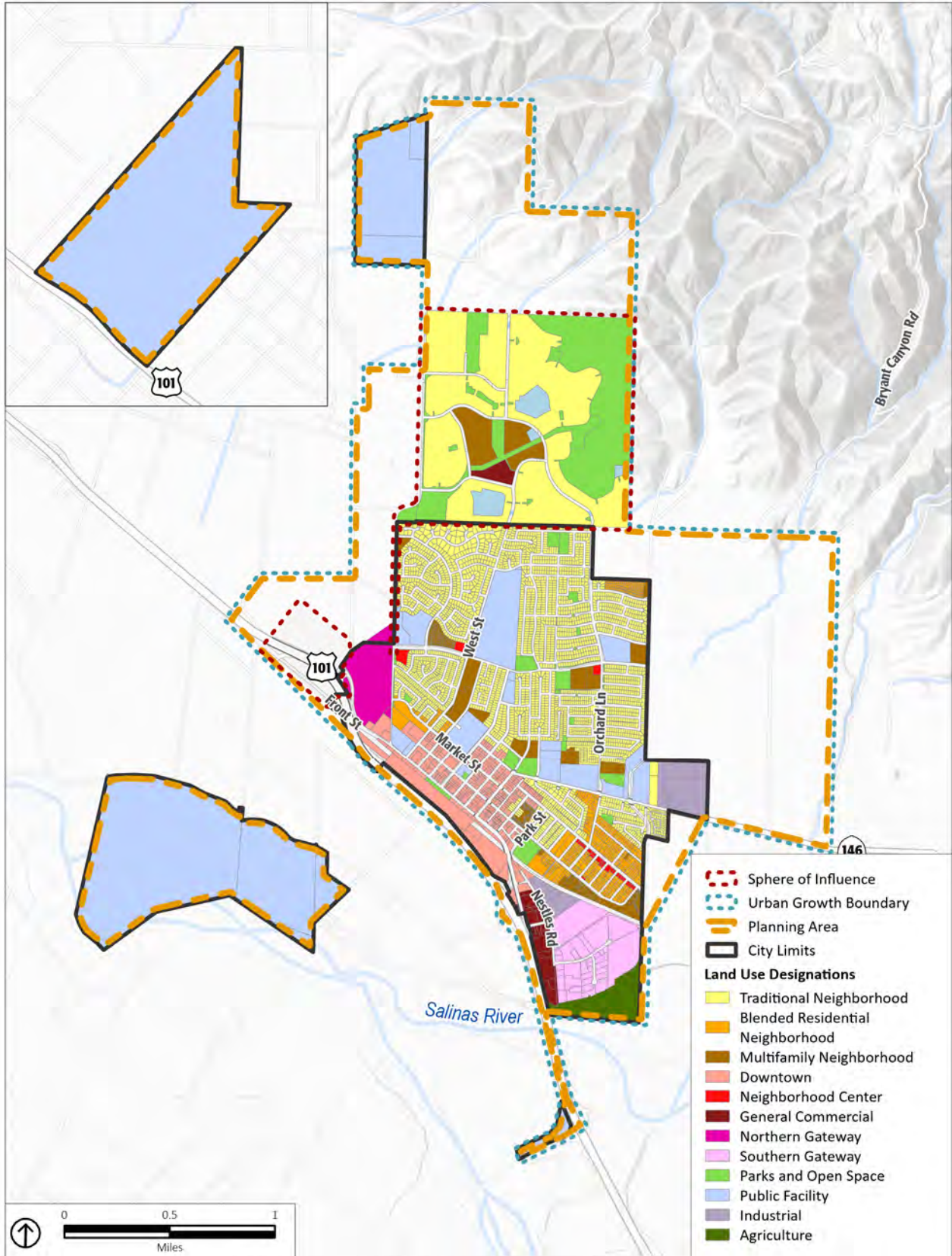
Source: AMBAG, 2022; ESRI, 2025; PlaceWorks, 2025

