

For Advisory Comments FEBRUARY 17, 2022

# 747 (787) Bancroft Way

**Design Review #DRCP2021-0012** to demolish six existing buildings and construct a 162,375 square-foot, three-story building containing 133,028 square feet of research and development space and 29,347 square feet of light manufacturing space, and a surface parking lot containing 75 off-street parking spaces and five loading spaces.

## I. Introduction

This project is located on the Northwest corner of Bancroft and Fifth in the MU-LI district of West Berkeley. The project site would merge four parcels for the construction of a three-story research and development building.

The demolition of six vacant one-story non-residential structures is being scheduled on an upcoming LPC Meeting for their review. This project is also scheduled for a future ZAB hearing pending the conclusion of any Use Permit and CEQA review.

The project is before the Design Review Committee this month as a Preview.

## II. Background

This project proposes a 159,143 square-foot, three-story research and development building and a surface parking lot containing 75 parking spaces, referred to as the West Block (Phase III). The project includes:

- An approximately 6,000 square-foot outdoor plaza at northeast portion of the property.
- Six-foot tall security fence and retaining walls at the northeast, south and west portions of the property.
- Four terraces totaling 2,592 square feet on the second and third floors facing Fourth Street and Bancroft Way.

- Vehicular access through two aisles on Bancroft Way: one for access to two loading spaces and one for access to a surface parking lot with capacity for 75 parking spaces and five loading spaces.
- A total of 88 bicycle parking spaces would be provided: 20 short-term spaces would be located on Fourth Street and 68 long-term spaces would be located in a bicycle room on the first floor, with controlled access from the surface parking lot at the rear of the building.
- 61 new trees would be planted (52 trees in the parking lot and nine in the plaza),
   as well as 11 street trees: 8 along Fourth Street and 3 along Bancroft.

## III. Project Setting

## A. Neighborhood/Area Description:

The 3.02-acre project site for all project phases is located in West Berkeley directly east of the City of Berkeley Aquatic Park across the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks. Specifically, the site is bisected by Fourth Street and generally bordered by Allston Way to the north, Fifth Street to the east, Bancroft Way to the south, and the UPRR corridor to the west. Land uses in West Berkeley include manufacturing, wholesale, and industrial along with commercial and residential uses. The Project site is located south of the Fourth Street commercial and is surrounded by various industrial and commercial uses. Building heights in West Berkeley consist of one- and two-story residential uses, generally east of Fifth Street, and up to six-story mixed-use residential buildings adjacent to the University Avenue overpass.

#### B. Site Conditions:

The project site comprises seven parcels and nine existing buildings across two contiguous blocks, referred to as the "East Block" and the "West Block". The project in this application is located in the "West Block" and consists of four parcels containing six existing vacant one-story buildings totaling 80,234 square feet with addresses at 701, 703, 705, 705A, and 747 Bancroft Way (light manufacturing, warehouse, warehouse-based non-store retail) and 2220 Fourth Street (warehouse-based non-store retail), as well as a surface parking lot containing 26 spaces.

Figure 1: Vicinity Map



**Table 1: Land Use Information** 

Location		Existing Use	Zoning District	General Plan Designation
Subject Property		Warehouse-based non-store retail (vacant), warehouse and light manufacturing (vacant)		
	North	Light manufacturing (vacant)	MU-LI	M – Manufacturing
Surrounding Properties	South	Light manufacturing		
	East	Light manufacturing		
	West	Research and Development (600 Addison campus, recently approved)		

**Table 2: Development Standards** 

		Existing	Proposed Total	Permitted/ Required
Phase III (West B BMC Sections 23I	Block): <b>747 (787) Bancro</b> E.80.070-080	oft Way		
Number of Parcels	lumber of Parcels		1	N/A
Lot Area (sq. ft.)	ot Area (sq. ft.)		No change	N/A
Gross Floor Area	ss Floor Area (sq. ft.)		159,143	193,932 max
Floor Area Ratio (	FAR)	0.83	1.64	2 max
Building Height	Average	Varies – 16' - 32'	45'	45' max
	Maximum	Varies – 16' - 35'	45'	N/A
	Stories	1	3	3 max
Building	Front (Fourth)	0'	No change	N/A
Setbacks	Rear	0'	33'-8"	N/A
	Left Side (Bancroft)	0'	0'	N/A
	Right Side	0'	21'-10"	N/A
Parking	Automobile	26	294 <sup>2</sup>	274 min <sup>3</sup>
			68/20	80 min
	Bicycle	0	(long-term/short-	(1:2,000 square
			term)	feet)
	Loading	0	7	7 min (1:10,000 initial square feet and 1:25,000 square
				feet for additional)

#### Notes

- 1 See Table 6, Summary of Proposed and Required Parking Spaces, by Phase
- 2 See Table 6. 75 spaces provided on-site in surface parking lot, 219 spaces provided off-site at 2213 Fourth garage.

3 Required Parking (R&D) = 2 spaces/1,000 sq.ft.; 125,796 sq.ft./500 sq.ft = 252 spaces required. Required Parking (Light Manufacturing) = 2 spaces/1,500 sq.ft.; 33,347 sq.ft./1,500 sq.ft. = 22 spaces required. Total required spaces: 252 + 22 = 274.

## **IV.** Project Description

## A. Requested Use Permits

- Variance pursuant to BMC Section 23B.44.010 to allow replacement of protected floor area to be made available after the demolition or change of use of the space.
- Use Permit pursuant to BMC Section 23C.08.050.A to demolish main buildings used for non-residential purposes.
- Use Permit pursuant to BMC Section 23E.80.045.B, to change more than 25 percent of manufacturing and warehouse uses to research and development uses.
- Use Permit pursuant to BMC Section 23E.80.050.C to construct between 20,000 and 30,000 square feet of new floor area as Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade.
- Administrative Use Permit pursuant to BMC Section 23E.80.030 to establish more than 30,000 square feet of research and development use.
- Administrative Use Permit pursuant to BMC Section 23E.04.020.C to allow architectural elements to exceed the height limit in a non-residential district.

#### B. CEQA Determination

An Initial Study (IS) is being prepared to evaluate any environmental impacts of the proposed project, pursuant to CEQA.

## V. Design Review Guidelines

The City's Design Guidelines are applicable for this project. Excerpts from the Citywide Design Review Guidelines are included below for your reference.

- **Setbacks:** The street façade of commercial streets should be respected, in order to create or maintain the sense of urban space.
- **Parking and Driveways:** Conflict with pedestrian circulation should be prevented by the proper location and design of auto entrances; whenever possible, parking should be behind buildings, underground, or in a central court. Shading of at least fifty percent (50%) of the surface area (as measured at 12 noon on June 21) is encouraged to reduce heat buildup and to improve visual appearance.

- **Harmony with Surroundings:** The proposed design should be in harmony with its surroundings through the coordination of such design elements as cornice lines, eaves, and setbacks with those of existing neighborhood buildings.
- **Articulation:** Street facades in general and the ground floor level in particular should include elements of pedestrian scale and three-dimensional interest.
- **Lighting:** Lighting for circulation, security, building/sign identification should be non-obtrusive, except for lighting fixtures which are themselves decorative additions to the streetscape.
- Walls and Fences: Large, unarticulated expanses of any particular wall material
  that deaden the pedestrian environment should be avoided. The use of clear
  windows for ground floor retail projects is encouraged. Walls designed to allow
  sitting areas for pedestrian or space for landscaping and artwork are encouraged,
  especially in areas of heavy pedestrian use. Landscaping and/or art work should
  be maximized if large expanses of wall must be left devoid of openings.
- Landscape and Open Space: Sidewalk areas should include landscaping that is coordinated with the neighborhood design.
- Public Open Space Areas: the inclusion of public open spaces is encouraged as
  a means of providing places for people to come together for community interaction
  and enlivening the pedestrian environment.
- Pedestrian Paths: Pedestrian paths and arcades interior to the block which joins different parts of buildings as well as different streets are encouraged.
- **Building Entrances:** Entrance points should be clearly defined and easily identifiable by pedestrians by appropriate locations and by elements such as awnings, signage, artwork or changes in paving material to define the entry point.

The West Berkeley Plan is also applicable to this project. Below are several relevant goals from that plan:

- <u>Physical Form Goal 5</u>: Development on major sites of 1 acre or more should be both internally cohesive and sensitively designed on the site's publicly used edges.
- Open Space Goal 9: Provide an accessible, aesthetically-pleasing network of green spaces and corridors - that is functional for varied types of users--to visually and physically link parks, creeks, and shoreline to residential and commercial, and light industrial areas.

The West Berkeley Plan can be found on the City's website at the link below:

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Planning\_and\_Development/Redevelopment\_Agency/West\_Berkeley\_Plan (The).aspx

## VI. Issues and Analysis

## A. Design Review Issues:

**Neighborhood Context** The project site is located in West Berkeley and is surrounded by the UPRR tracks to the west, Fourth Street to the east, and Bancroft Way to the south. The 96,966-sq. ft. parcel is designated as Manufacturing (M) in the General Plan and Mixed Use Light Industrial (MU-LI) in the Zoning Ordinance and the West Berkeley Area Plan. The site is surrounded by manufacturing and warehouse uses.

Massing/ Building Design This three-story structure is proposed in an L-shaped configuration with frontage on both Fourth Street and Bancroft Way. A surface parking lot is proposed adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad. The façade design features concrete columns emphasized by deep recessed windows along the East and South facades. The massing steps back at the Southwest and Northeast corners, as well as at the entrance to the main lobby. The project proposes public open space to the north of the building and public improvements along Fourth Street.

**Ground Floor Design** The ground floor is recessed and increases the sidewalk width for pedestrian movement and additional planting and seating. The main entry is located near the midpoint of the Fourth Street façade and opens into a lobby space that extends the depth of the building to connect to the parking lot at the interior of the lot and common open space already permitted in Phase I. Workspaces are arranged along Fourth Street with the loading dock and mechanical spaces located midblock on the Bancroft side of the project.

**Setbacks** The building is set back approximately 33' 8" from the rear (west) property line and approximately 21' 10" from the right (north) property line. The project meets the property line at the East and South sides.

**Landscape/ Open Space** A public plaza along the North edge of the property serves as open space for the project. A parklet is proposed along the Fourth Street frontage, featuring concrete benches, planting strips, and flow through planters that wrap the corner at Bancroft. Eight new street trees are proposed on Fourth street with three new street trees to be planted on Bancroft. Outdoor terraces are proposed at Northeast and Southwest corners at the second and third floor floors.

**Parking** Vehicular access to the surface parking lot at the interior of the site is provided at the Southwest corner of the Bancroft frontage. This lot provides 75 vehicular space. New trees are also proposed in the surface lot for tree canopy coverage, consistent with our city-wide design guideline.

**Colors and Materials** The project would consist of an exposed concrete structure, dark metal mullions and metal trim, and stone or precast paving.

#### **B.** Issues for Discussion:

- Neighborhood Context
- Façade Design
- Building Design/ Massing
- Open Space/ Streetscape
- Colors and Materials

### VII. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Committee discuss the issues outlined above and provide advisory comments regarding the proposed building design, its relationship with its neighborhood, and any other design-related issues for the next review.

#### Attachments:

- 1. Project Plans, received February 7, 2022
- 2. Applicant Statement, received December 22, 2021
- 3. Design Narrative, received February 7, 2022

Staff Planner: Anne Burns, aburns@ci.berkeley.ca.us, (510) 981-7410



787 BANCROFT WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94710

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2022

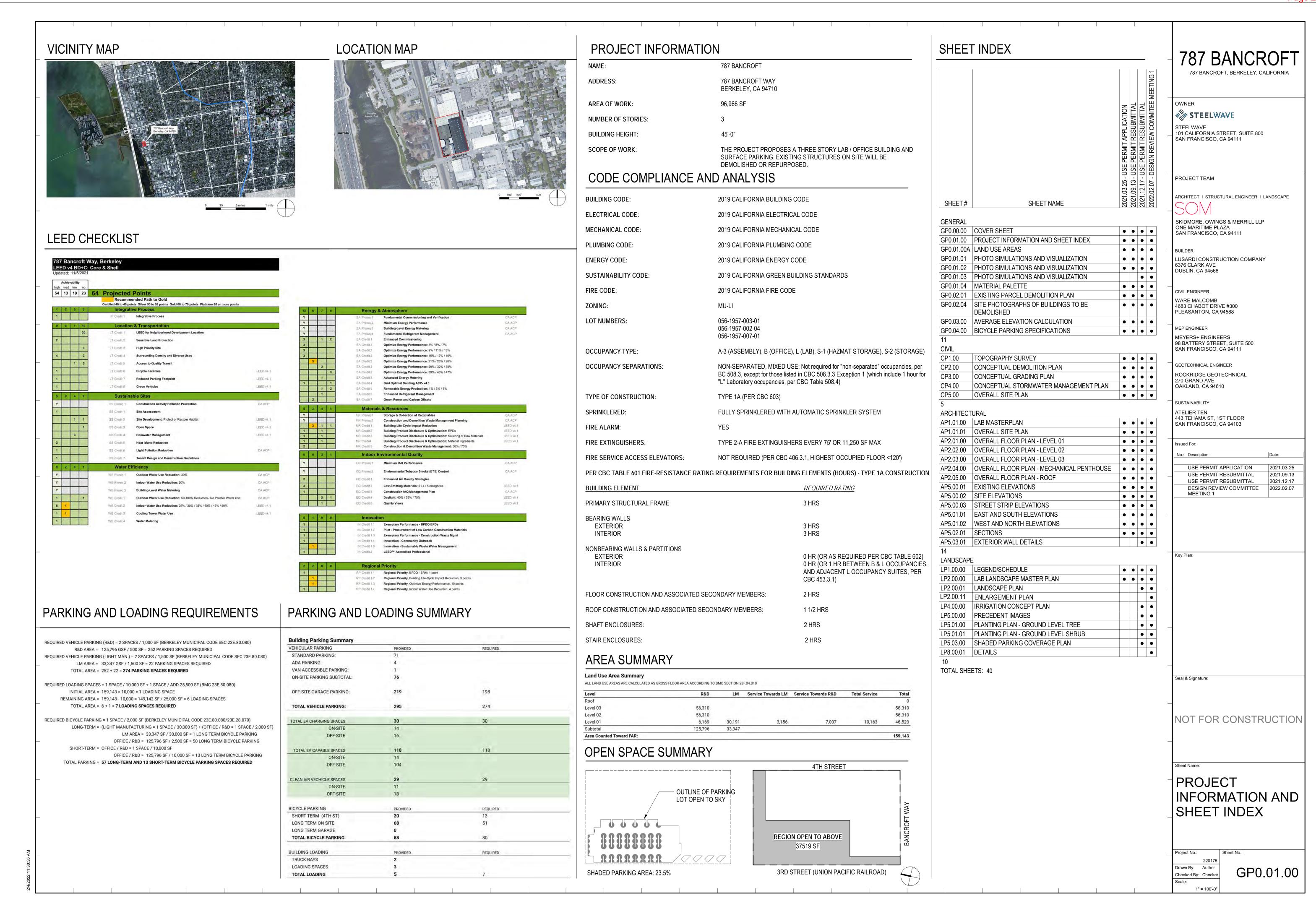
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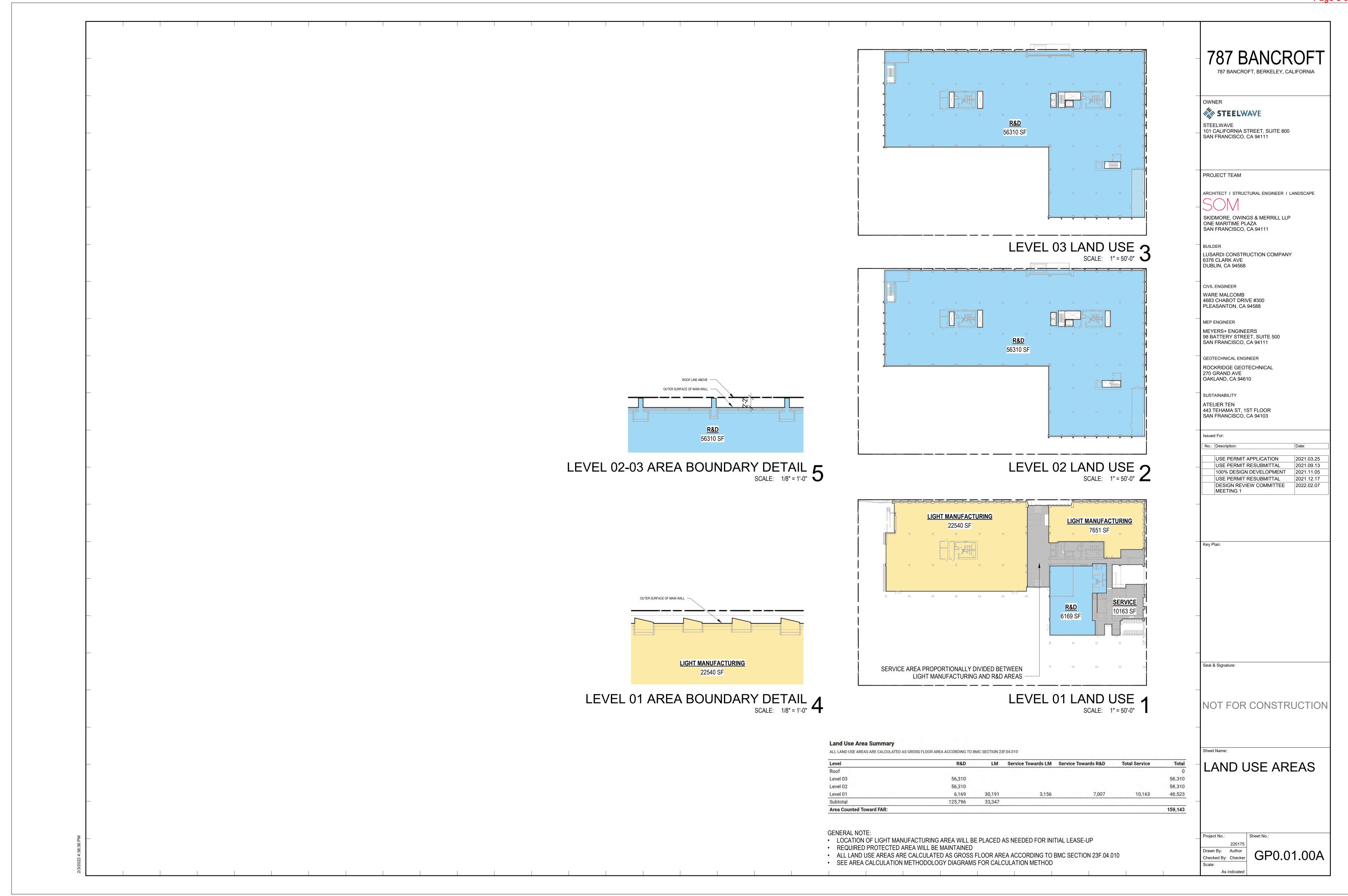
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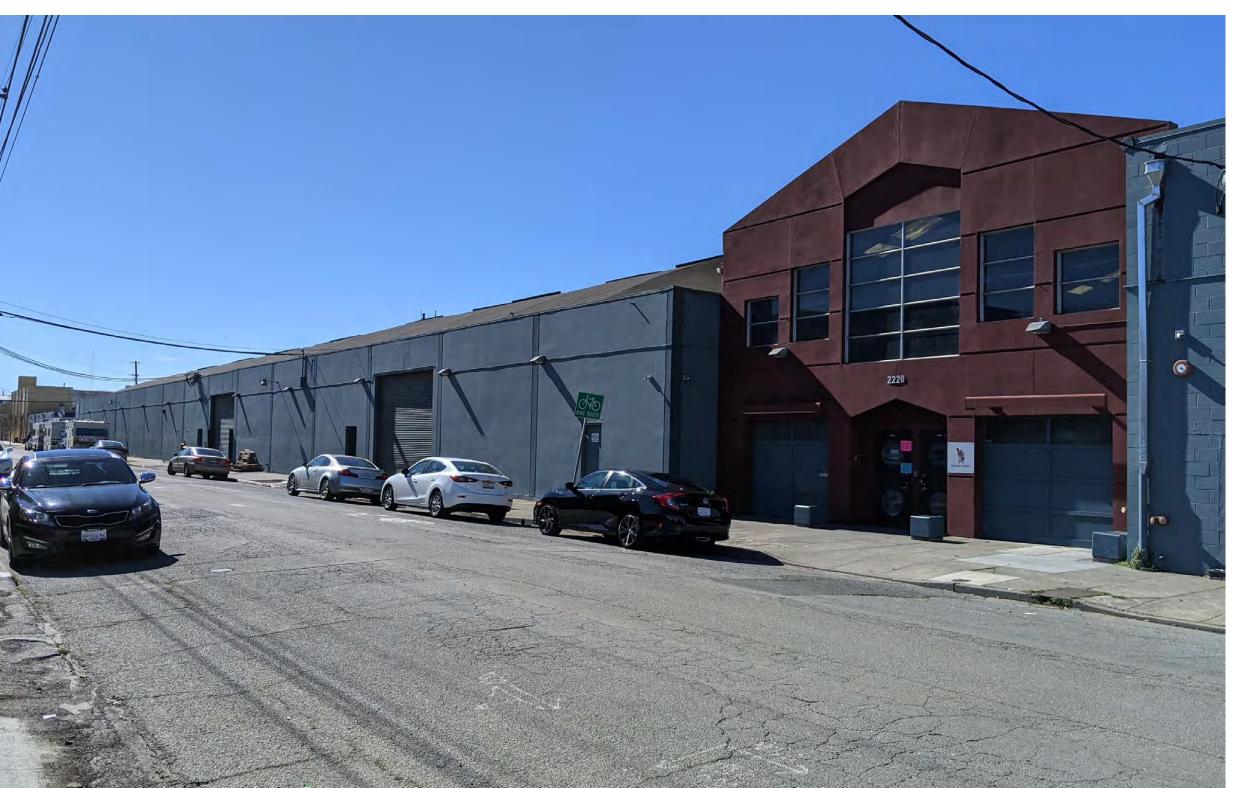
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VIEW FROM 4TH AND BANCROFT: EXISTING



VIEW FROM 4TH STREET: EXISTING



VIEW FROM 4TH AND BANCROFT: PROPOSED



VIEW FROM 4TH STREET: PROPOSED



STEELWAVE

STEELWAVE 101 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 800 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

PROJECT TEAM

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SUSTAINABILITY

ATELIER TEN
443 TEHAMA ST, 1ST FLOOR
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

No.:	Description:	Date:
	USE PERMIT APPLICATION	2021.03.2
	USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL	2021.09.1
	USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL	2021.12.1
	DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING 1	2022.02.0

Key Plan:

Seal & Signature:

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PHOTO SIMULATIONS AND VISUALIZATION

Project No.: 220175

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VIEW FROM RAILROAD CROSSING: EXISTING



VIEW FROM RAILROAD CROSSING: PROPOSED



VIEW FROM RAILROAD CROSSING: EXISTING



VIEW FROM WEST: PROPOSED



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USE PERMIT APPLICATION 2021.03.25 USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL 2021.09.13
USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL 2021.12.17
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE 2022.02.07
MEETING 1

Seal & Signature:

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VIEW FROM BANCROFT WAY: EXISTING



VIEW FROM BANCROFT WAY: PROPOSED



VIEW FROM 4TH STREET: EXISTING



VIEW FROM 4TH STREET: PROPOSED



787 BANCROFT, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

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USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL 2021.12.17
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE 2022.02.07
MEETING 1

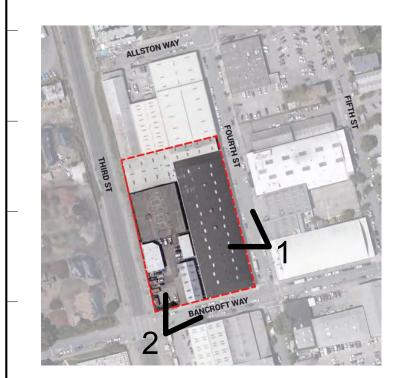
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## MATERIALITY AND CHARACTER

The construction and materiality building is inspired by the functionality and playfulness of the industrial buildings in the neighborhood. There is a clear expression of the structural frame and a play in rhythm of the cast in place concrete that is also the primary building facade.