Figure 2  
Regional Vicinity



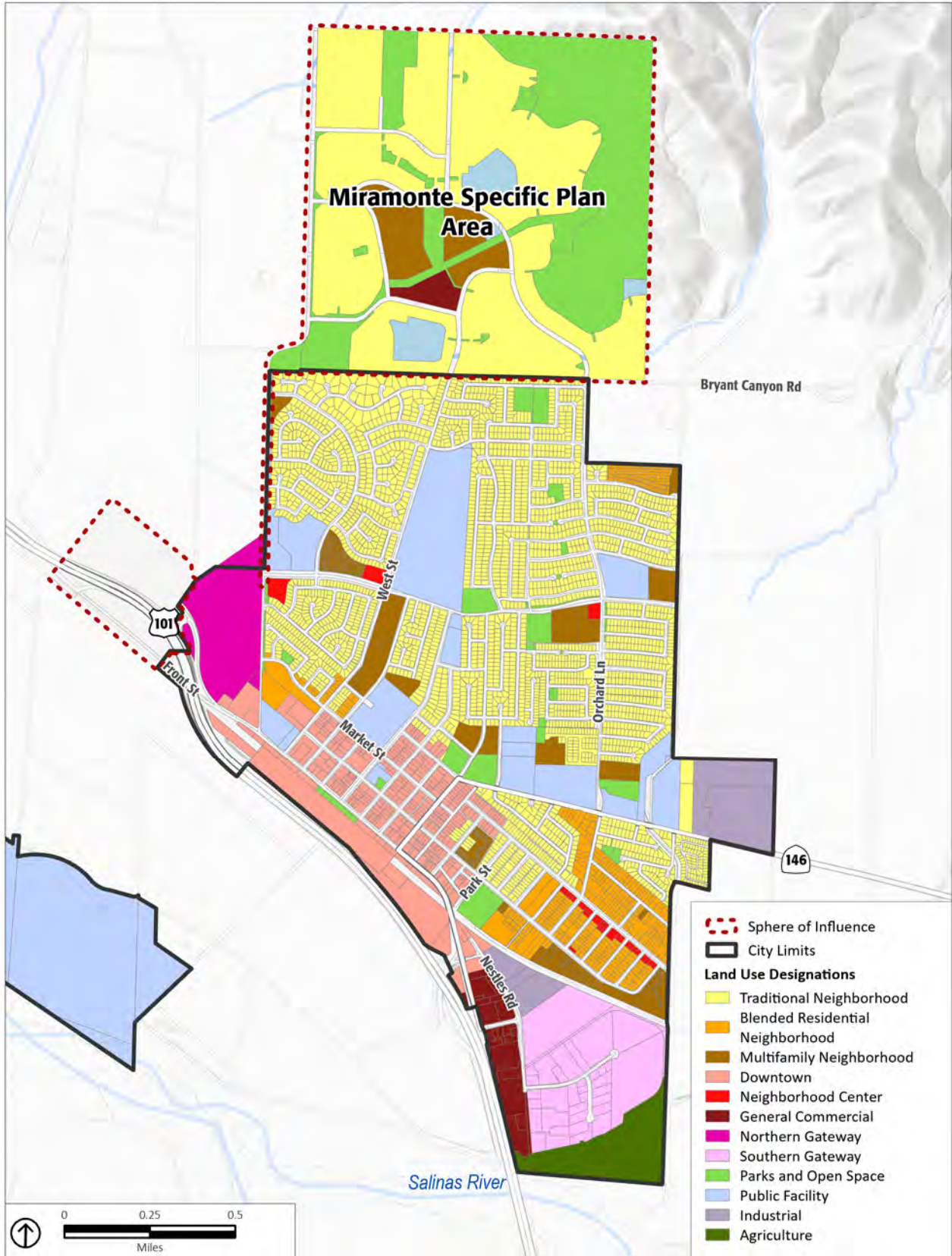
Source: AMBAG, 2022; ESRI, 2025; PlaceWorks, 2025

Figure 3  
Planning Area



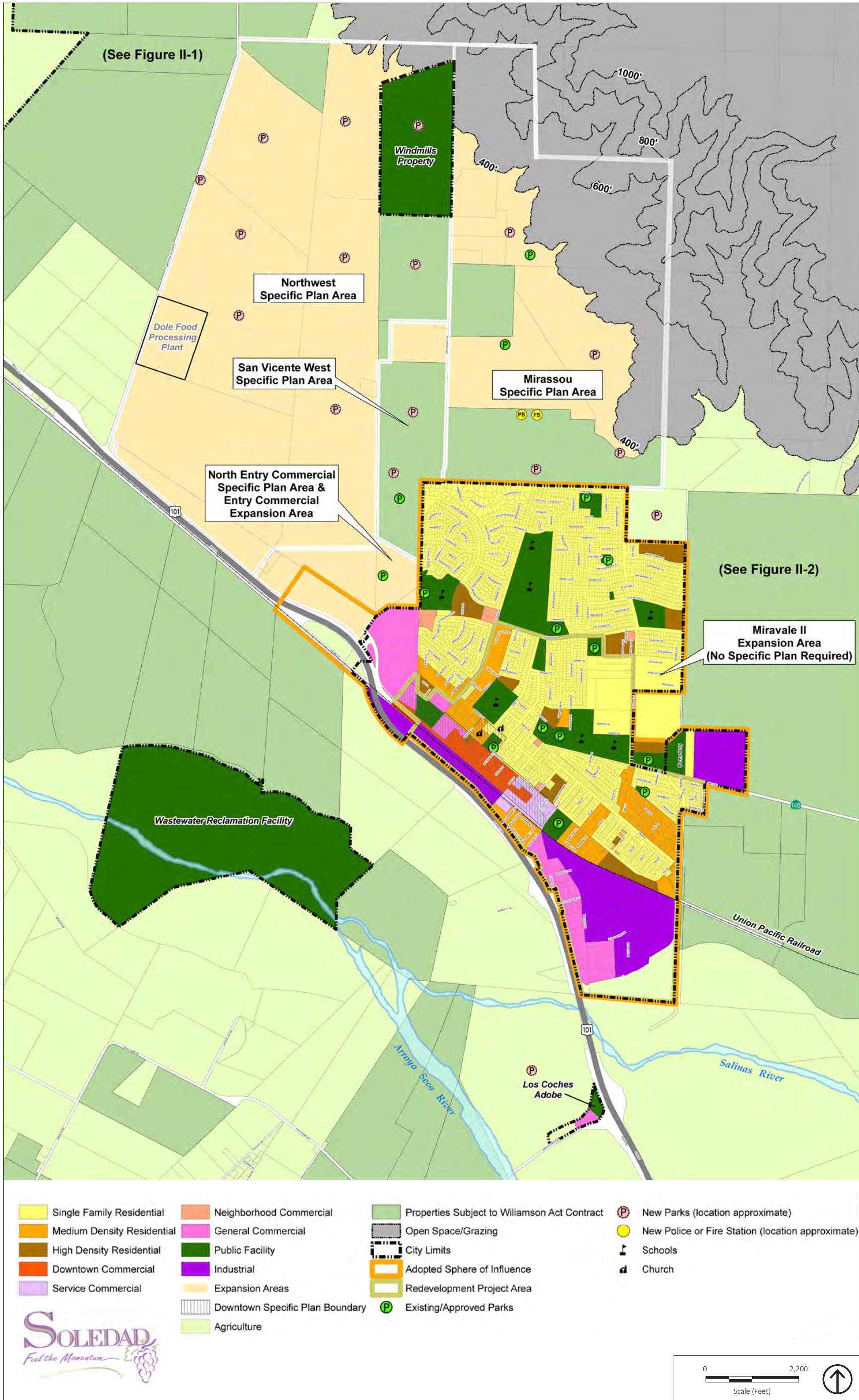
Source: AMBAG, 2022; ESRI, 2025; PlaceWorks, 2025

Figure 4a  
Proposed General Plan Land Use (Planning Area)