VIEW OF 4TH STREET PLAZA

# 787 BANCROFT

787 BANCROFT, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

STEELWAVE

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SUSTAINABILITY ATELIER TEN 443 TEHAMA ST, 1ST FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

USE PERMIT APPLICATION 2021.03.25 USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL 2021.09.13
USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL 2021.12.17
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE 2022.02.07
MEETING 1

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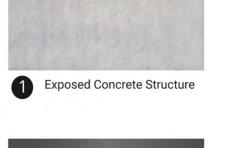
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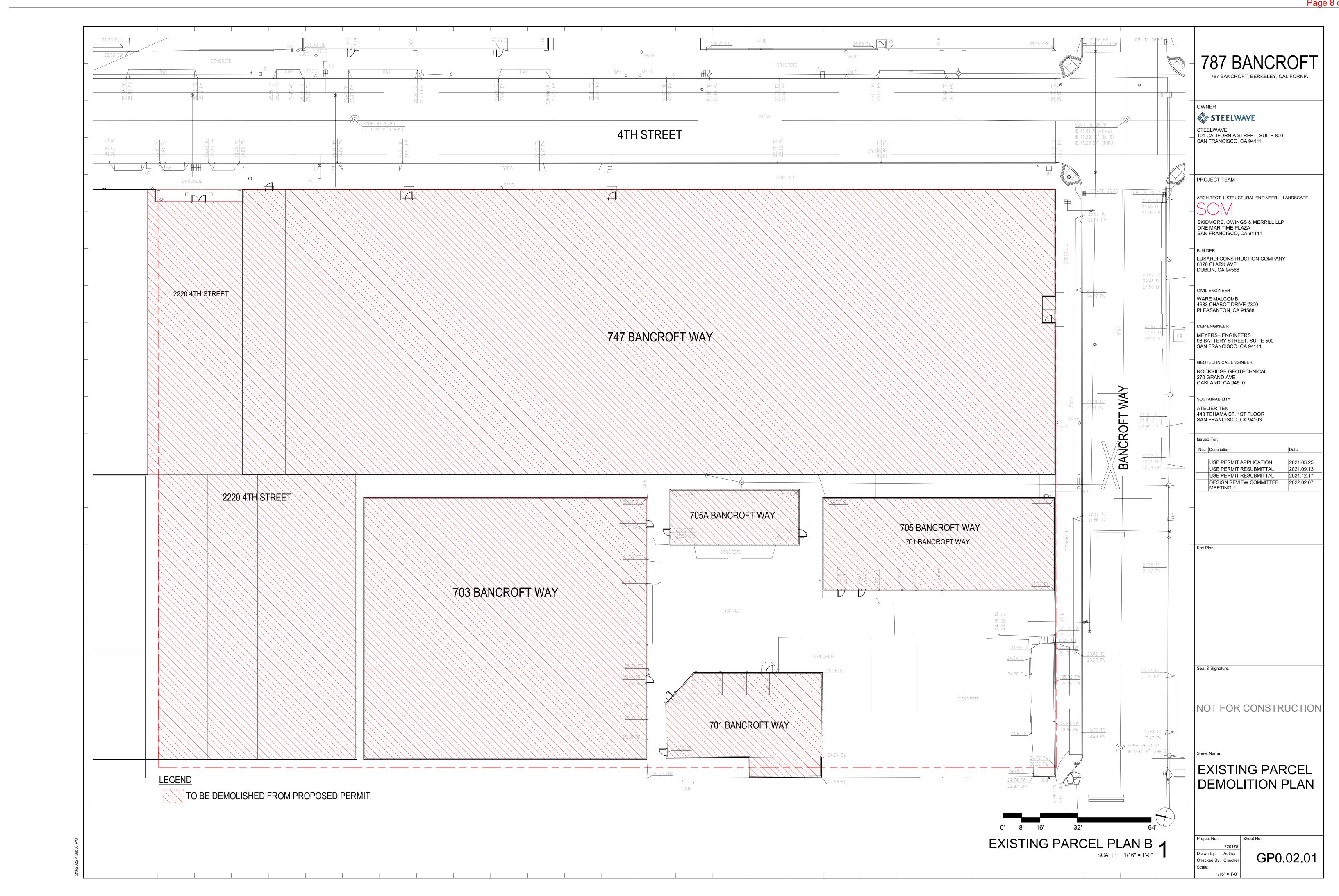








VIEW OF 4TH STREET ENTRANCE



## 787 BANCROFT 787 BANCROFT, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

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USE PERMIT APPLICATION 2021.03.25 USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL

USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL

USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEETING 1

2021.03.25

2021.03.25

2021.03.25

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED

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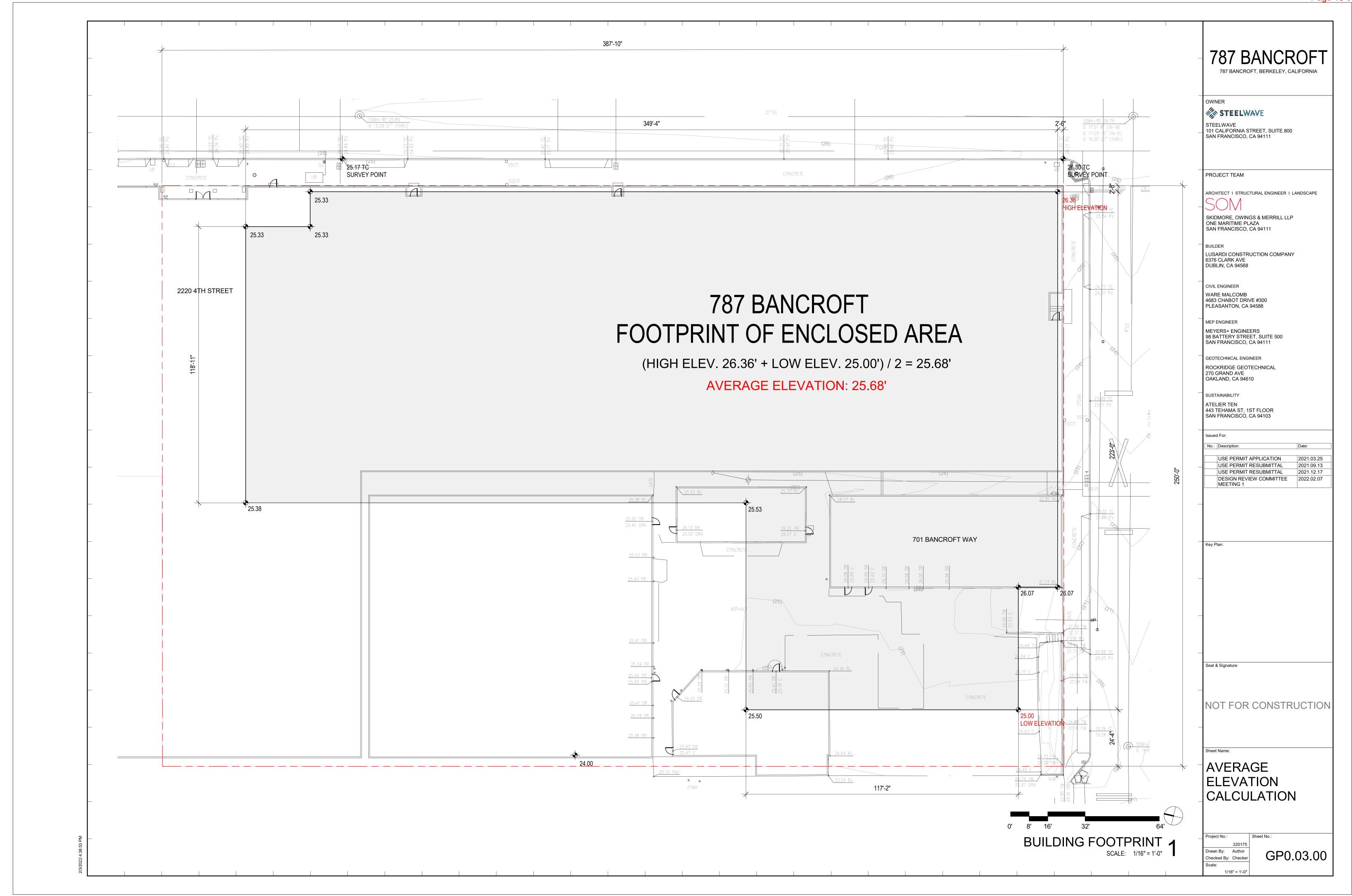








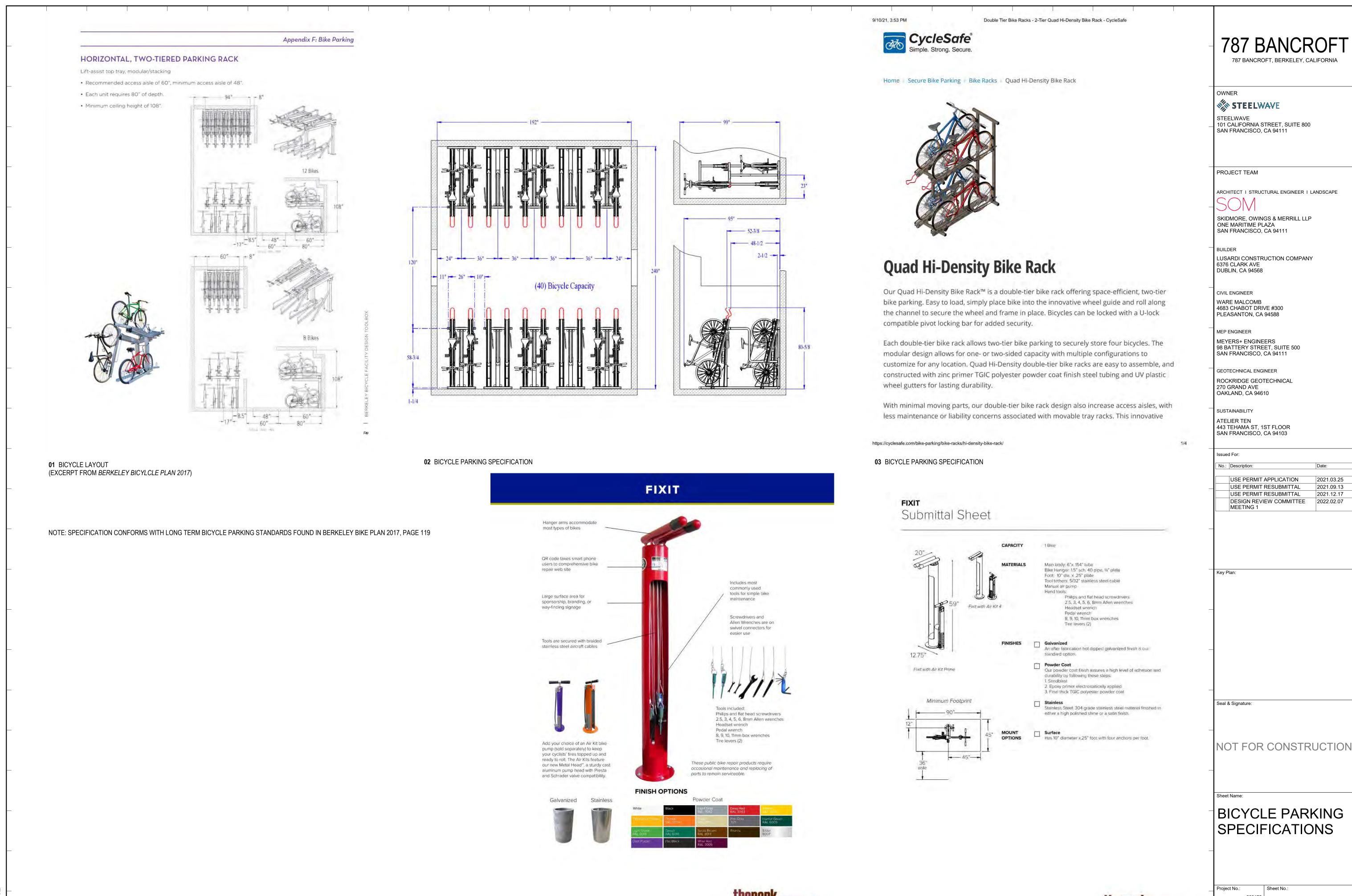




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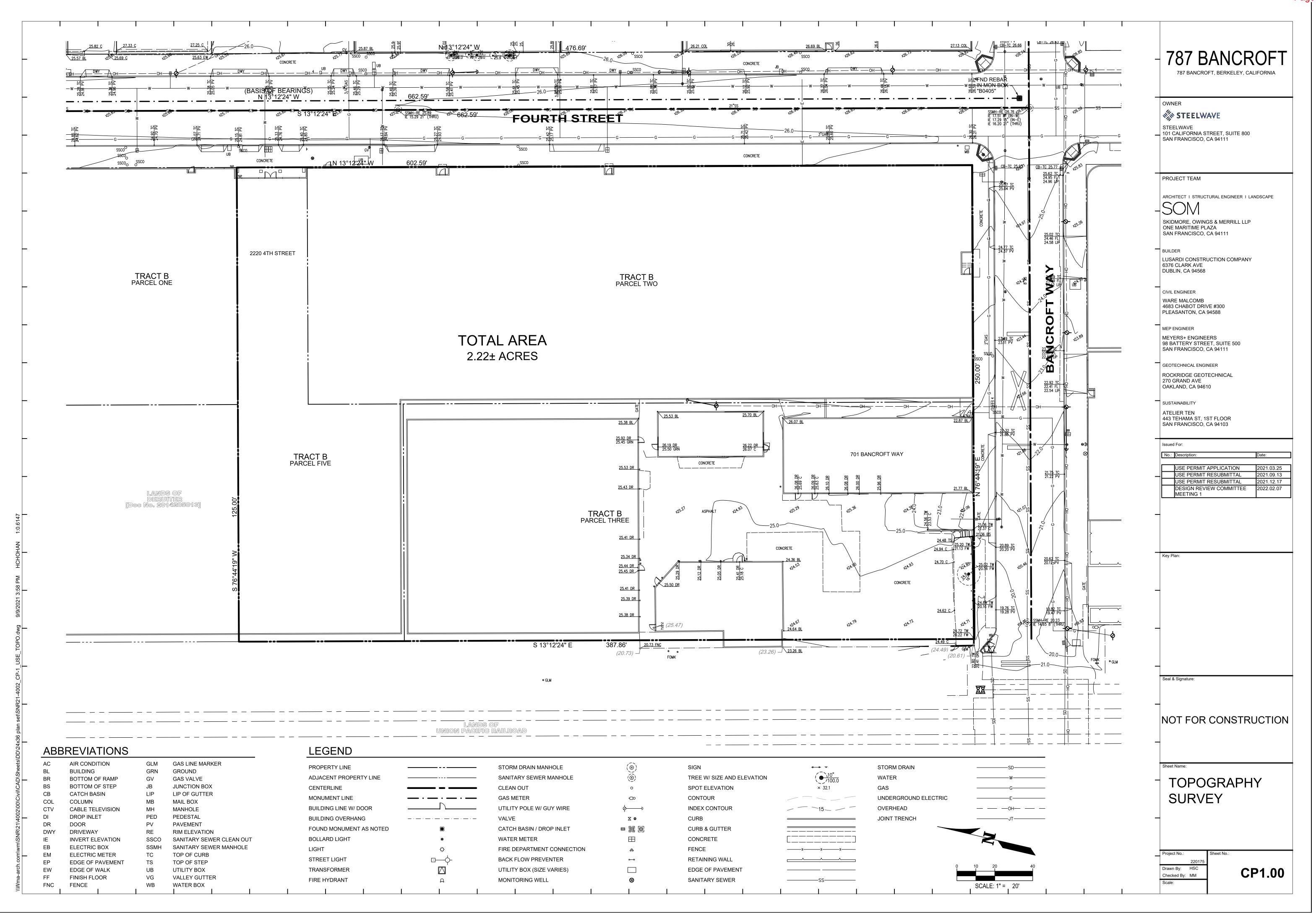
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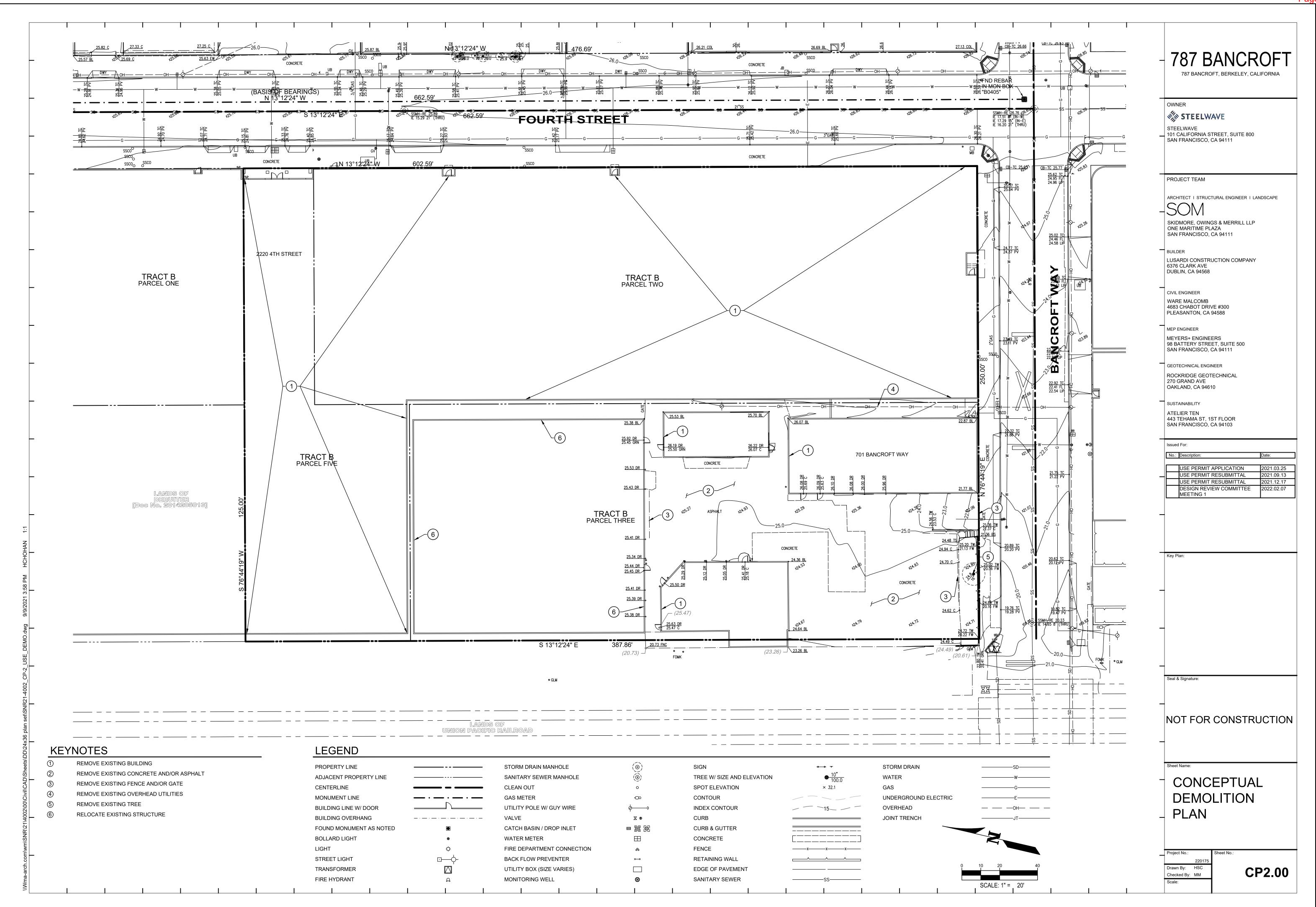
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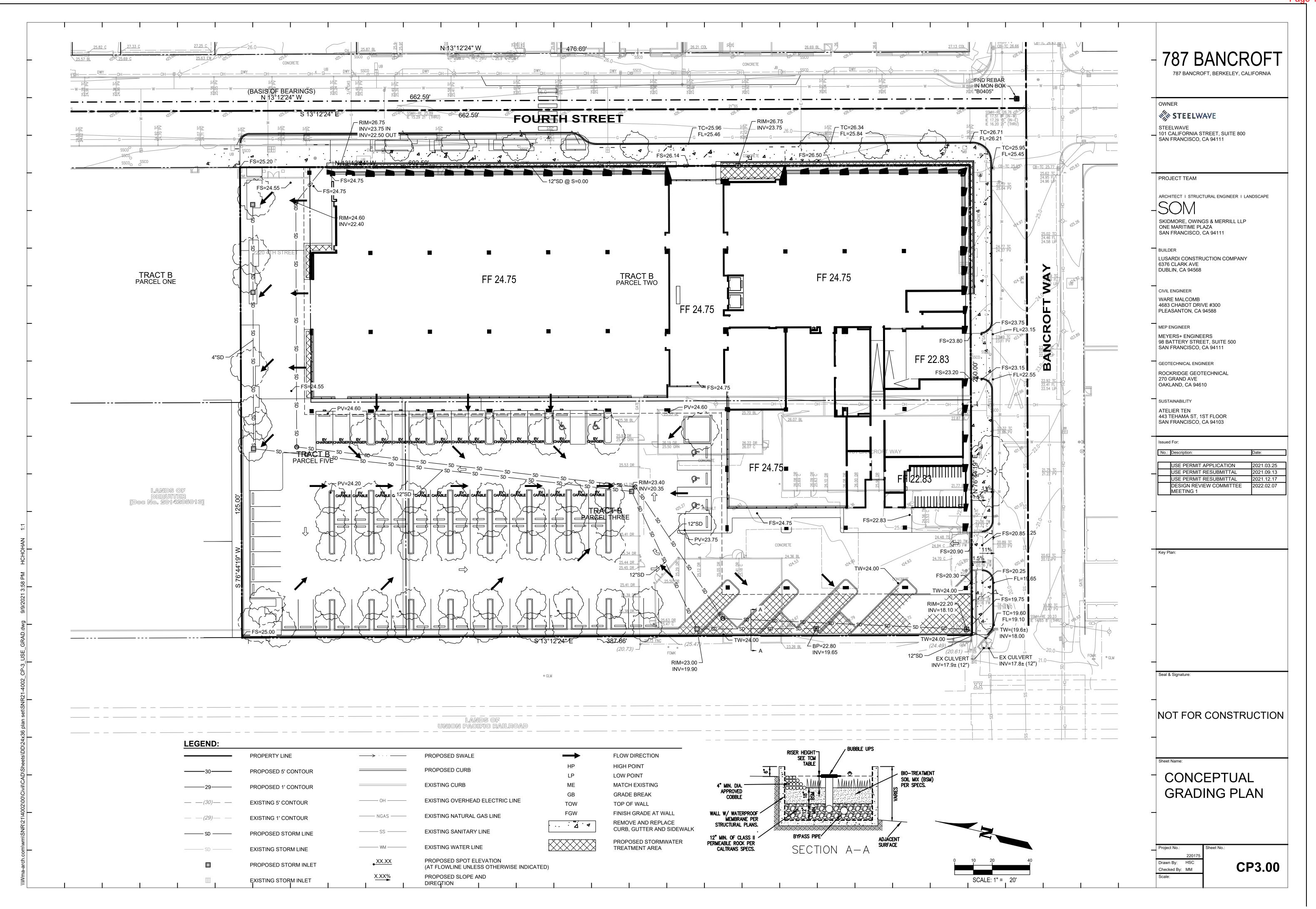