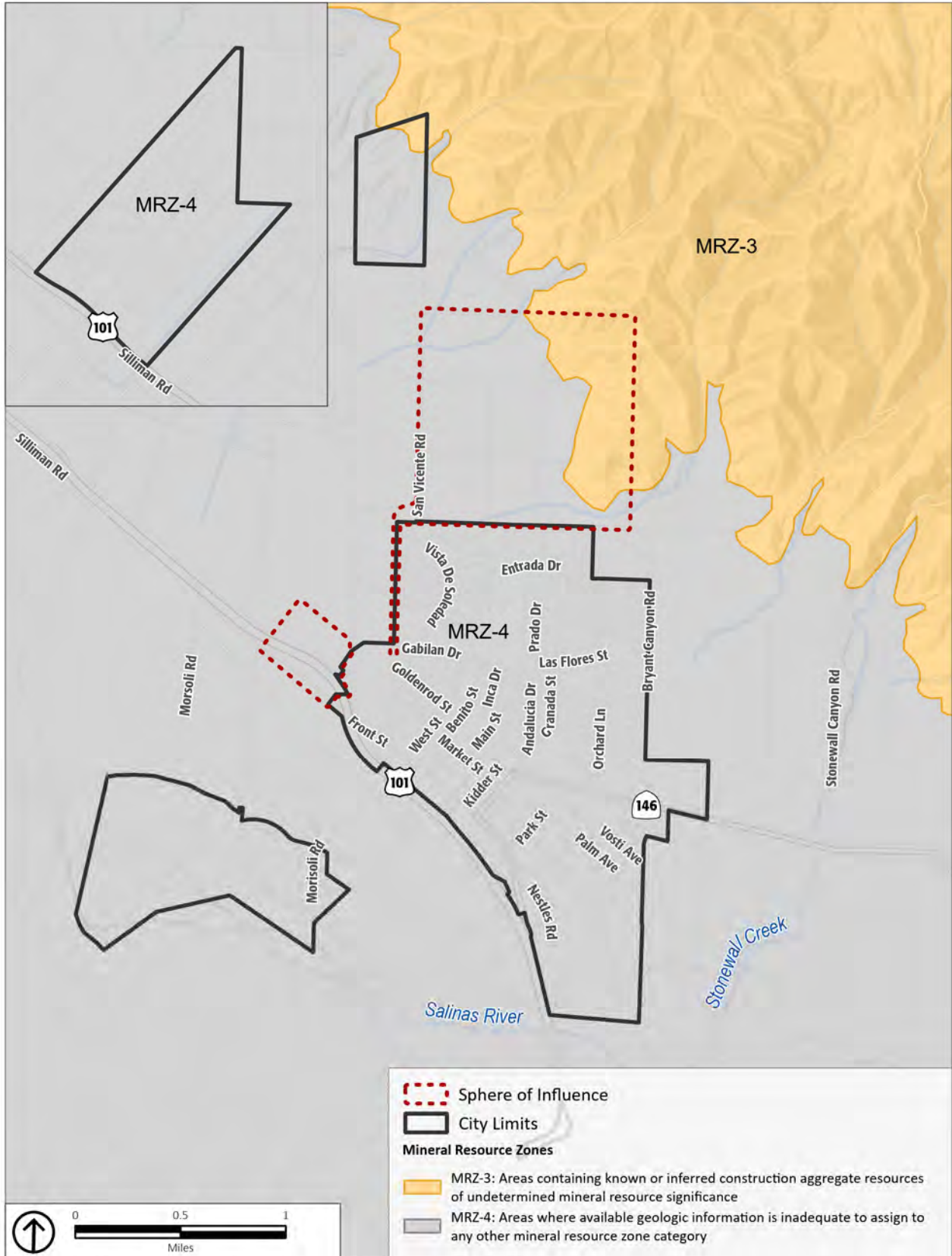
Source: AMBAG, 2022; ESRI, 2025; PlaceWorks, 2025

Figure 4b  
Proposed General Plan Land Use (SOI and City Limit)



Source: City of Soledad, 2010

Figure 5  
Existing General Plan Land Use



Source: AMBAG, 2022; ESRI, 2025; CGS, 2021; PlaceWorks, 2025

Figure 6  
Mineral Resource Zone Classifications