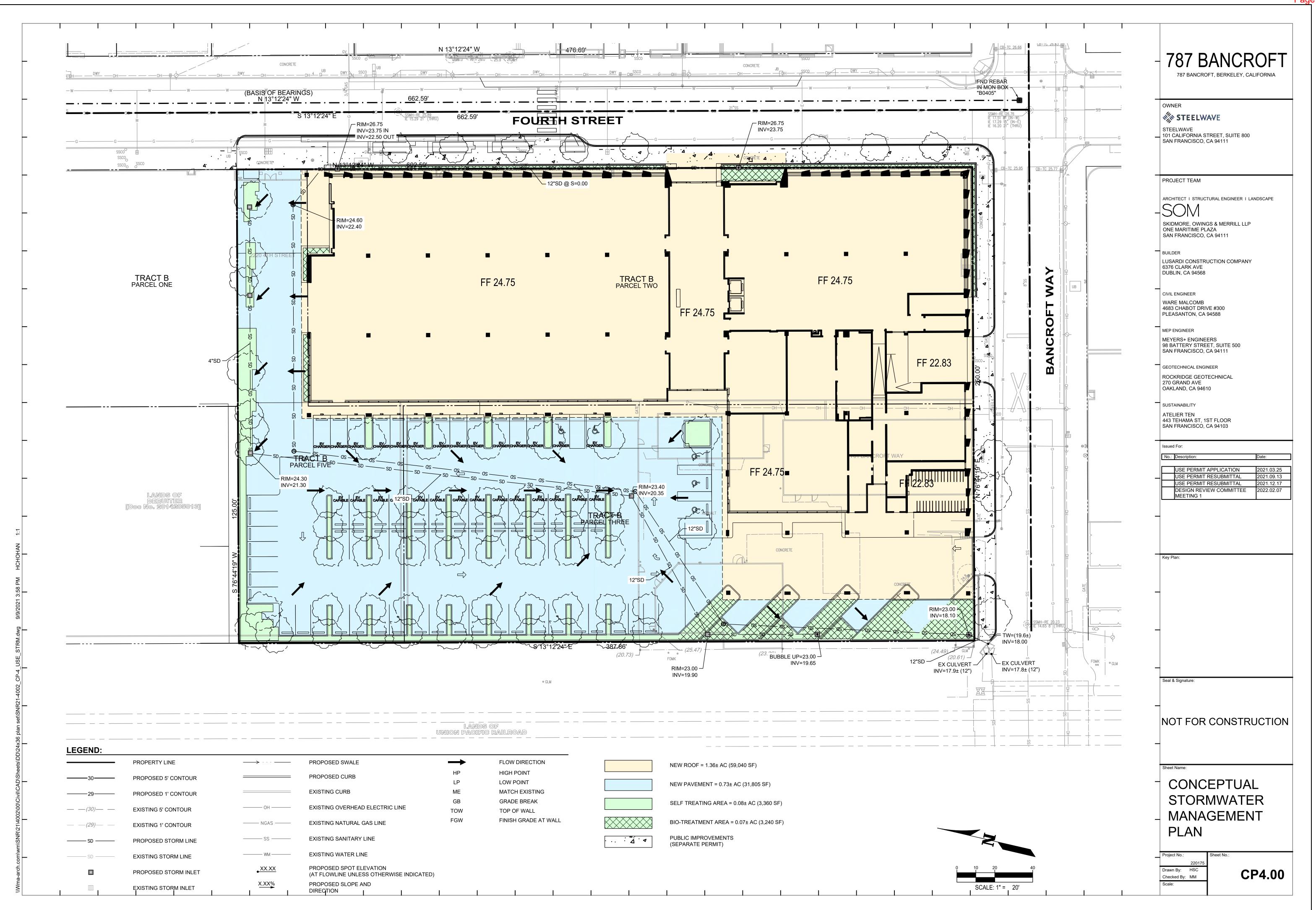
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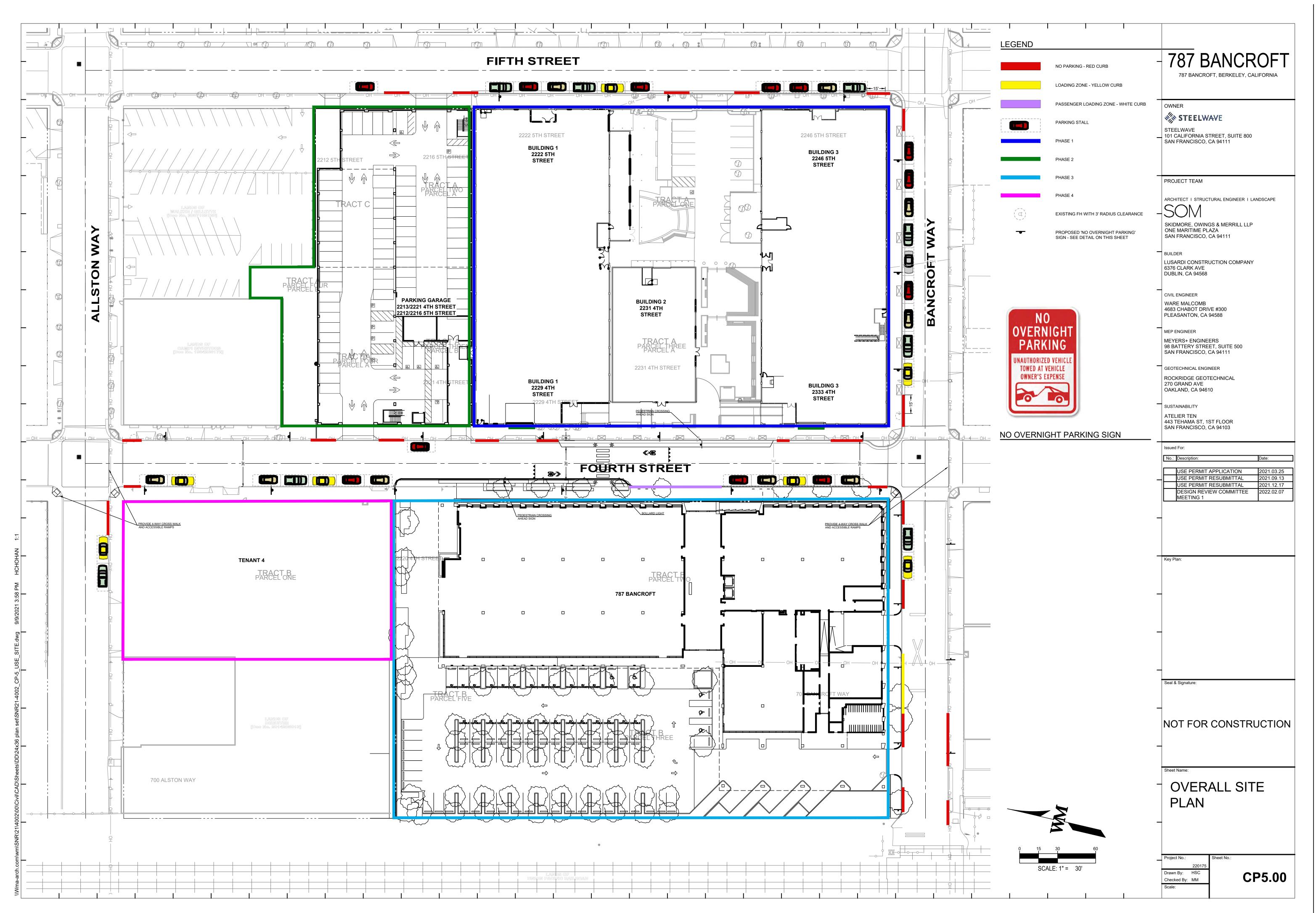
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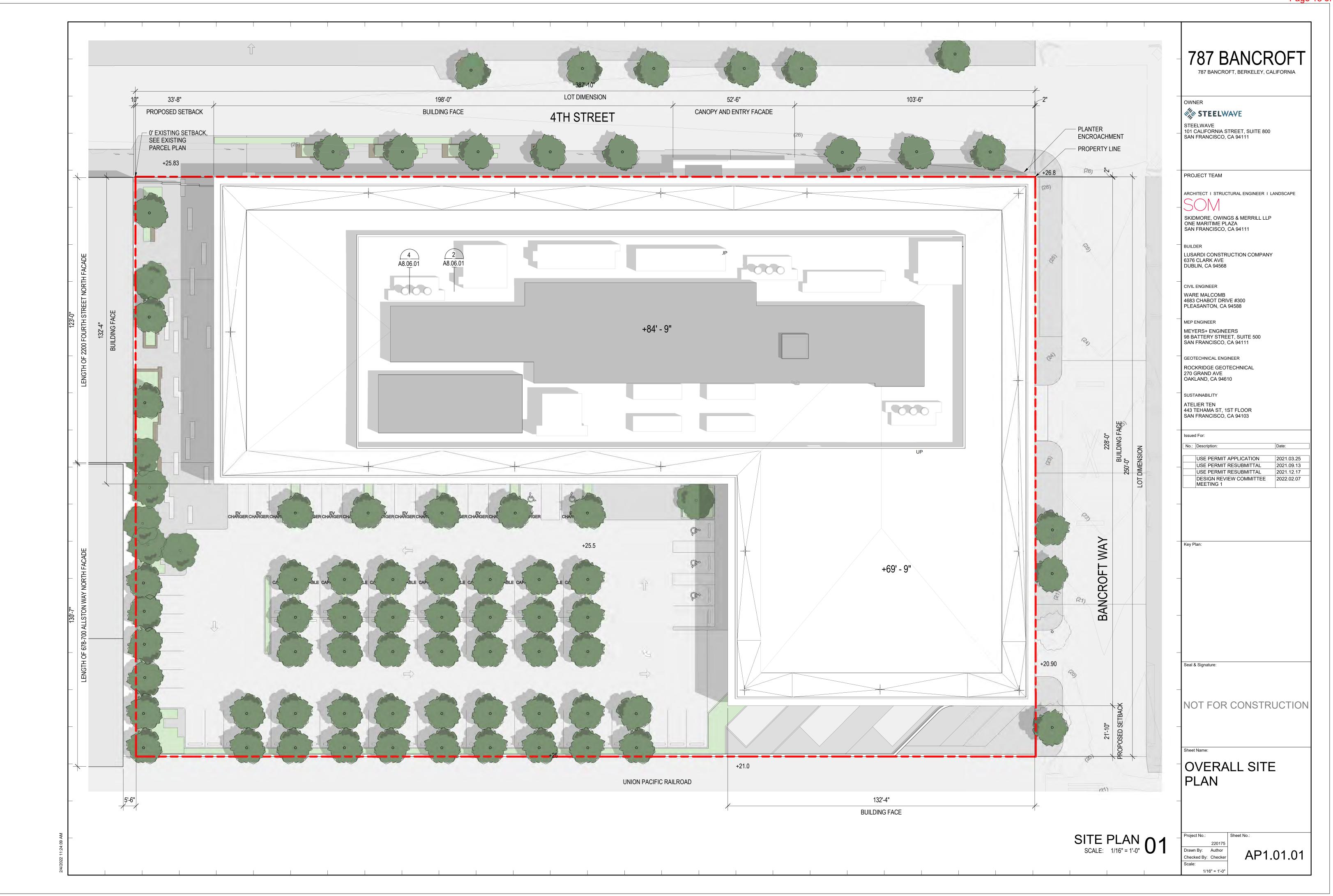


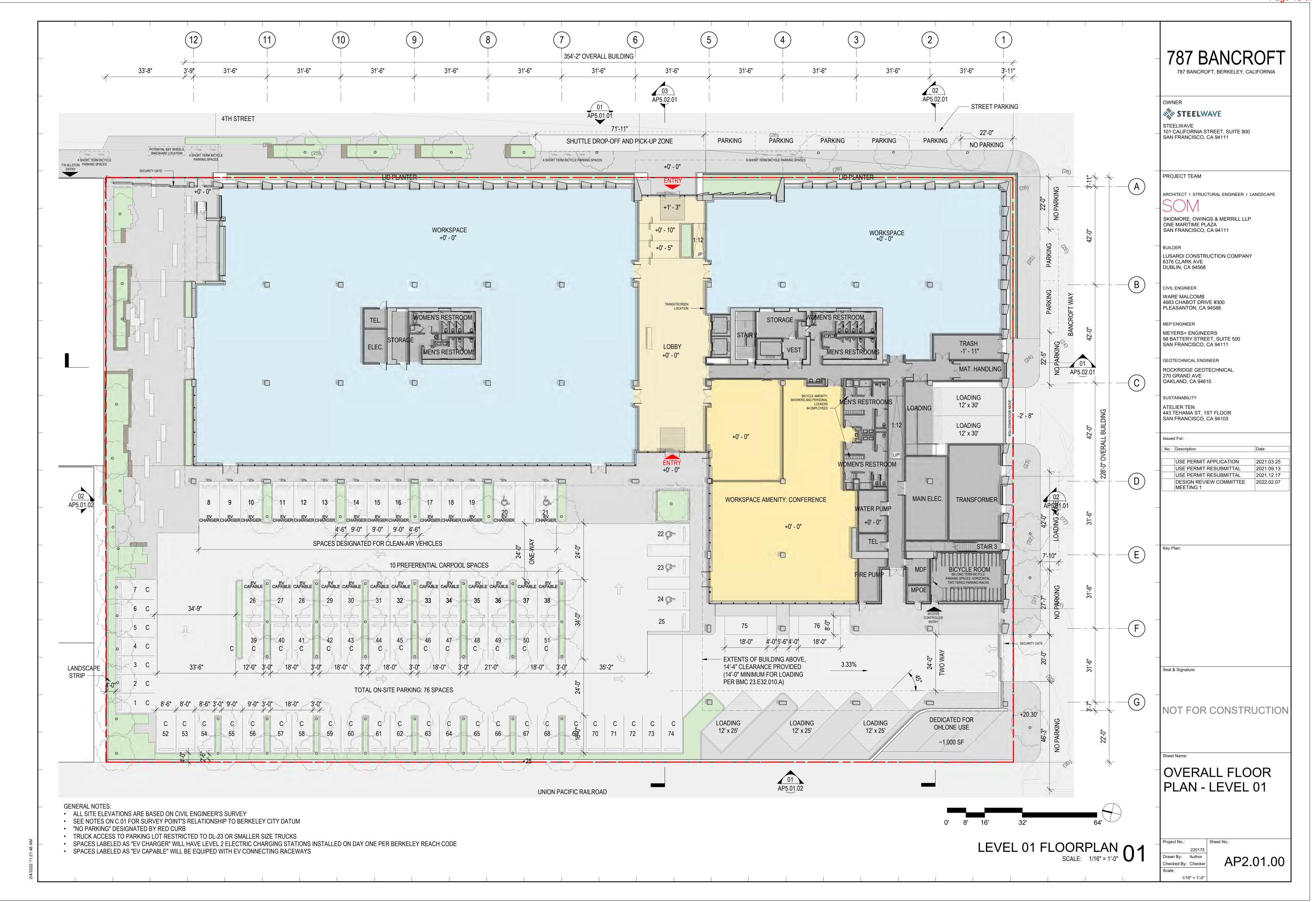


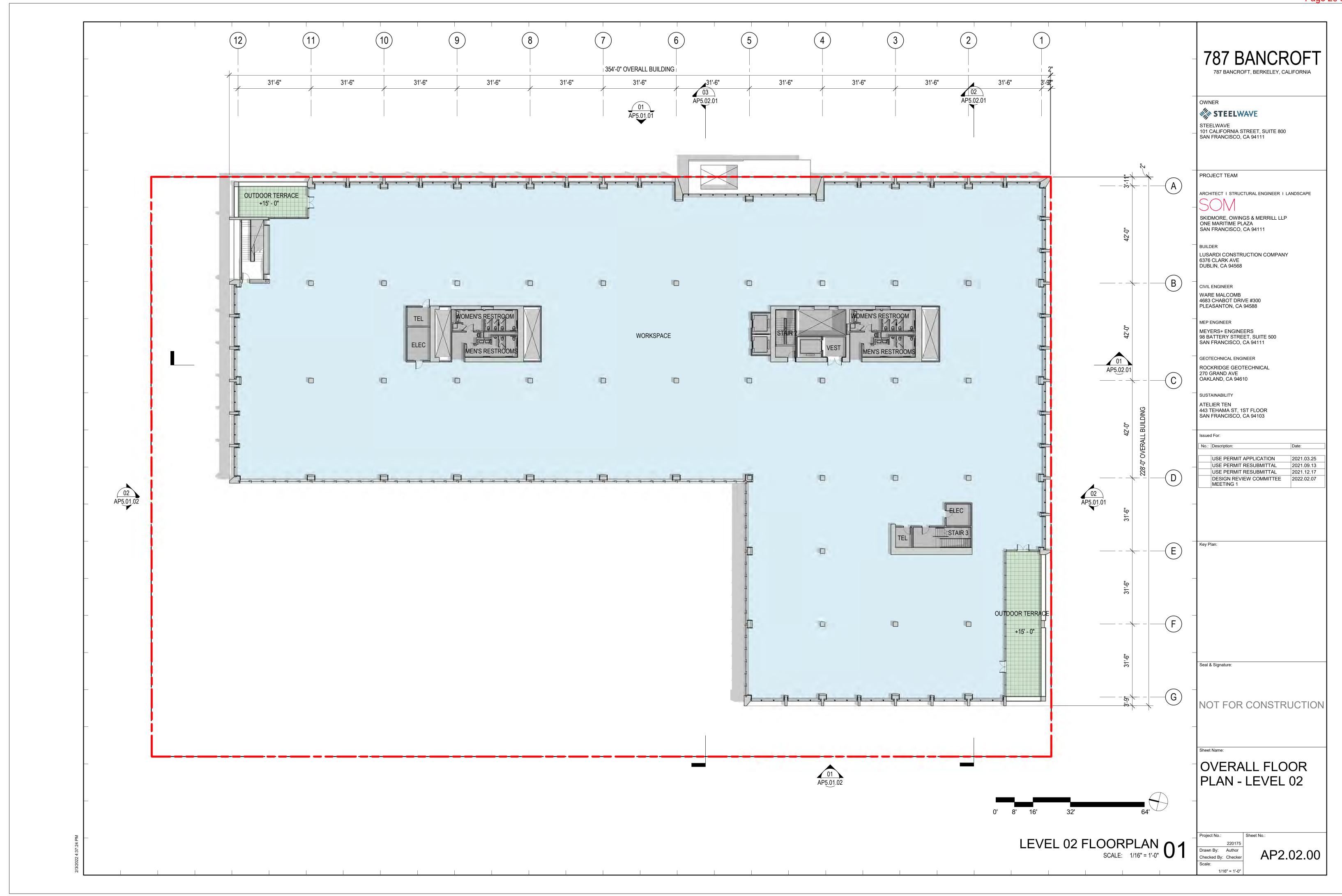


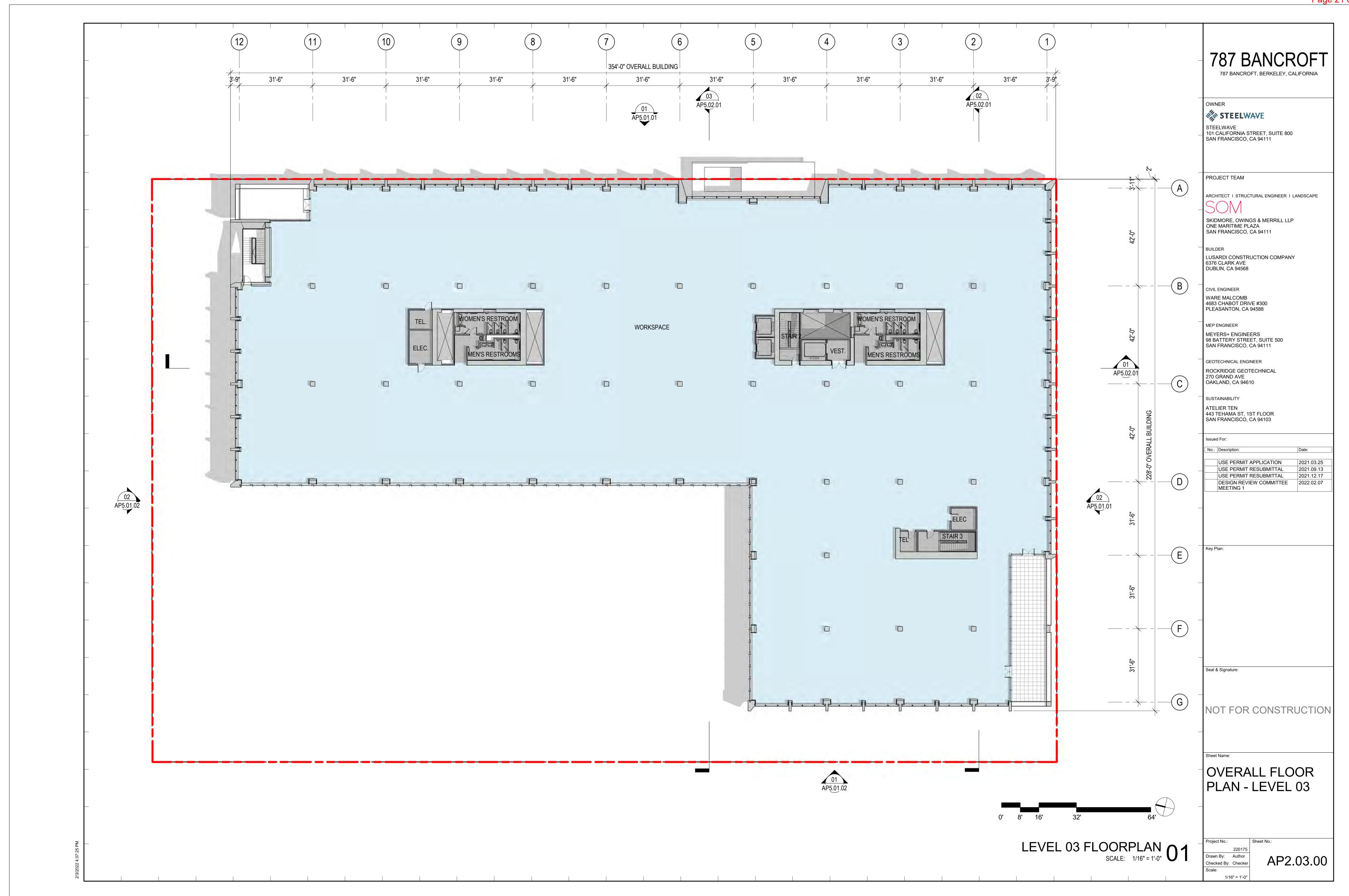


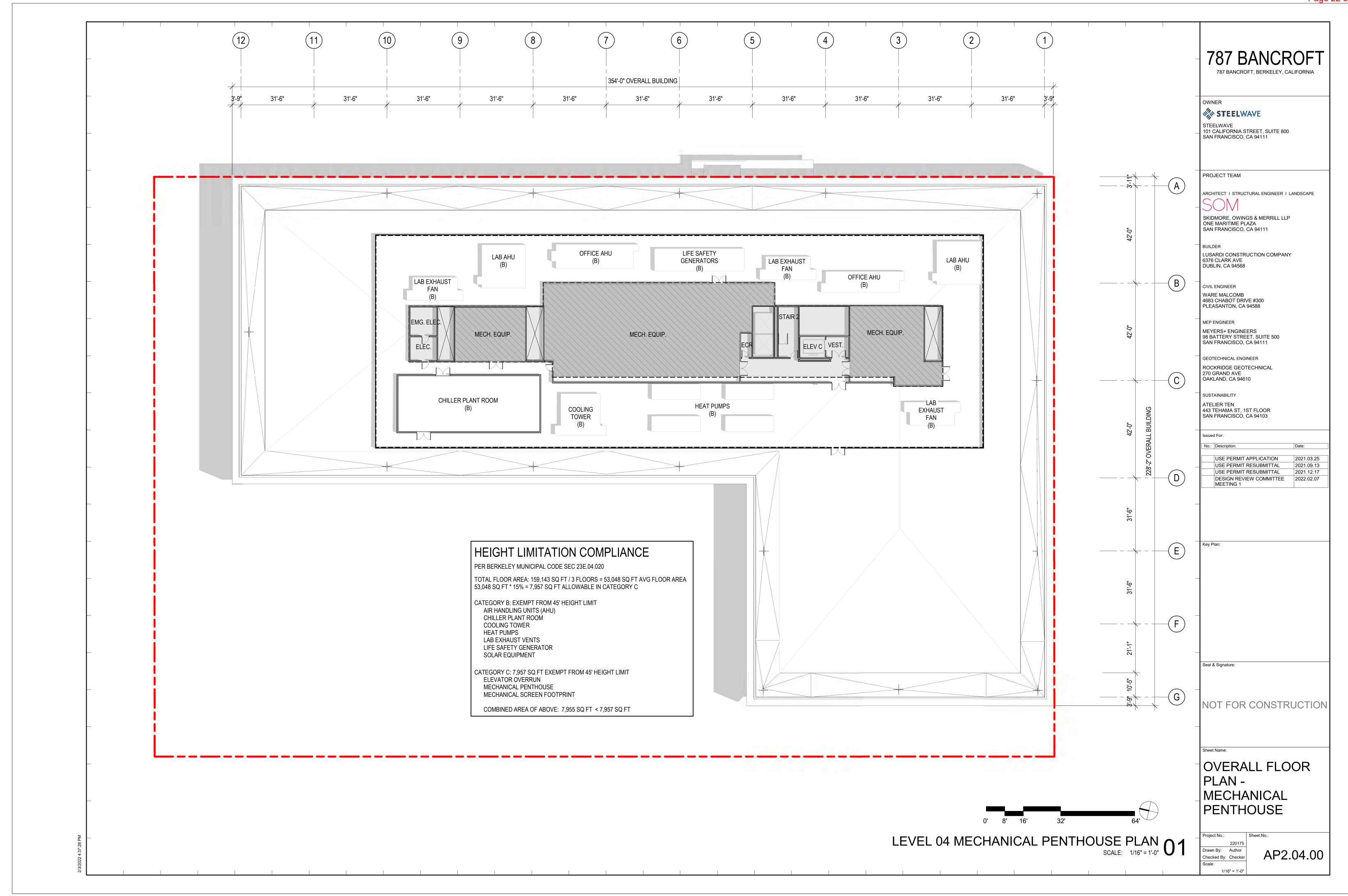


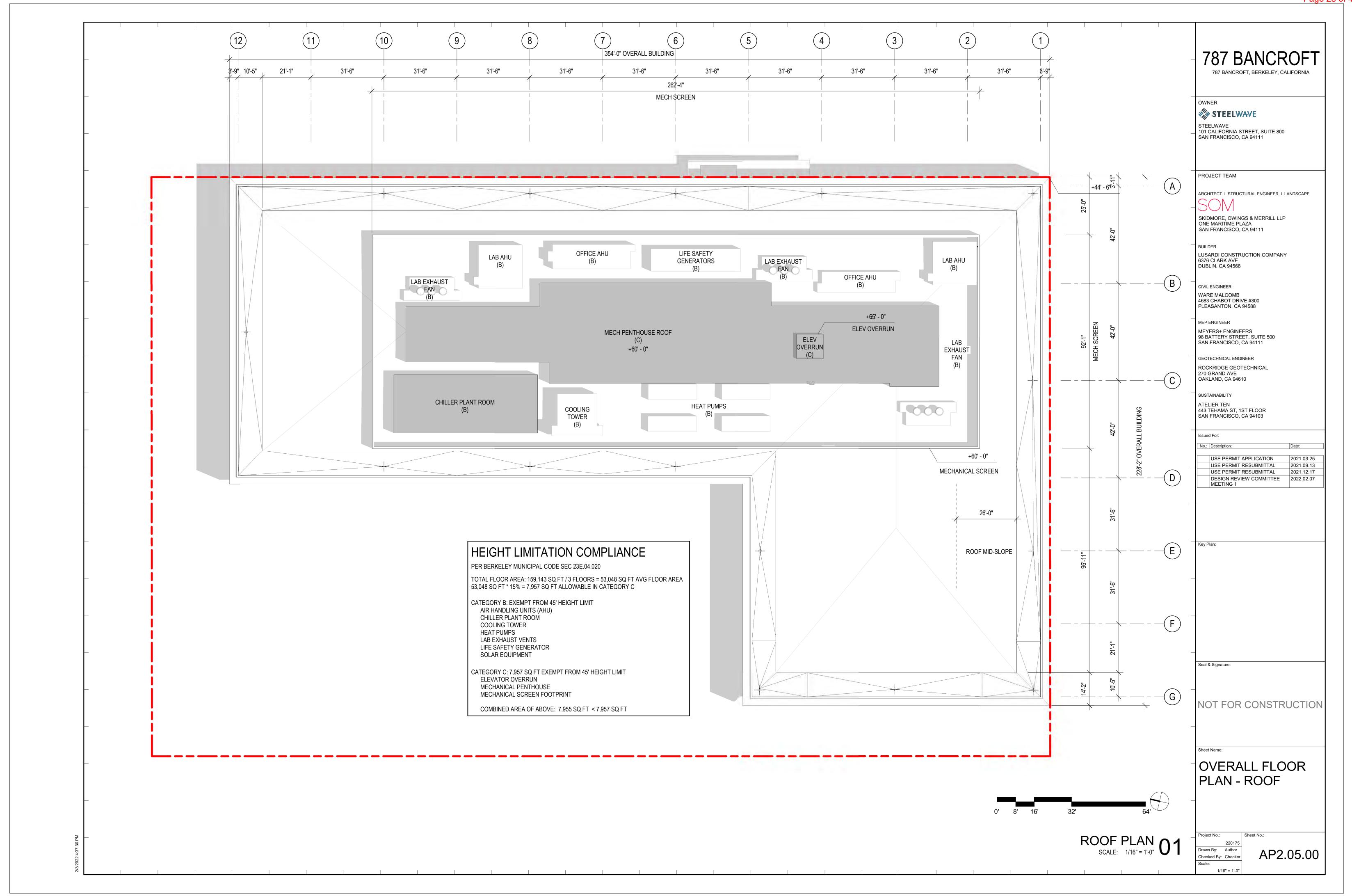




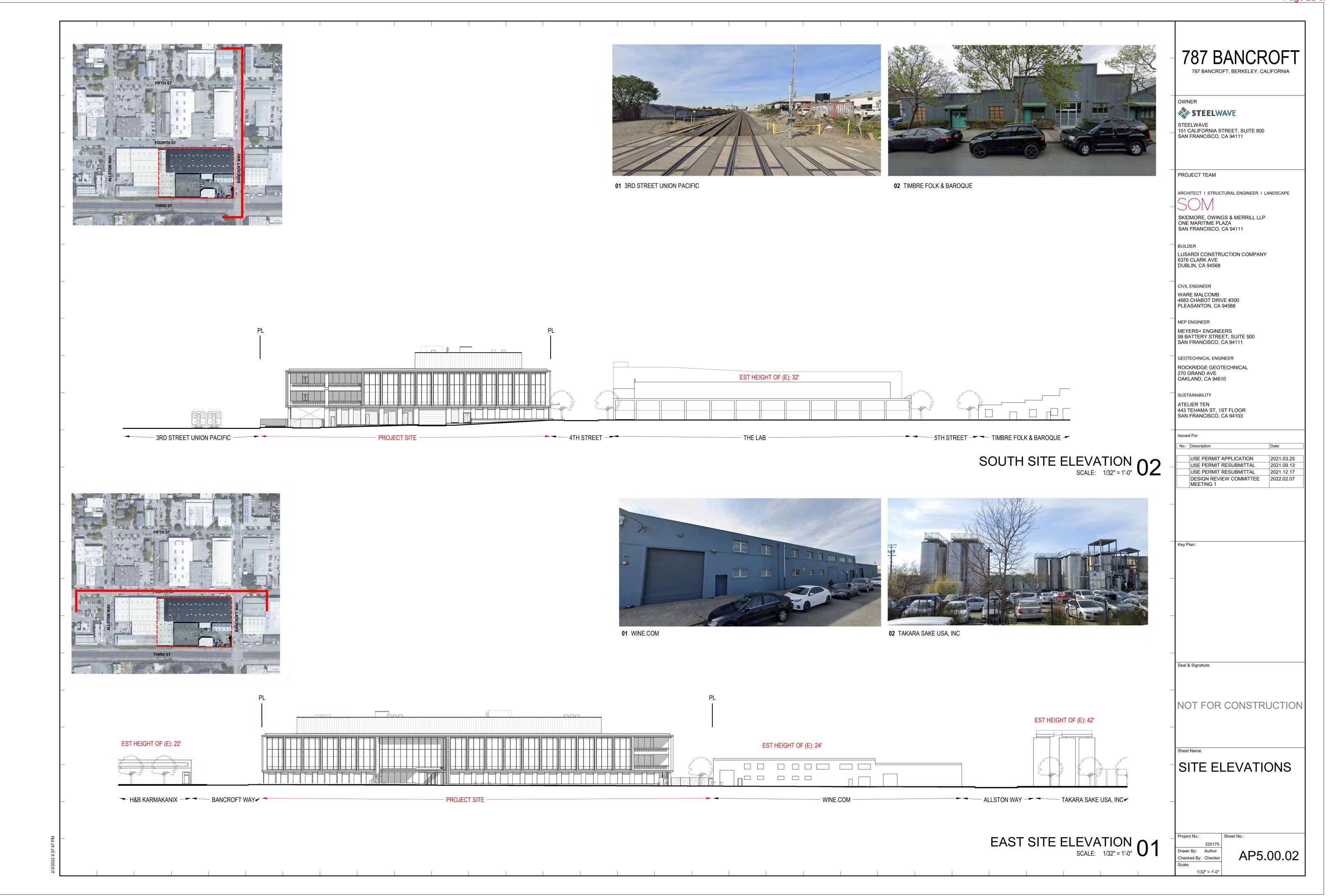




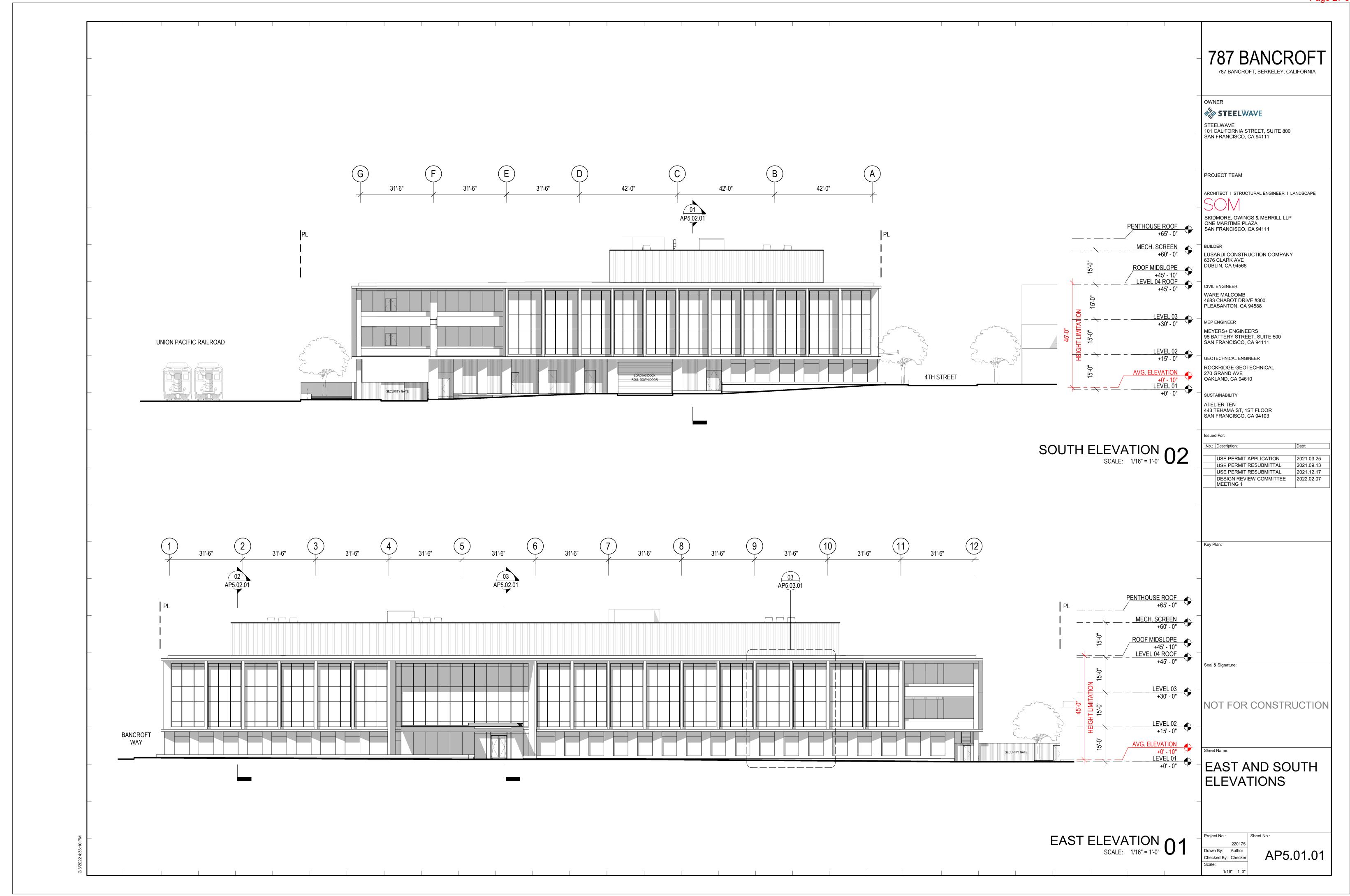


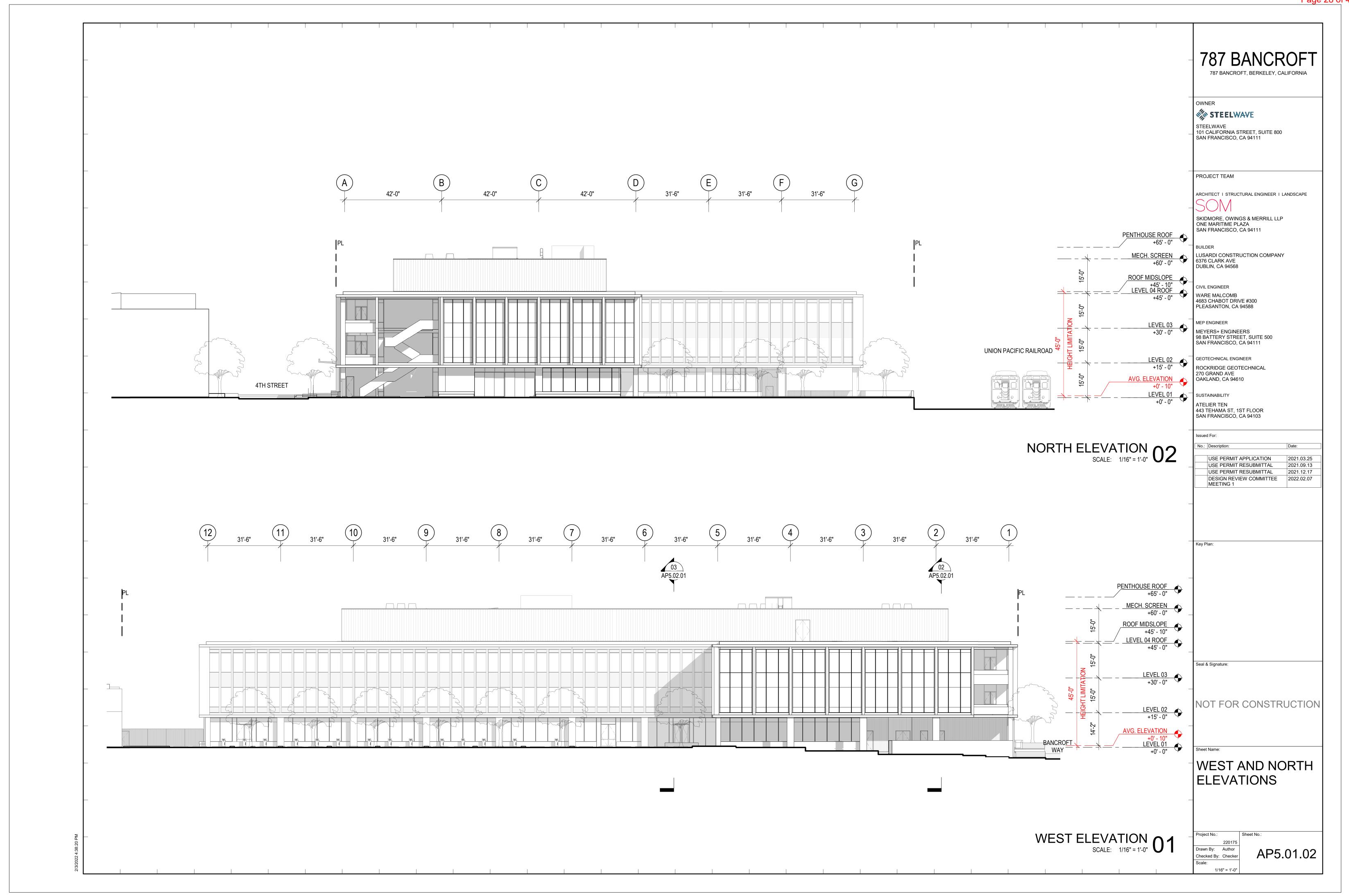


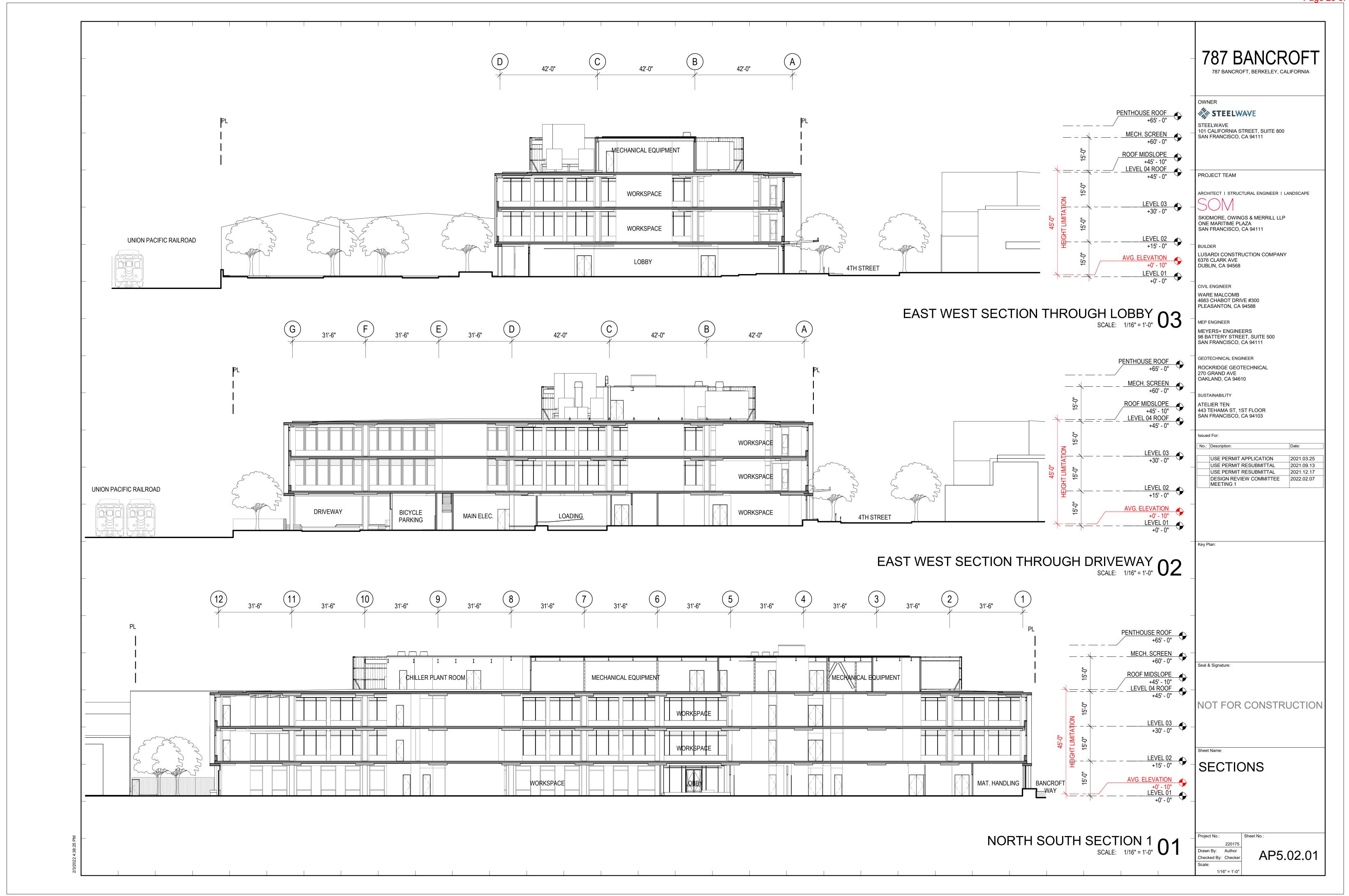














# PLANTING LEGEND TREE LEGEND

PLANTING LEG	END						
SYMBOL	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	WUCOLS	NATIVE	SPACING	NOTES
•	ACER RUBRUM 'OCTOBER GLORY'	RED MAPLE	36" BOX	M	N	AS SHOWN	STREET TREE
	ACER JAPONICUM	JAPANESE MAPLE	36" BOX	M	N	AS SHOWN	PLAZA TREE SPECIMEN TREE
	PLATANUS HYBRIDA	LONDON PLANE TREE	48" BOX	M	N	AS SHOWN	PLAZA TREE
	ULMUS HYBRID "FRONTIER"	FRONTIER ELM	36" BOX	М	N	AS SHOWN	PARKING LOT TREE

# PLANTING LEGEND SHRUB/GROUND COVER LEGEND

SYMBOL	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	WUCOLS	NOTES
	CAREX PANSA	CALIFORNIA BEACH DUNE	FLATS	L	LAWN
\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	ARCTOSTAPHYLOS 'EMERALD CARPET'	CARPET MANZANITA	FLATS	L	GROUNDCOVER
	LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA 'BREEZE'	DWARF MAT RUSH	1 GAL	L	ORNAMENTAL GRASS
	MUHLENBERGIA RIGENS	DEER GRASS	5 GAL	L	ORNAMENTAL GRASS
	PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES	FOUNTAIN GRASS	5 GAL	L	ORNAMENTAL GRASS
	CAREX TUMULICOLA	BERKELEY SEDGE	1 GAL	L	FLOW THROUGH PLANTER
	IRIS PACIVIC COAST HYBRID	PACIFIC COAST HYBRID IRIS	1 GAL	L	FLOW THROUGH PLANTER
	LIGUSTRUM OVALIFOLIUM	CALIFORNIA PRIVET	5 GAL	L	HEDGE - MAINTAIN 3' - 6" OF HEDGE HEIGHT

# SHADED PARKING LEGEND

SHADED PARKING LEGEND					
LEGEND	NAME	NOTES			
	OPEN AIR PARKING PAVED AREA	ONLY OPEN AIR SURACE PARKING HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS TREE CANOPY COVERAGE CALCULATION			
•	TRISTANIA LAURINA 'ELEGANT' SEE PLANTING PLAN	DIAMETER AT FULL MATURITY: 20'			
	PARKING AREA SHADED BY TREE CANOPY	DIAMETER AT FULL MATURITY: 20'			
	PARKING AREA SHADED BY BUILDING/ STRUCTURE	THIS PART IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATION			

# HARDSCAPE LEGEND

HARD	SCAPE LE	EGEND				
LEGE	ND	MATERIALS	MODEL / MENUFACTURER	COLOR / FINISH		COMMENTS
P1		CONCRETE PAVING / INTEGRAL COLOR	-	NATURAL GRAY	MEDIUM / SANDBLAST	SEE DETAILS
P2A		CONCRETE UNIT PAVER A	HANOVER	NATURAL	TUDOR FINISH	SEE DETAILS
P2B		CONCRETE UNIT PAVER B	HANOVER	LIMESTONE GRAY	TUDOR FINISH	SEE DETAILS
P4		CONCRETE CURB	-	-	-	PER CIVIL
P5		SIDEWALK CONCRETE PAVING	-	-	-	PER CIVIL
P6		CRUSHED GRANITE	LYNGSO GARDEN MATERIALS	MIXED COLOR	-	SEE DETAILS
P7		PERMEABLE INTERLOCKING CONCRETE PAVER	HANOVER	LIME STONE GRAY	TUDOR FINISH	SEE DETAILS
P8		ASPHALT	-	-	-	PER CIVIL
PA		PLANTING AREA MULCH	LYNGSO GARDEN MATERIALS	MOCHA CHIP	NATURAL	3" THICK LAYER

WALL LEGEND					
LEGEND	MATERIALS	MODEL / MENUFACTURER	COLOR / FINISH		COMMENTS
W1 []	CUSTOM FLOW THROUGH PLANTER WALL	-	-	-	PER ARCHITECTURE
W2	CAST IN PLACE CUSTOM BENCH WITH STONE TOP	COLDSPRINGUSA	SIERRA WHITE	LIGHT BROOM HONED	-
W3	CAST IN PLACE CUSTOM PLANTER WALL	-	NATURAL GRAY	TOPCAST MICHRO-ETCH	MATCH WITH W1
W3A	CAST IN PLACE CUSTOM BENCH	-	NATURAL GRAY	TOPCAST MICHRO-ETCH	MATCH WITH W1
W4	PERIMETER RETAINING WALL	-	-	-	SEE CIVIL/ ARCHITECTURE DRAWINGS

LEGEND	MATERIALS	MODEL / MENUFACTURER	COLOR / FINISH		COMMENTS
S1	TABLES & CHAIRS	FORMS+SURFACES VISTA CHAIRS		GLOSS POWDERCOAT	-
S2	BIKE RACK	-	STAINLESS #4 BR	USH FINISH	PER CITY STANDARD
S3	TRASH RECEPTACLES	LANDSCAPEFORMS FGP LITTER	WOOD ALUMINUM	POWDERCOAT	
TG1	METAL TREE PIT EDGE	-	STAINLESS STEEL		
G1	- GATE AT NORTH PLAZA	-			SAD FOR DETAILS
G2	- GATE AT BANCROFT WAY	-			SAD FOR DETAILS
F1 ———	- WEST FENCE	-			SAD FOR DETAILS

# IRRIGATION LEGEND

LEGEND	NAME	MODEL / MENUFACTURER	COLOR	COMMENTS
	IRRIGATION POC COMPONENTS	TBD	TBD	-1" WATER METER, B.P.D., MASTER VALVE, FLOW SENSOR
A	ELECTRIC CONTROLLER	-	-	-120 VOLT ELECTRICAL CONNECTION REQUIRED
•	REMOTE CONTROL	TBD	TBD	-PROPOSED LOCATIONS
	IRRIGATION LATERAL LINE			-1120/SCHEDULE 40 PVC PIPE
	IRRIGATION SUPPLYLINE-1 1/2" & SMALLER			-1120/SCHEDULE 40 PVC PIPE
	SLEEVING-SIZE AS INDICATED			-1120/SCHEDULE 40 PVC PIPE
—Е—	L.V. ELECTRICAL CONDUIT-SIZE AS INDICATED			-1120/SCHEDULE 40 PVC PIPE
	PLANTING AREA LOW WATER USE	TBD	TBD	
	PLANTING AREA MEDIUM WATER USE			
	ROW PLANTER LOW WATER USE	TBD	TBD	
	STORMWATER TREATMENT AREA LOW WATER USE			

# 787 BANCROFT

787 BANCROFT, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

OWNER STEELWAVE

STEELWAVE 101 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 800 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

PROJECT TEAM

ARCHITECT | STRUCTURAL ENGINEER | LANDSCAPE

SKIDMORE, OWINGS & MERRILL LLP ONE MARITIME PLAZA SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

BUILDER LUSARDI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY 6376 CLARK AVE DUBLIN, CA 94568

CIVIL ENGINEER

WARE MALCOMB 4683 CHABOT DRIVE #300 PLEASANTON, CA 94588

MEP ENGINEER MEYERS+ ENGINEERS 98 BATTERY STREET, SUITE 500 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEER ROCKRIDGE GEOTECHNICAL 270 GRAND AVE OAKLAND, CA 94610

SUSTAINABILITY ATELIER TEN 443 TEHAMA ST, 1ST FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Issued For:

Date:

USE PERMIT APPLICATION |2021.03.25 USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL 2021.09.13
USE PERMIT RESUBMITTAL 2021.12.17 1ST DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

Key Plan:

Seal & Signature:

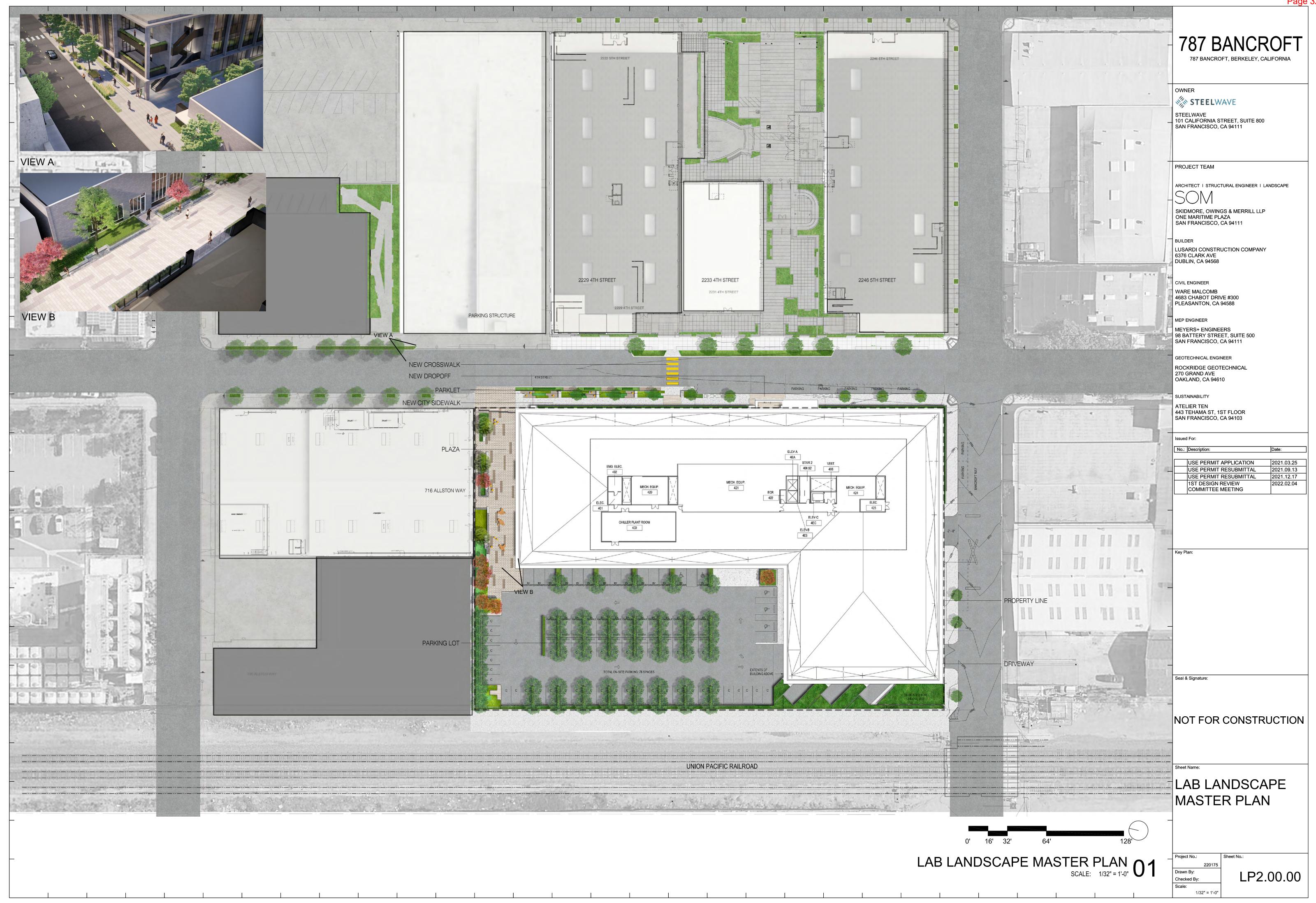
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LEGEND/SCHEDULE

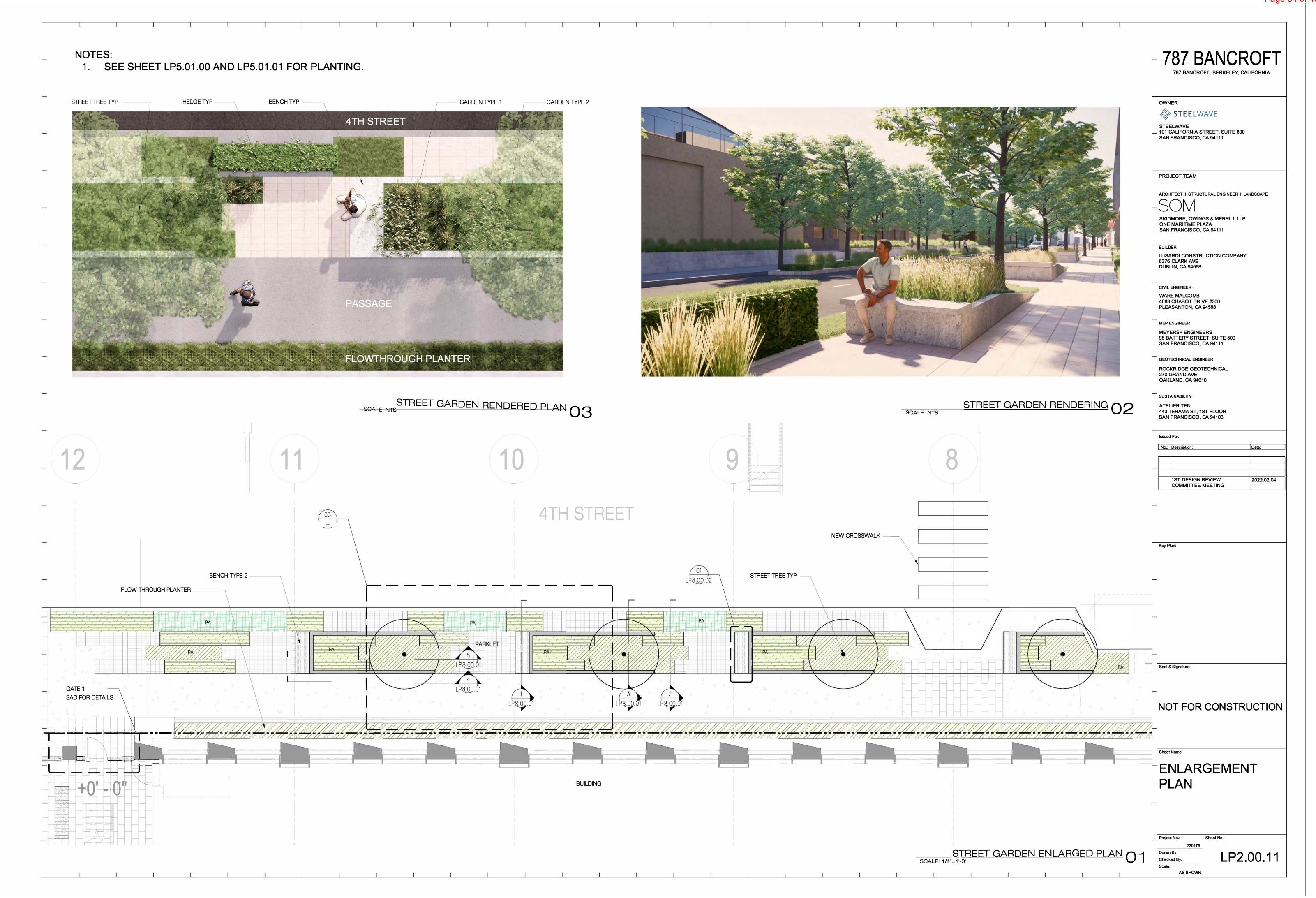
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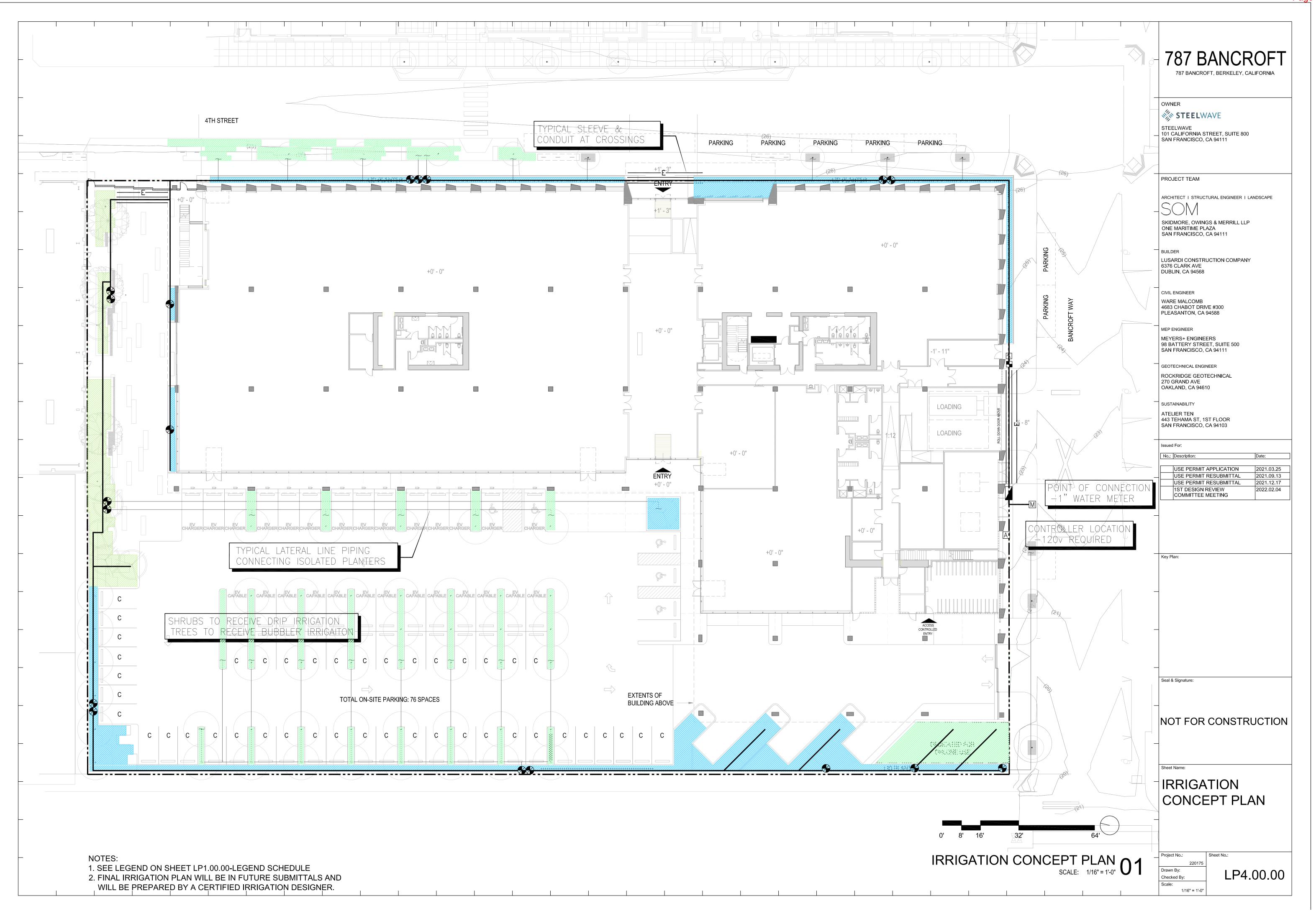
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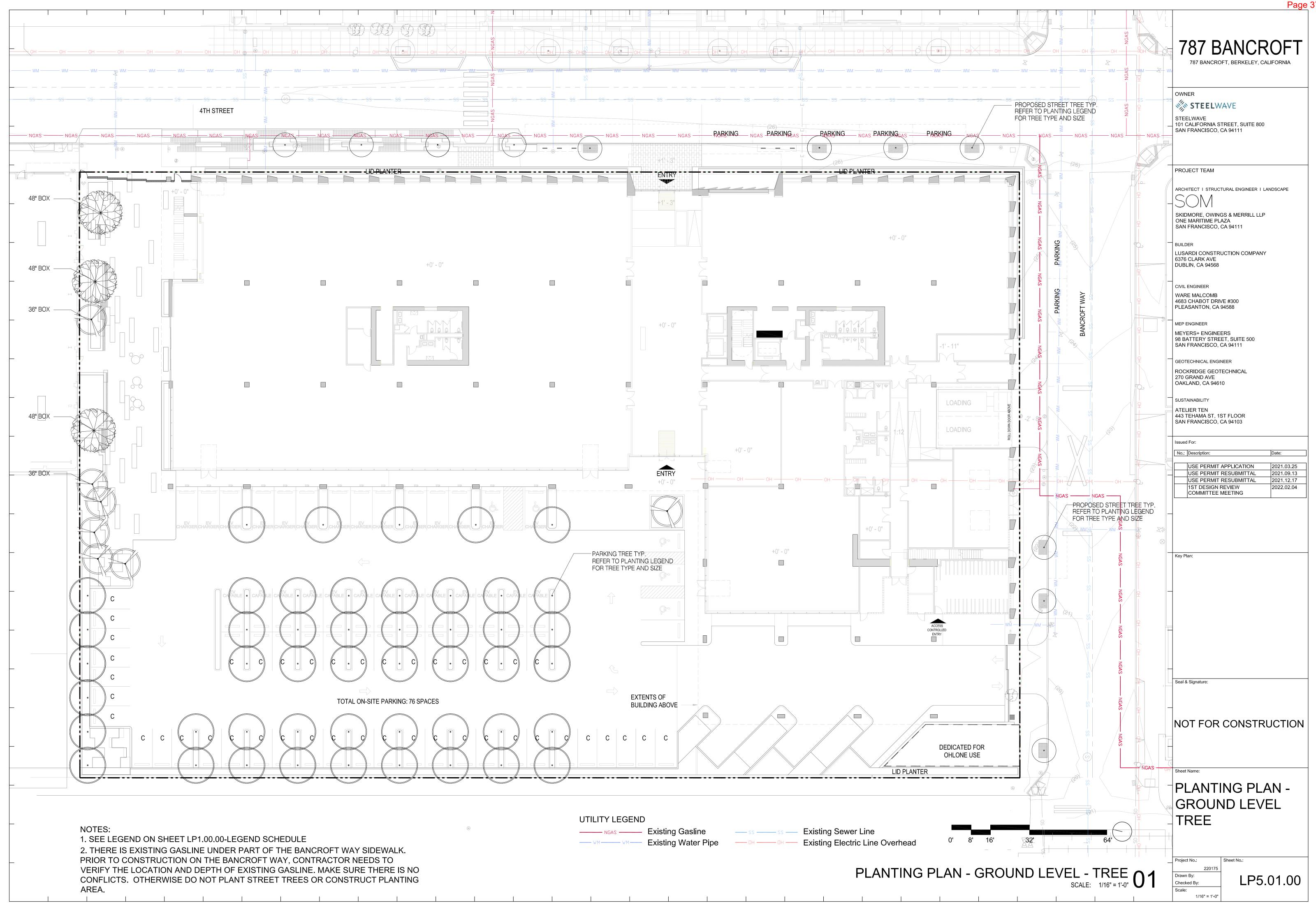


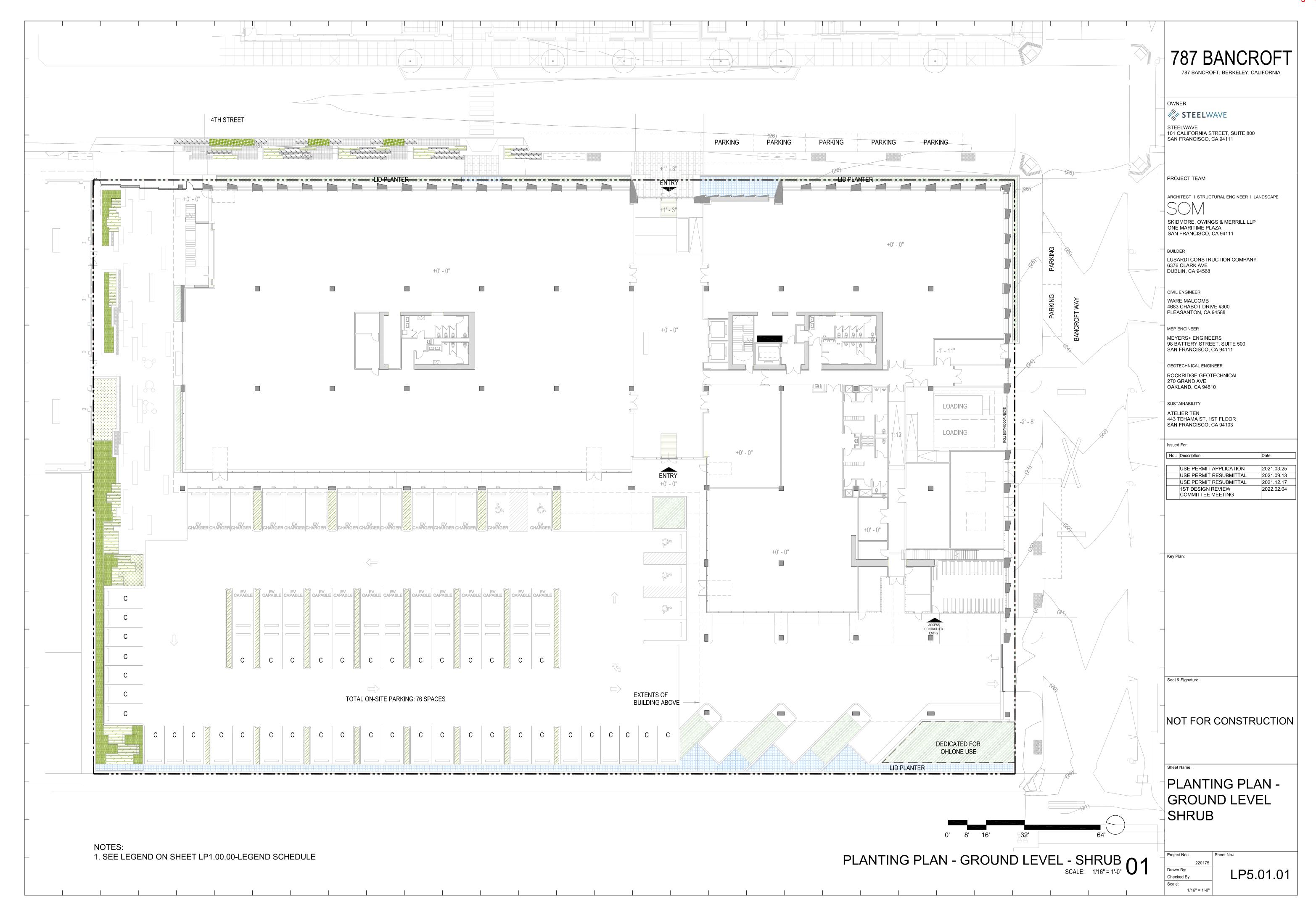


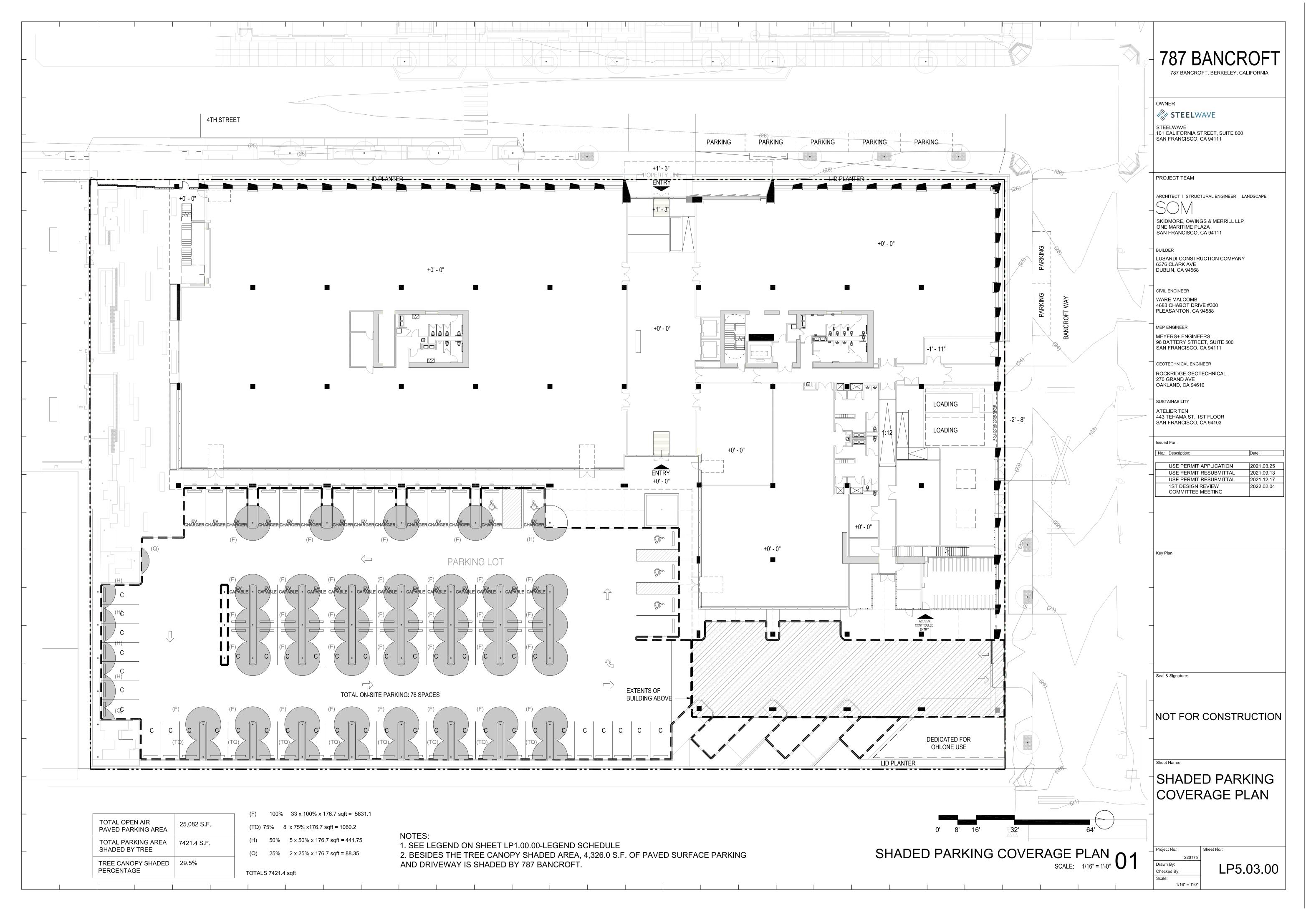


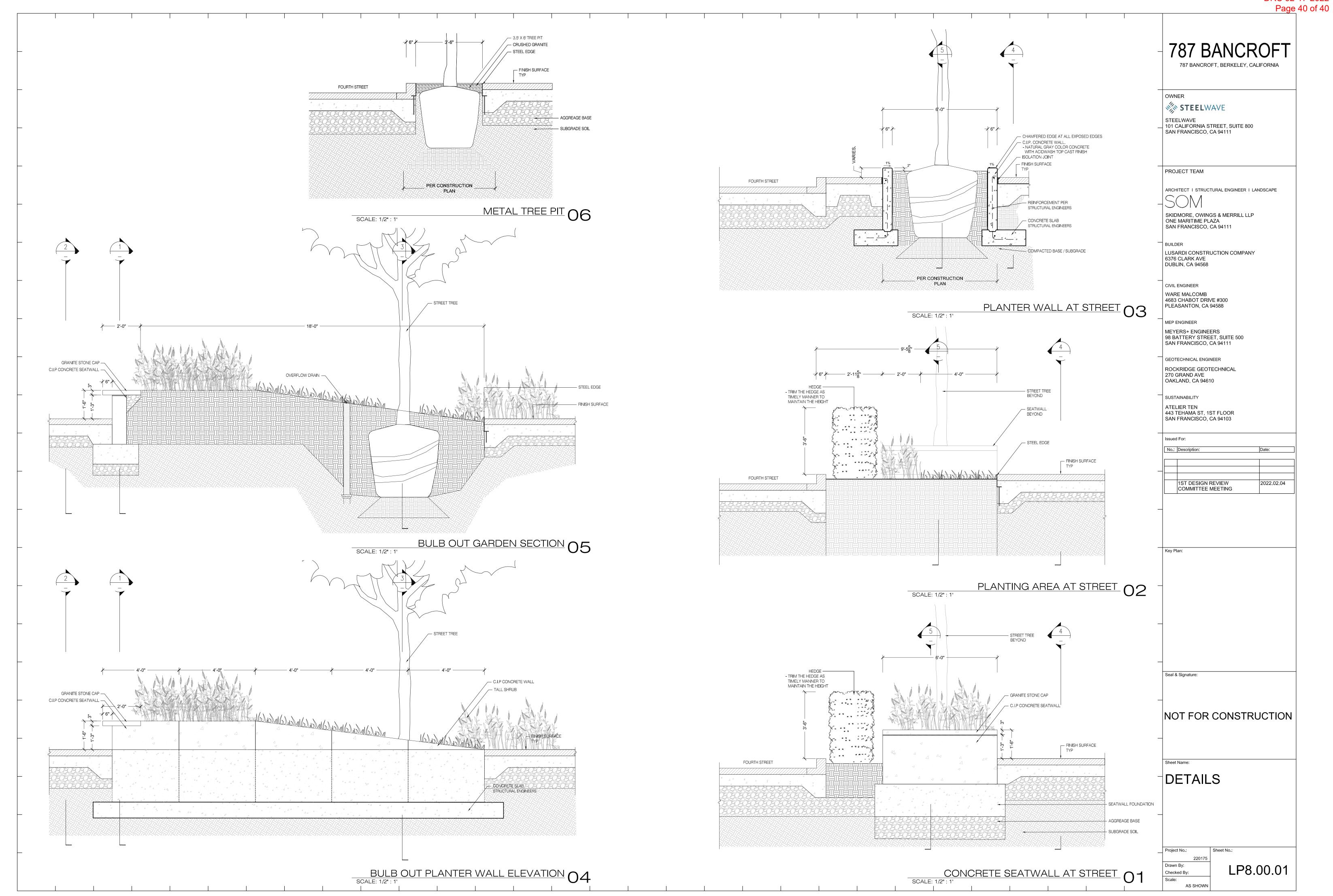












#### theLab

Phase III: West Block Revised Applicant Statement December 21, 2021

#### **OVERVIEW**

This applicant statement supports redevelopment of the west block of "theLab" campus, Phase III of a three-phase redevelopment project in West Berkeley. As the largest building within theLab, 787 Bancroft will contribute to the creation of a new hub of light manufacturing and research and development (R&D) uses in the neighborhood.

This project, and the previously-submitted Phase I and Phase II on the east block, will be tied together through landscaping, open space, and improvements to the public realm to create a new employment center in a campus-like environment along



Fourth Street. A combination of increased open space, new construction, and enhancements to the public realm will improve the environment and support the development of businesses in the surrounding neighborhood.

The three-phase project will redevelop the majority of the two blocks bounded by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) tracks to the west, Allston Way to the north, Fifth Street to the east, and Bancroft Way to the south. Table 1 summarizes the proposals and status of each project phase. Phase III is the subject of this application, Phases I and II are separate applications. These areas are illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 1: Proposed Phases of the Lab

Phase	Proposal	Status
Phase I & II (East Block)	<ul> <li>Tenant improvements (no use permits required)</li> <li>Demolition of 4 Structures in the East Block</li> <li>Construction of 415-stall parking garage</li> </ul>	Permit Under Review  Not further discussed in this application
Phase III (West Block)	<ul> <li>Demolition of six small buildings in the West Block</li> <li>Construction of 787 Bancroft: 3-story/159,143 sq. ft. light manufacturing and R&amp;D space</li> </ul>	Proposed Herein  Subject of this application

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Figure 1: Overview of Campus, by Phase THE LAB PARKING STRUCTURE 2229 4TH STREET 2246 5TH STREET Phase I & II (East Block) 2233 4TH STREET Separate **Application** West Block) Renovation under Separate 000 000 AUP Application WAY (West Block) Phase III Subject of this Application

### **Proposed 787 Bancroft Project**

787 Bancroft would consist of 159,143 sq. ft. of light manufacturing and research & development space. The 3-story building would have frontages along Fourth Street and Bancroft Way. Parking is accommodated on-site in a surface lot and off-site, across the street, in the parking garage proposed as part of Phase II.

The building's L-shaped configuration and long horizontal proportions maintain the form and character of the surrounding blocks. With two major frontages, the building retains the street



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walls on both Fourth Street and Bancroft Way while allowing for a generous public open space to the north of the building and public improvements along Fourth Street.

Under existing conditions there are limited setbacks between buildings, pedestrian movement is constrained, and there is limited pervious area and planting. The form and materiality of the building recall the simplicity and honesty of the industrial buildings in the neighborhood while making the block more welcoming and the pedestrian experience more enjoyable. A combination of concrete panels, wood soffits, glass, and metal trim complement the industrial character of the district, while providing some added warmth to the evolving neighborhood and its more pedestrian and bicycle orientation.

The ground floor is slightly recessed to increase the sidewalk width for pedestrian movement and additional planting and seating. The recessed ground level gives the building the same strong horizontal proportions as the previous building, despite being one story taller. The entry and address sign are near the midpoint of the Fourth Street façade, breaking up the long mass on the ground floor. The entry is aligned with a new open space across the street that ties all of the buildings of theLab into a singular campus-like work environment.

The project is pursuing an all-electric design, consistent with the City's requirements, and per allowances in CEnC section 110.10(b)1B ("the solar zone shall be located on the roof or overhang of the building...located within 250 feet of the budling or on covered parking installed with the building project and have a total area no less that 15 percent of the total roof area of the building excluding and skylight area.") the project will meet the photovoltaic requirement by installing solar panels on the top level of the parking garage, located at 2213 Fourth Street which is within 250 feet of the 787 Bancroft Way building. The proposed project will not include any natural gas infrastructure in compliance with BMC Chapter 12.80. The proposed project is designed to comply withthe Berkeley Energy Code (BMC Chapter 19.36) and the Berkeley Green Code (BMC Chapter 19.37), including solar PV, electric vehicle charging, and low-carbon concrete requirements.

#### Proposed Removal of 703 Bancroft Way

• The original proposal for the 703 Bancroft structure, as described in the previous Applicant Statement, was to attempt to maintain the structure on the site and use it as a canopy over surface parking. After extensive study and comments received from the City's Building & Safety Division as well as the Berkeley Fire Department, it is no longer feasible to keep the 703 Bancroft Structure on site. Comments received at the staff interdepartmental roundtable meeting, after the submittal of the Use Permit application, as well as at a subsequent meeting with staff from both Building and Safety and the

Berkeley Fire Department, resulted in the following issues that impacted the feasibility of maintaining the building on site: Adjacency of 703 Bancroft to the internal North and West property lines would require fire rated walls at the building openings. This would negatively impact maintaining the historic character of the building by blocking views into the structure.



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- The placement of the 703 Bancroft building and its proximity to the proposed 787 Bancroft building would create challenging conditions for fire truck access & would mandate fire rated walls on levels 1-3 of the West façade of the 787 Bancroft building, minimalizing glazing and the architectural character of the new building.
- The 703 Bancroft building would not be counted towards shade canopy in the surface parking lot.
   Removal would allow for the addition of 20+ trees to the surface parking lot, reducing the heat island effect and furthering the City's Climate Action Plan goals.

### **Site Access and Parking**

The pedestrian entrances to the site are located off Fourth Street. Vehicular access to the site is provided on Bancroft Way. This entry location reduces the curb cuts along Fourth Street to enhance the pedestrian experience and connectivity between buildings on either side of the street. A surface parking lot, with 75 spaces, is located on the interior of the parcel with access off of Bancroft Way.

Parking spaces to meet demand from the floor area proposed under this application will be provided in two locations: the 75-space surface lot described in the preceding paragraph and in a 415-space parking garage across Fourth Street (east block, under previous Phase II application) that serves the entire development.<sup>1</sup> This adjacent parcel is under the same ownership as the subject parcel and within 300 feet of the project site; as such, this off-site parking is permitted by right under BMC 23E.28.030.A. The MU-LI parking requirements per BMC Section 23E.80.080 will be met for each project phase, as summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Proposed Parking, by Phase

	Floor		Parking,	by Use
Phase	Area³	Parking Ratios (BMC 23E.80.080)	Required	Provided
I & II (East Block) <sup>1</sup>	74,812	Manufacturing: 1 sp./1,000 sf (<10,000	63	147
III (West Block) 3		sf); 1 space/1,500 sq. ft. (10,000+ sf)	274	294
	159,143	R&D: 2 sp./1,000 sf		
Total	233,955		337	441

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For informational purposes; not part of this application.

### **Project Benefits**

The project includes the following benefits to the West Berkeley community and the City of Berkeley:

Public Improvements: A mid-block crosswalk improves walkability close to the Fourth Street retail corridor. A new public parklet and street trees provide opportunities for shade and public open space along Fourth Street. Extensive and coordinated streetscape improvements along both sides of Fourth Street, and on Bancroft Way. This will extend pedestrian improvements to the UPRR tracks which will connect with new pedestrian sidewalk access being built by the Berkeley Commons/600 Addison Street project. This will enable pedestrians to walk on the north side of Bancroft Way all the way to the Aquatic Park, which is not currently possible.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes gross floor area for R&D and Light Manufacturing uses.

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- <u>Public Art</u>: The project proposes to pay a fee in-lieu of \$164,905 to meet the Public Art Program requirement. The project sponsor typically locates additional public art on its project sites.
- Green Building: Photovoltaic solar panels on the top level of the parking garage located at 2213 Fourth Street, meeting the Berkeley REACH Code requirement for PV on 15% of the equivalent rooftop area of the new 787 Bancroft building, secure bike parking room (and showers) located on the ground floor of 787 Bancroft, and minimum of LEED Silver or equivalent.
- Water Quality and Stormwater: Bioretention systems will slow and clean stormwater replacing
  the existing impervious lot which does not manage or clean stormwater before it enters the
  Aquatic Park lagoon and San Francisco Bay. Drought-tolerant landscape plantings reduce water
  use and helps to sequester carbon.
- <u>Job Opportunities</u>: Job opportunities at a range of qualification levels as part of the light manufacturing and research & development campus, and short-term jobs during construction.
- Affordable Housing, Childcare, and City Revenues: The project would contribute over \$1.2 million to the Berkeley Unified School District and the City of Berkeley in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Child Care Mitigation Fees.

#### SITE CONTEXT AND ZONING CONFORMANCE

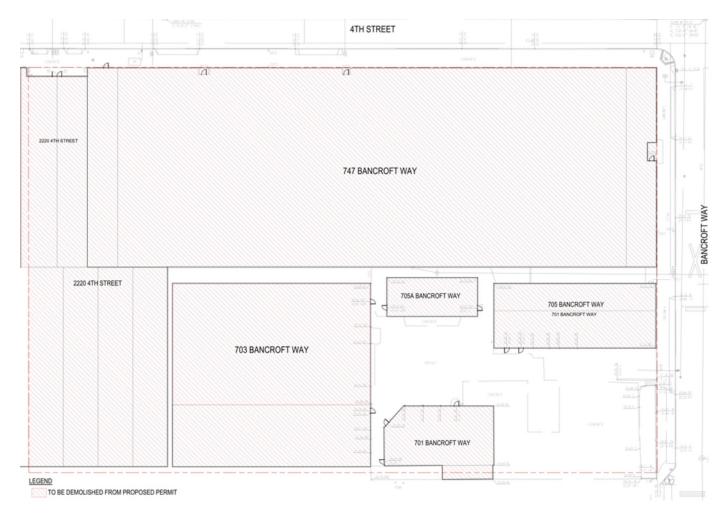
The project site is located in West Berkeley and is surrounded by the UPRR tracks to the west, Fourth Street to the east, and Bancroft Way to the south. The 96,966-sq. ft. parcel is designated as Manufacturing (M) in the General Plan and Mixed Use Light Industrial (MU-LI) in the Zoning Ordinance and the West Berkeley Area Plan. The site is surrounded by manufacturing and warehouse uses.

The project site is composed of three separate parcels which will be realigned to create two parcels through a lot line adjustment. The parcel is currently occupied by surface parking and six buildings, six of which are proposed to be demolished as part of this application, as shown in Table 3 and Figure 2.

Table 3: Proposal for Existing Buildings on Subject Property

Building Address	Status
747 Bancroft Way	Demolish
2220 4th Street	Demolish
701 Bancroft Way	Demolish
705 Bancroft Way	Demolish
705A Bancroft Way	Demolish
703 Bancroft Way	Demolish

Figure 2: Demolition Plan



#### **Buildings Proposed for Demolition**

The buildings proposed for demolition have come to the end of their useful life and cannot be repurposed for the type of R&D and light manufacturing expected at the project site. The demolition of buildings at 2220 4<sup>th</sup> Street, 747, 701, 703, 705 and 705 A Bancroft Way will allow for construction of the proposed new 787 Bancroft building and its related improvements and surface parking lot.

### **Protected Uses**

Both the project site and the full extent of the three-phase project, include uses that are classified as "protected" under BMC Section 23E.80. This includes existing uses devoted to warehouse, light manufacturing, warehouse-based retail, which are required to be replaced on a 1:1 or lower basis depending on the proposed new use.

The project team has worked with City staff to determine the requirements for protected uses across the entire three-phase project. Upon completion of both phases, the project will replace all required protected uses on-site. As shown, this includes a total of 112,274. ft. of proposed protected uses across both phases. This includes protected use area proposed as part of this Phase III application: 33,347 sq. ft. devoted to light manufacturing uses in 787 Bancroft. In order to meet the letter of the City's zoning regulations, which require replacement at the time of demolition, the project is requesting a temporary variance from the protected use requirement during the course of construction to allow the new protected floor area to be built and immediately replaced upon occupancy.

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The plan set includes floor plans that indicate where this light manufacturing space will be located at time of initial lease up. Our team is requesting flexibility in where in the building the protected light manufacturing space is located at the initial lease up of the new building. As tenant demands change over time, more flexibility may be needed, but the project team understands that any such changes after initial lease up and occupancy may require additional or modified discretionary application per BMC Section 23E.80.045.B and C.

### **Mobility and Alternative Transportation**

The project site is a multimodal hub and enjoys close access to waterfront recreation at Aquatic Park and shopping and dining on Fourth Street. The Berkeley Amtrak station is located two blocks to the north. The AC Transit 51 bus line stops two blocks away, with service to Downtown Berkeley, and the 80 line and West Berkeley Shuttle stop two blocks away, with service to the Ashby and El Cerrito Plaza BART stations. Additionally, the Transbay Z line provides critical service from San Francisco to Sixth Street during morning commute hours and back to San Francisco during afternoon commute hours.

The project proposes a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program to encourage alternative modes of transportation:

- A. Provide shuttle service between the project and a BART Station during weekday peak commute periods (6:00 AM to 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM). The project would also explore the feasibility, and if feasible, will coordinate the shuttle service with existing shuttle services, and/or other employers in West Berkeley. Shuttle service would be adjusted based on ridership.
- B. Provide bike lockers, showers, personal lockers, and a repair station on-site to encourage bicycling to the site.
- C. Coordinate with City of Berkeley, and/or other regional agencies to facilitate the potential installation of a BayWheels bikeshare station along the project frontage.
- D. Offer carpool/ride-matching services, such as ZimRide, ComoVee, or 511.org RideShare, to pair employees interested in forming commute carpools.
- E. Provide at least 10 spaces of preferential carpool parking, including free parking for carpoolers if employees are charged for on-site parking. Carpool parking spaces not occupied by 10:00 AM would be available to other vehicles.
- F. Require tenants to provide full or partial transit subsidy to project employees. Tenants mayoffer one ofthe following to employees that request it:<sup>5</sup>
  - A monthly commuter check (or alternatively Clipper Card, which is accepted byBART, ACTransit, and other major transit providers in the Bay Area)
  - Subsidized AC Transit bus pass
  - Subsidized Capital Corridor monthly ticket
- G. Require tenants to provide pre-tax commuter benefits for project employees.
- H. Regularly provide project tenants and employees information about various transportation options in the area and the TDM strategies provided by the project. The main lobby of each major project building shall also provide all the information on transportation options, such as a Transit Screen.
- Provide information on the Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program to all building tenants. As
  of September 30, 2014, Bay Area employers with 50 or more full-time employees within the
  Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) geographic boundaries are required to
  register and offer commuter benefits to their employees in order to comply with Air District

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Regulation 14, Rule 1, also known as the Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program. Employers must select one of four Commuter Benefit options to offer their employees: a pre-tax benefit, an employer-provided subsidy, employer- provided transit, oran alternative commute benefit. (Information about Commute Benefits Program is at 511.org/employers/commuter/overview.)

### **Permits Requested**

The application includes the following permits, including a request for approximately 133,028 sq. ft. for Research & Development use and approximately 29,347 sq. ft. sq. ft. for Light Manufacturing use:

- BMC 23C.08.050: Use Permit to demolish six existing non-residential buildings (747 Bancroft Way, 2220 4th Street, 701 Bancroft Way, 703 Bancroft Way, 705 Bancroft Way, 705A Bancroft Way)
- 2. **BMC 23E.04.020:** Administrative Use Permit to allow rooftop equipment projections to exceed the height limit in a non-residential district;
- 3. BMC 23E.80.030: Administrative Use Permit to establish more than 30,000 SF R&D use;
- 4. **BMC 23E.80.045.B:** Use permit to change more than 25% of manufacturing and warehouse uses to R&D uses.
- 5. BMC 23E.80.050.C: Use Permit to construct between 20,000 and 30,000 square feet of new floor area as Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade, as per BMC Table 23E.80.030;
- 6. **BMC 23B.44.010:** Variance from BMC 23E.80.090.D.1., the protected use requirement, to allow replacement of protected floor area to be made available after the demolition or change of use of the space.

### **FINDINGS**

### 23B.32.040 Findings for Issuance and Denial and Conditions

- A. The Board may approve an application for a Use Permit, either as submitted or as modified, only upon finding that the establishment, maintenance or operation of the use, or the construction of a building, structure or addition thereto, under the circumstances of the particular case existing at the time at which theapplication is granted, will not be detrimental to the health, safety, peace, morals, comfort or general welfare of persons residing or working in the area or neighborhood of such proposed use or be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements of the adjacent properties, the surrounding area or neighborhoodor to the general welfare of the City.
- B. Prior to approving any Use Permit the Board must also make any other findings required by either the general or District regulations applicable to that particular Use Permit.
- C. The Board shall deny an application for a Use Permit if it determines that it is unable to make any of the required findings, in which case it shall state the reasons for that determination.
- D. The Board may attach such conditions to any Use Permit as it deems reasonable or necessary to achieve the purposes of this Ordinance, and which otherwise promote the municipal health, safety and welfare.

**Response:** The proposed project will neither be a detriment to the neighborhood nor to the City of Berkeley in general. The proposed project represents an improvement on an underutilized lot, which includes dated buildings and infrastructure. The project will provide top-of-the-line employment space, in a building with sustainability features that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, noise, traffic, and air quality impacts for both its neighbors and for the region. The new uses will generate job opportunities

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at a range of qualification levels.

The project will also rebuild the curb, sidewalk, and gutter along Fourth Street and add bioretention systems to slow and clean stormwater, improving water quality in the Aquatic Park lagoon and San Francisco Bay, compared to existing conditions at the site. It will plant new trees and landscaping to reduce the heat island effect and create a more inviting streetscape on Fourth Street and Bancroft Way.

The project, therefore, aligns with Berkeley's General Plan, West Berkeley Plan, and Climate Action Plan goals which seek to increase employment opportunities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

# 23C.08.050 Demolitions of Buildings Used for Commercial, Manufacturing or Community, Institutional or Other Non-residential Uses

- D. A Use Permit or an AUP for demolition of a non-residential building or structure may be approved only if the Board or Zoning Officer finds that the demolition will not be materially detrimental to the commercial needs and public interest of any affected neighborhood or the City, and one of the following findings that the demolition:
  - 1. Is required to allow a proposed new building or other proposed new Use;
  - 2. Will remove a building which is unusable for activities which are compatible with the purposes of the District in which it is located or which is infeasible to modify for such uses;
  - 3. Will remove a structure which represents an unabatable attractive nuisance to the public; or
  - 4. Is required for the furtherance of specific plans or projects sponsored by the City or other local district or authority. In such cases, it shall be demonstrated that it is infeasible to obtain prior or concurrent approval for the new construction or new use which is contemplated by such specific plans or projects andthat adhering to such a requirement would threaten the viability of the plan or project.

Response: In response to finding 23C.08.050.D and 23C.08.050.D.1, the proposed project will not be materially detrimental to the commercial needs and public interest of the West Berkeley neighborhood. The demolition of 747 Bancroft Way, 2220 4th Street, 701 Bancroft Way, 703 Bancroft Way, 705 Bancroft Way, and 705A Bancroft Way is required for construction of a new building and related circulation and site improvements which will revitalize the neighborhood, expand the floor area dedicated to light manufacturing uses, and facilitate the growth of floor area dedicated to R&D uses.

The demolition will not remove buildings of architectural significance. The demolition will remove six underutilized buildings that do not meet industry standards for productive research and development uses, which have evolved in recent years. Several of these buildings have been vacant for asubstantial amount of time, do not provide any substantial benefits to the neighborhood or the City thatare not outweighed by the benefits of the proposed project as a whole.

The proposed project will expand the light manufacturing floor area in the MU-LI and MU-R Districts, and the construction of 787 Bancroft Way will revitalize and rehabilitate this portion of West Berkeley. It will provide infill development in a manner that is compatible with the existing City character, nearby land uses and architectural scale and design. The removal of existing structures will facilitate the removal of any necessary contaminated soil and groundwater at the site and the ultimate reuse of the site in a manner that will allow the site to be economically productive for the City of Berkeley in the future.

### 23E.80.090.A&B Findings for MU-LI District (New Uses/Structures)

A. In order to approve any Use Permit under this chapter the Zoning Officer or Board must make the finding required by Section **23B.32.040**. The Zoning Officer or Board must also make the

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findings required by the following paragraphs of this section to the extent applicable:

- B. A proposed use or structure must:
  - 1. Be consistent with the purposes of the District;
  - 2. Be compatible with the surrounding uses and buildings;
  - 3. Be consistent with the adopted West Berkeley Plan;
  - 4. Be unlikely, under reasonably foreseeable circumstances, to either induce a substantial change of use in buildings in the District from manufacturing, wholesale trade or warehousing uses;
  - 5. Be designed in such a manner to be supportive of the light industrial character of the district. Such physical compatibility shall include materials used; facade treatments; landscaping; lighting; type, size and placement of awnings, windows and signs; and all other externally visible aspects of the design of the building and site. If the building and/or site is split between the MU-LI District and the West Berkeley Commercial District that there are clear and appropriate distinctions in all design aspects between the portions of the building and site within the MU-LI District and the portions within the West Berkeley Commercial District
  - 6. Be able to meet any applicable performance standards as described in Section 23E.80.070.D.

Response: The proposed uses and buildings are compatible with the purposes of the district in that the project will: develop R&D and light manufacturing uses that meet the West Berkeley Plan's designation of a Light Manufacturing District; create compatible uses within the MU-LI district; provide a range of job opportunities, including those that do not require advanced degrees; provide large floor plates and tall ceiling heights that would allow for medium- and large-sized companies and needs; provide opportunity for R&D space in an appropriate location and structure; and maintain and improve the quality of the West Berkeley environment through improvements to the quality of building materials, bioretention systems to improve stormwater quality, new site landscaping and infrastructure, and improvements to the public realm, including new sidewalks, a mid-block crosswalk, public parklet and landscaping. The replacement of underutilized structures with a new building dedicated to R&D and light manufacturing uses serves the purpose of fostering growth of advanced technology services, while encouraging the availability of buildings for manufacturing uses and jobs.

The proposed uses are compatible with the surrounding uses, which include warehousing, manufacturing, office, R&D, and laboratories. Additionally, the combination of light manufacturing and R&D uses within the subject site are inherently consistent with the district purpose to provide opportunities for office that will not interfere with light manufacturing uses or building stock. The project would further contribute to the economic and land use diversity described in the district purposes.

The proposed use is consistent with the West Berkeley Plan because it is a development that accommodates R&D and light manufacturing uses that maintain the mix of uses and economic diversity which gives West Berkeley its unique character. The West Berkeley Plan supports the start-up of new types of economic activity which creates opportunities for land and business development. Additionally, the proposed project would increase the number of employees on-site, expanding job opportunities, in line with the plan goals. Use of glass, concrete, and metal trim express the industrial nature of the building. With the addition of wood soffits, these materials are used in a more contemporary way than surrounding industrial structures, which are generally older and lack fenestration. Still, they complement the metal, steel, and concrete found on neighboring industrial buildings.

The proposed use will not create substantial dust, glare, noise, odor, vibration, hazardous materials, or any other potential off-site environmental impacts because it will be required to comply with performance standards applicable in West Berkeley. Deep overhangs and awnings reduce the possibility for glare. During operation of the project, mechanical systems propose to reduce dust, noise, odors, and

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hazardous materials compared to existing conditions.

### **Policy Consistency**

The proposed project fulfills key land use goals and policies of the West Berkeley Plan:

- Provides for continued economic use of manufacturing and R&D uses that will benefit
  potential workers who reside in the City of Berkeley, existing retail and restaurant
  businesses in West
- Berkeley through incidental shopping, and the industrial character of the area with a new state- of-the-art building. (Goal 1, Policy D)
- Expands employment opportunities at a range of education and qualification levels. (Goal 1, Policy A)
- Develops a sustainable building, site, and landscape plan with low-impact air quality, GHG, and noise impacts that is appropriate for the interface between the MU-LI and the nearby C-W district to the north (Goal 3)
- Expands the overall amount of light manufacturing space and potential life sciences industries in the MU-LI district by redeveloping an underutilized site, increasing the amount of floor area. (Goal 2, Policy B)
- Allows a wide range of light manufacturers to continue to operate and expand and limits loss of their spaces to other uses, while providing an opportunity for office development where it will not unduly interfere with light manufacturing uses, and for laboratory development in appropriate locations. (Goal 2, Policy C)
- Allows development that is consistent with all development standards requirements and
  therefore of a scale that is appropriate for the MU-LI district and its surroundings, which include
  1 and 2-story buildings to the north, east, and south, and a pending 3-story buildings to the
  west. (Goal 4)
- Fosters the growth of advanced technology manufacturing and advanced technology services (such as research laboratories) by providing space for such enterprises. (Economic Development, Goal 4)
- Provides parking both to support the expansion of floor are dedicated to light industrial uses and creates a consolidated parking lot that would allow different uses to share parking in a consolidated location, while integrating the structure and lot with the surrounding areas. (Physical Form Goal 2, Policies 2.3 and 2.5)
- Creates and maintains adequate parking to support West Berkeley land use without creating increased incentives for single occupant automobile use. (Transportation Goal 4)

The project also supports the following goals of the Berkeley General Plan:

- Policy LU-3 –Infill Development: The project is an infill development that is architecturally and environmentally sensitive and is compatible with neighboring land uses and architectural design and scale.
- Policy LU-34 –Industrial Protection—The project protects industrial uses by expanding the existing space dedicated to industrial and manufacturing uses.
- Policy T-32 –Shared Parking-The parking component of the site-wide project makes the most
  efficient use of existing and new parking areas and provides parking that can be shared with
  locations throughout the site.

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### 23E.80.090.D Findings for MU-LI District (Protected Uses)

- D. Except as permitted under 23E.80.045, subdivisions A.1 or A.2, in order to approve a Use Permit underSection 23E.80.045 to change the use of or remove more than 25% of the floor area of a building currently or most recently used for manufacturing, wholesale trade or warehousing, the Zoning Officeror Board must find:
  - Any necessary Use Permits that have been approved to provide comparable quality replacement manufacturing, wholesale trade and/or warehousing space in Berkeley at a comparable rent and that such replacement space will be available before the demolition or change of use of the space;or
  - 2. As a result of lawful business and building activities, there are exceptional physical circumstances (exclusive of the presence of hazardous materials in the building(s), soil or groundwater) found at the building not generally found in industrial buildings in the District which make it financially infeasible to reuse the building for any of the range of manufacturing, wholesale trade or warehouse uses permitted in the District. The analysis of the financial feasibility effects (which shallbe verified by the City) of these physical circumstances shall consider those costs necessary to makethe building meet current minimum standards for manufacturing, wholesale trade or warehouse buildings; and
  - 3. Appropriate mitigation has been made for loss of the manufacturing, warehousing or wholesaletrade space in excess of 25% of that space through providing such space elsewhere in the City, payment into the West Berkeley Building Acquisition Fund, or by other appropriate means.

### Request:

The project is requesting a variance from the protected use requirement per BMC Section BMC 23E.80.090.D.1 for Phase III of the project. The project sponsor is committed to providing light manufacturing space to meet the use permit requirements for protected uses on-site at full completion of the project. However, the project sponsor cannot physically replace the protected floor area such that "replacement space will be available before the demolition". This is an impossible threshold. As a result, the project sponsor is requesting a variance under subsection D.1. Subsection D.2 and D.3 are not applicable to the project since the existing warehouse and light manufacturing buildings are currently utilized. This variance is only necessary for a temporary period of approximately two years during the Phase III project's construction phase. Once Phase III is complete (i.e., at the time of certificate of occupancy), the project will include the protected floor area within the project. Notably, the program proposed under Phase I results in a surplus of protected floor area and therefore does not require a variance.

#### Findings for a Variance from BMC Section 23E.80.090.D.1., Protected Uses, During Construction

1. There are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applying to the land, building or use referred to in the application, which circumstances or conditions do not apply generally to land, buildings and/or uses in the same District;

**Response:** Requiring the retention of protected uses on-site during the course of construction makes the project infeasible. There are multiple issues associated with the project site which in combination make it infeasible to phase grading and site preparation which could otherwise possibly allow for

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retention of protected area during construction.

The project sponsor has designed Phase I to include change of use requests and the addition of mezzanines in buildings that increase the amount of manufacturing (i.e., protected floor area) during the first phase. However, in order to build the 787 Bancroft Way project in Phase III, the project needs to demolish the buildings within and immediately outside the new building footprint and build the parking that is required for the additional floor area. This results in the demolition of the protected floor area prior to replacement on-site which necessitate the variance request.

<u>Large Multi-Use Site</u> - The project site is one of the largest development sites in West Berkeley at 5.5 acres (east and west block combined). Across both phases, there are 13 existing buildings containing protected uses. Within these buildings, the City has identified a replacement requirement of 138,382 sq. ft. of protected floor area. There will be 7 structures across the two blocks at project completion. This lends a complexity to the site atypical in other West Berkeley locations. Because of the expansion of floor area (still below the City's 2.0 FAR limit) and related required parking spaces, the project needs to stagger the development of buildings and parking areas to serve those buildings.

<u>Grading Program</u> - Grading the entire west block at one time is the only feasible option for site preparation activities. If the site were phased for the purposes of retaining the existing buildings protected uses during construction, the project team would need to both off-haul and import dirt at different points in time. Phased grading would contribute additional unnecessary truck trips and associated air quality, noise, and traffic impacts to the neighborhood.

2. The granting of the application is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of substantial property rights of the subject property's owner;

<u>Property Right Impacts due to Protected Use Requirements</u> - The Zoning Ordinance creates an impossible threshold for replacement of protected uses by requiring replacement at time of demolition as opposed to at the time of occupancy. In order to develop this site, the entire property must be cleared at one time – temporarily eliminating the protected use floor areas. The project and associated public improvements to Fourth Street and Bancroft Way are otherwise infeasible.

The required protected use area will be replaced in the new project for the life of the project and subject to the MU-LI protected use requirements. Specifically, the project permanently retains at least 29,347 square feet of protected manufacturing use space as well as protected warehouse space (converted to Research and Development use as allowed by the Zoning Ordinance) in the new building during operation of the project.

Retention of Protected Area During Construction Not Feasible - One option analyzed by the project team is the retention of the protected use space during construction by phasing the project. This option would add significant project costs due to construction inefficiencies, anticipated cost escalation, and lost revenue due to timing of marketing and generating leasing revenues. Phased grading and utility connections is inefficient and infeasible. The team explored locating a temporary building on the site during construction, but this would entail hooking up utilities, working around the building for site work, at substantial cost.

The requirement to find replacement space prior to demolition of the projected use will render the project infeasible, thereby, negating the owners' preservation and enjoyment of substantial property rights.

3. The establishment, maintenance or operation of the use or the construction of a building, structure or addition thereof, to be approved will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, materially affect adversely the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the property of the applicant and will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in said neighborhood; and that the granting of the Variance will promote the

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municipal health, welfare and safety and benefit the City as a whole;

Achieving Intent of Protected Use Replacement - The variance request results in a temporary gap from the protected use replacement requirements. Once the building is occupied, the protected use area will be reestablished. The new space will be modern and will last long into the future. The same is not true of the existing manufacturing and warehouse space on the site. As a result, the replacement of protected space within the project in the long-term meets the intent of the West Berkeley Plan, MU-LI District purposes, and the requirements of this finding, while allowing the upgrades associated with redevelopment. The protected use space will be replaced in the new project, specifically as a condition of the new building's occupancy permit.

<u>Neighborhood Benefit</u> - The project would complement and be compatible with surrounding uses, which include warehousing, manufacturing, office, research and development, and laboratories. The project would further contribute to the economic and land use diversity described in the MU-LI district purposes. It would strengthen the Fourth Street retail district and provide a thriving work environment.

In these ways, the variance can help support the following purposes of the MU-LI district:

- B. Encourage development of a mixed use-light industrial area for a range of compatible uses;
- E. Provide for the continued availability of manufacturing and industrial buildings for manufacturing uses, especially of larger spaces needed by medium sized and larger light manufacturers;
- G. Provide the opportunity for laboratory development in appropriate locations;

The project will provide a number of community benefits that contribute to the finding of non-detriment described above. Coordinated streetscape improvements along both sides of Fourth Street, and on Bancroft Way improve pedestrian connections. Pedestrian improvements extend to the UPRR tracks and will connect with new pedestrian sidewalk access being built by the Berkeley Commons/600 Addison Street project along Bolivar Drive. This will enable pedestrians to walk on the north side of Bancroft Way all the way to the Aquatic Park, which is not currently possible. Along the project frontage, a mid-block crosswalk improves walkability close to the Fourth Street retail corridor. A new public parklet and street trees provide opportunities for shade and public open space along Fourth Street. Expanded stormwater retention improves on-site management of run-off and improves water quality in the Aquatic Park lagoon and San Francisco Bay.

4. Any other variance findings required by the Section of the Ordinance applicable to that Variance.

No other findings are required for this request.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

Key environmental topics that may be considered in the CEQA analysis include:

Historical & Cultural Resources:

As part of the project's historic resource evaluation, the building located at 703 Bancroft Way was found to be potentially eligible of the California Register. The significance was structural rather than architectural and the primary character-defining feature was the interior steel framework rather than the exterior of the building. As discussed in detail above, after initially planning to relocate the building on site, it became infeasible to do so after receiving significant fire, life, safety comments from Building and Safety Division and Berkeley Fire Department staff.

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No known archeological sites extend into the project site. However, known sites, such as the West Berkeley Shellmound and intact midden deposits, are located in close proximity. Therefore, there may be sensitive cultural materials subsurface within the boundaries of the project site. The southwest corner of the parcel once housed a 19th Century rail depot and there were several residential dwellings on the property during the early 20th Century, which could contain cultural deposits pertinent to the history of early Euro-American settlement. Because of this cultural sensitivity, the project team's consulting archeologists recommend preconstruction testing or monitoring during ground-disturbing construction, especially at the southwest corner of the parcel.

Hazardous Materials: Previous on-site and off-site uses have contributed to the presence of hazardous materials in the soil and/groundwater at the site. These are summarized below and documented in the Phase I report attached to this statement. The project will follow City and CEQA required mitigations to manage hazardous materials during construction and operation of the project.

There are elevated concentrations of various petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and pesticides in the groundwater below the site from a previous pest control business. The project team's environmental consultants believe that that existing site and subsurface conditions (e.g., concrete floor slab and foundation system) are effectively limiting the mobility of the groundwater plume and find that the plume is stable. Therefore, in their present state, residual impacts present below the site do not appear to be posing a significant risk to human health and the environment.

The former Veriflo Facility (2246 Fifth St., off-site) is located approximately 200 feet east-southeast of the subject site and operated as a metals-finishing plant. Historical metals finishing operations at this facility resulted in the release of VOCs, primarily trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), and vinyl chloride (VC). Investigations indicate groundwater impacts have migrated downgradient and offsite towards the northwest, which is in the direction of the subject site.

Several of the subject site's facilities currently and/or historically used chlorinated solvents, hazardous materials, and petroleum products. No spills or evidence of any releases were reported for current or historical facilities. However, the current and historical uses of these chemical products at the subject site may have contributed to impacts identified in the Phase I report.

Soils/Geotechnical Findings: The site is blanketed by medium stiff to very stiff clay fill with variable sand and gravel content. The fill is underlain by native alluvium consisting of interbedded layers of stiff to hard clay with varying sand content and medium dense to very dense clayey sand with varying gravel content. Near surface soil may be highly to very highly expansive. The project team's geotechnical analysis indicates the underlying soils below the groundwater are not susceptible to liquefaction because of their cohesion. The analysis indicates clay layers at deeper depths may experience cyclic softening during a major earthquake event but concludes the risk of lateral spreading to be nil. Following site demolition, the existing fill below the proposed building would be over-excavated and recompacted. Foundations and slabs would be designed and constructed to resist the effects of the expansive clay.

Traffic: A Traffic Impact Analysis has been completed and is part of the Use Permit application. As outlined above, the project proposes a robust TDM program and improvements that aim to further reduce vehicle trips and promote the use of alternative modes of transportation.

# 787 Bancroft Way: Design Narrative

theLAB Berkeley, Phase III
1st Design Review Committee Meeting | February 4, 2022



Steelwave I SOM 787 Bancroft I Berkeley, California | 1 Our goal is to introduce a new building which transforms and enriches the existing urban fabric through careful spatial interventions and a straightforward, humble materiality.







Enrich the Urban Fabric
787 Bancroft

Connect Office to Open Space
North Plaza

Reflects the Neighborhood Character the LAB Phase I & II

# **Project Vision**

The Lab is a multi-phase combination of adaptive reuse, increased open space, new construction, and enhancements to the public realm will improve the environment and support the development of businesses in the surrounding neighborhood.

The building's L-shaped configuration and long horizontal proportions maintain the form and character of the surrounding blocks. With two major frontages, the building retains the street walls on both Fourth Street and Bancroft Way while allowing for a generous public open space to the north of the building and public improvements along Fourth Street.

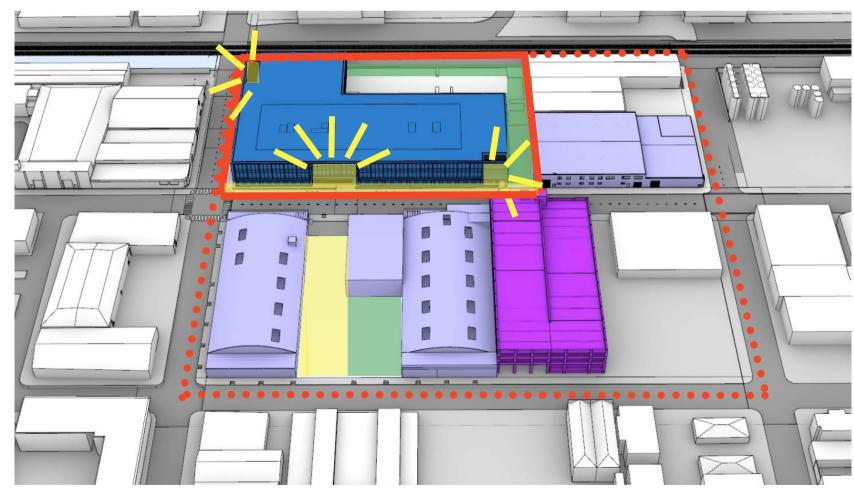
The form and materiality of the building recall the simplicity and honesty of the industrial buildings in the neighborhood while making the block more welcoming and the pedestrian experience more enjoyable. A combination of exposed concrete structure, glass, metal trim, and integrated planters complement the industrial character of the district, while providing new open spaces to the evolving neighborhood and its more pedestrian and bicycle friendly orientation.

The ground floor is slightly recessed to increase the sidewalk width for pedestrian movement and additional planting and seating. The recessed ground level gives the building the same strong horizontal proportions as the previous building, despite being one story taller. The entry and address sign are near the midpoint of the Fourth Street façade, breaking up the long mass on the ground floor.

The entry is aligned with a new open space across the street that ties all of the buildings of TheLab into a singular campus-like work environment. Terraces at the Southwest and Northwest corners of the building break down the mass at the corners, provide tenants and outdoor amenities with views, and emphasize the connection between the workplace and neighborhood. The external stair on the Northeast corner provides vertical circulation and further connectivity between the workplace and Northern open space.

The pedestrian entrances to the site are located off Fourth Street. Vehicular access to the site is provided on Bancroft Way. This entry location reduces the curb cuts along Fourth Street to enhance the pedestrian experience and connectivity between buildings on either side of the street.





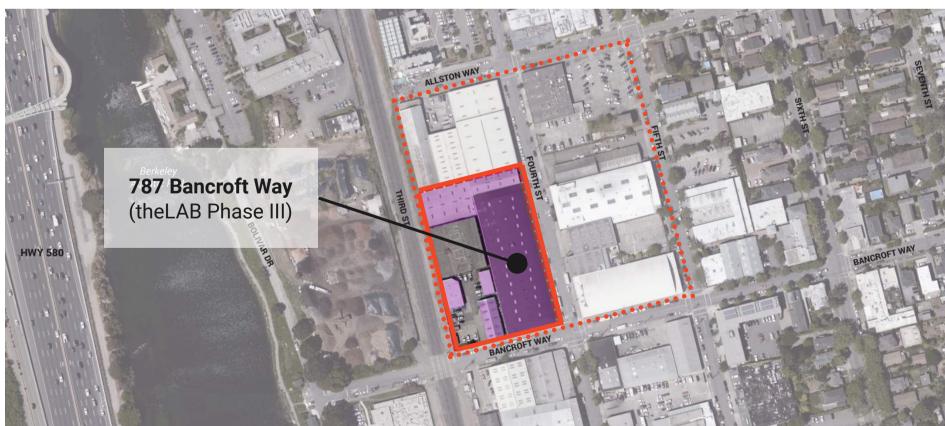
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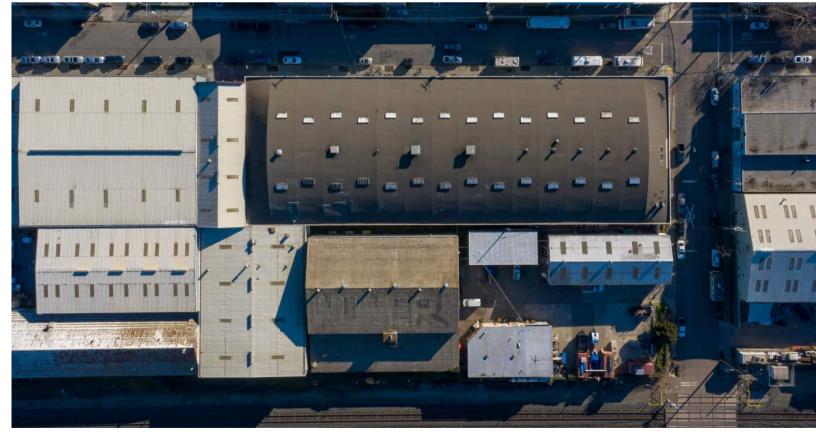
# **WEST BERKELEY**

The project is located in West Berkeley - a neighborhood with a diverse range of uses, building types, scales, and a rich industrial past. 787 Bancroft and the Lab will help the neighborhood evolve into the next chapter in the area's economic growth through a combination of new construction and adaptive reuse.









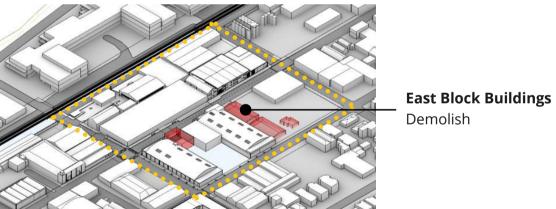
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# theLAB Phases

787 Bancroft is the last phase of a multi-phase development that creates a light manufacturing and R&D campus in West Berkeley. The replacement of underutilized structures with a new building dedicated to R&D and light manufacturing uses serves the purpose of fostering growth of advanced technology services, while encouraging the availability of buildings for manufacturing uses and jobs. A series of public realm improvements and small scale parks stitch the project into the existing fabric of the neighborhood.

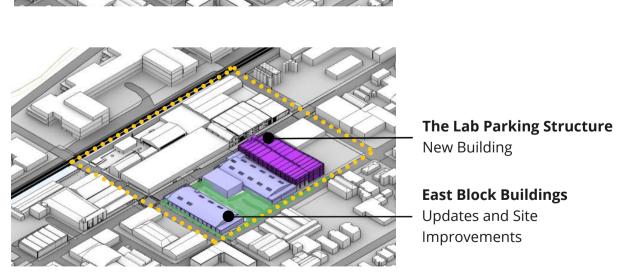
### **PREVIOUS PHASES**

# **PHASE 0 - EXISTING CONDITION** theLAB Campus **West Block Buildings** Existing **East Block Buildings** Existing **PHASE I** • Demolish 4 Structures on East Block

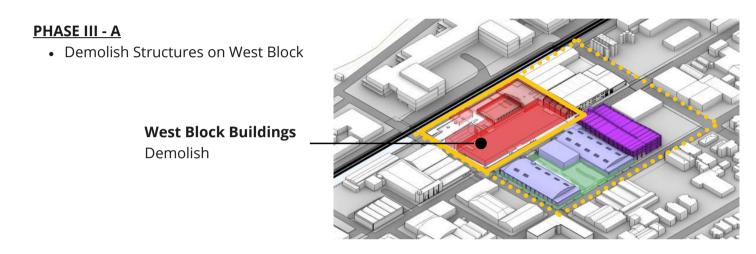


### **PHASE II**

- The Lab Parking Structure -**Build New**
- East Block Buildings Updates



### **CURRENT SUBMITTAL PHASE**



### PHASE III - B

- 787 Bancroft Build New
- 716 Allston Update

# 787 Bancroft New Building and Site improvements

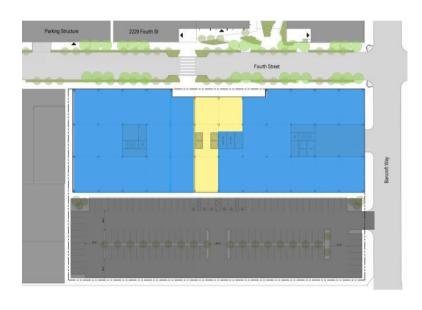
716 Allston

Update

# **BUILDING PLACEMENT**

The L-shape configuration of 787 Bancroft maximizes the building frontage along Bancroft and 4th street, creates open space adjacent the public right of way, and discreetly places parking on the interior of the site. Our team explored a variety of building configurations and placement. The L-shape configuration created the best pedestrian experience along 4th street.







# the square

compact plan

parking & additional curb cut along 4th

# the rectangle

strong connection to 4th street & East development

no open space on the site

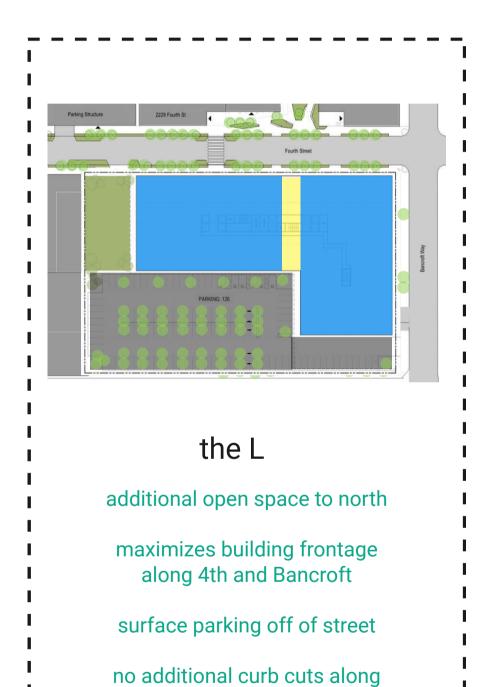
east west solar orientation

### the U

good views

open space isolated

parking & additional curb cut along 4th

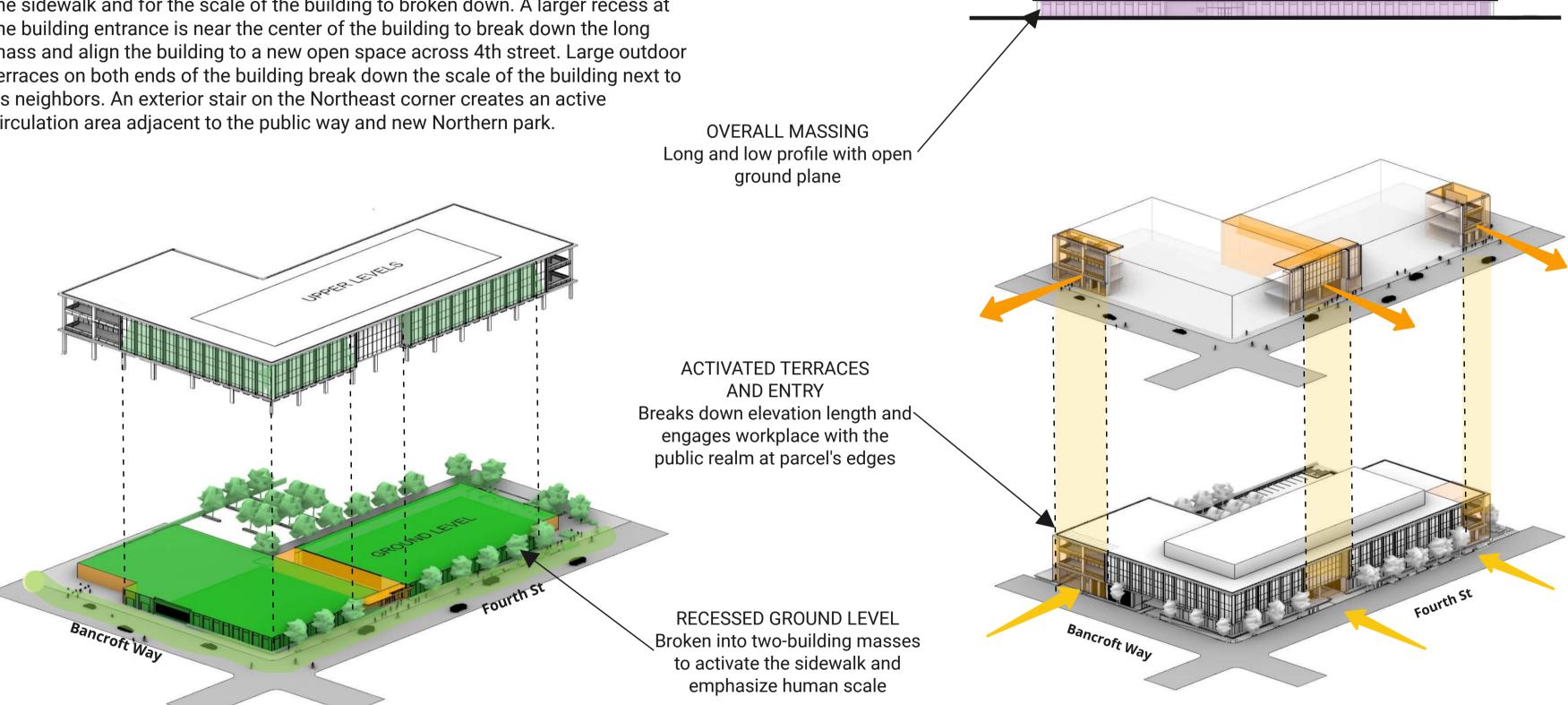


4th street

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# **BUILDING MASSING AND ARTICULATION**

The form of 787 shares the long and low proportions of the other revitalized warehouses with the Lab to create a cohesive building language within the masterplan. The ground floor is recessed to allow for increased landscaping along the sidewalk and for the scale of the building to broken down. A larger recess at the building entrance is near the center of the building to break down the long mass and align the building to a new open space across 4th street. Large outdoor terraces on both ends of the building break down the scale of the building next to its neighbors. An exterior stair on the Northeast corner creates an active circulation area adjacent to the public way and new Northern park.



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# **4TH STREET FRONTAGE**



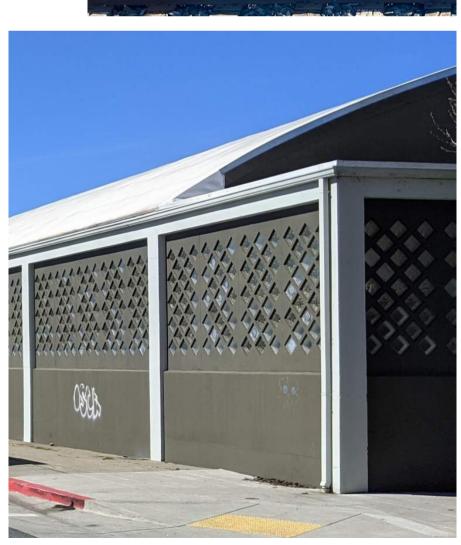
# **MATERIALITY AND CHARACTER**

The construction and materiality building is inspired by the functionality and playfulness of the industrial buildings in the neighborhood. There is a clear expression of the structural frame and a play in rhythm of the cast in place concrete that is also the primary building facade.













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# **MATERIALITY AND CHARACTER**

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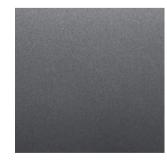




AC-1 Smooth Structural Concrete



**GL-1** Low Iron Glass



FIN-1 Gray Metal Panel



MTL-4 Corrugated Metal Panel

### **4TH STREET**





4th Street Entrance

4th Street Crosswalk

# **BANCROFT WAY**



Southwest Corner on Bancroft



Southeast Corner at 4th and Bancroft

### **OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE**

The landscape design strategy for 787 Bancroft and the Lab Masterplan is to transform the two blocks East and West of 4th Street into a singular campus consisting of a variety of open spaces and outdoor experiences. This is done through a series of interventions: Widening the sidewalk for better pedestrian experiences, creating pocket parklets along the street for light activities, adding a mid-block crossing to enhance the Lab campus connectivity, and finally, providing a shaded mixed-use plaza for the workers to extend their daily activities from indoor to outdoor.

The North Plaza acts as a crossroads for pedestrian circulation between 787 Bancroft, 716 Allston, and 4th street. It is also a key outdoor area of the site. The park has a variety of uses for both the occupants of the Lab and the public. There is seating under the shaded London Plane trees and the Japanese Maples add a layer of delicacy to the gardens. The open lawn provides a gathering space that enriches the work environment. Both the design of North Plaza and the improvements of 4th street are to establish a sense of place in this new vibrant hub for the district.









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# **OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPE**

The planting design of 787 Bancroft takes the neighborhood context, the relationship with the main building, and the seasonal plant characters into consideration.

Red Maple is selected as the street tree along 4th street to create a unified scene across the Lab campus. Its brilliant fall color and clean oval tree shape will give a distinct identity to the site within the neighborhood and marks the front entrances for the buildings along 4th Street.

In the North Plaza three London Plane trees are placed to provide great shade in summer and visual interests in winter. Japanese Maples are also designed into the plaza gardens. With its delicate leaves and outward spreading branches, these garden trees easily become the visual attraction on site.

In the surface parking area behind the building, medium sized Frontier Elms are used to provide shade for the cars while not blocking too much of the view towards the ocean.

All groundcovers and low plantings will be native or drought-tolerant plants that require low water and less maintenance once established. Plants vary from colors, heights, forms, and textures in different seasons and add year-round visual interest.













**Red Maple** Acer rubrum "October Glory" **Japanese Maple** *Acer Japonica* 

Platanus hybrida

Frontier Elm
Ulmus Hybrid "Frontier"

# **SITE FEATURES**

# SIDEWALK EXPANSION

The design of the 4th Street streetscape activates the public realm of the block with strategic planting and landscape features that are coordinated with major building elements. Red Maple is selected as the street tree marching along both sides of the street, unifying the campus. With their orange to brilliant scarlet fall color, the red maples contribute to the planting diversity of the neighborhood and create identity for the Lab campus. The Sidewalk is widened to incorporate three sets of pocket parklets with gardens and seating benches. Hedges are designed to provide protection from the traffic and comfort to the parklets. Both the layouts of the street trees and pocket parklets are responding to the rhythm of the building façade. Along the periphery of the main building, a continuous flow-through planter has been established to help with storm water management as well as create a green buffer between the office environment and public sidewalk.







# **SECURITY GATE**

The design of the West Block includes security gates on the NE plaza and the SW vehicular entry to the site. The gates will remain open during operating hours of the day in order to keep the Northeast plaza connected to the public realm. Signage will be integrated into the gates in harmony with the project landscape and architecture.









# **OPEN SPACE PLANTING AND MATERIAL**

All groundcovers and low plantings will be native or drought-tolerant plants that require low water and less maintenance once established. Plants vary from colors, heights, forms, and textures in different seasons and add year-round visual interest.





California Privet Ligustrum Ovaliforlium



Carpet Manzanita Arctostaphylos 'Emerald carpet'



Fountain Grass
Pennisetum
alopecuroides



Berkeley Sedge Carex tumulicola



P2A Concrete Paver Natural



P2B Concrete Paver Limestone Gray



**P6**Crushed Granite



W2
Bench cap stone
Sierra white, thermal
top spilt edge

# **TREE COVERAGE**



# **BIRD MITIGATION STRATEGIES**

The new project is 350 feet from the Aquatic Park and 1,000 ft from the San Francisco Bay. Both are major open spaces along the Pacific Flyway: a major migratory route for birds. Between our project and these open spaces will be Berkeley Commons another project of similar height.

While we are not directly adjacent to these open spaces we are taking the following measures to reduce the likelihood bird collisions:

### **Bird Safety Measures (per BMC amendment):**

- 1. Recessed Glazed Surfaces
- 2. Glazing that minimizes reflectivity through metal panels and decorative fins
- 3. Parking Lot Tree Canopy between open space and building
- 4. Light-colored blinds or curtains



Project site distance from Aquatic Park



3: Parking lot tree canopy in front of inner west facade



1 and 4: Recessed windows at West facade with light colored curtains



2: Inner West facade solid metal panels and decorative fins



# **VIEW FROM TRAIN TRACKS**



# **NORTHEAST CORNER**



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