

**Hilmar Unified School District**  
**REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY COMMENT**  
**New Elementary School Project**

**To:**

Responsible, Trustee and Interested Agencies  
Interested Persons

**From:**

Hilmar Unified School District  
Jim Bullock – Director of Capital Projects, Operations  
& Safety  
7807 N. Lander Avenue  
Hilmar, CA 95324  
Telephone: (209) 667-5701  
Email: jbullock@hilmar.k12.ca.us

**Date:** November 14, 2019

**Purpose:** The Hilmar Unified School District (District) is proposing to undertake the New Elementary School Project (project). The purpose of this Request for Preliminary Comment is to invite responsible, trustee and interested agencies, as well as interested persons, to submit written comments on any concerns they may have on the environmental effects of the project. The District will consider the comments in preparing a California Environmental Quality Act Initial Study for the project and in determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the project or to adopt a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration. You will have the opportunity to comment again after you have reviewed the completed environmental documents.

**Comments:** Please send any comments in response to this Request for Preliminary Comment to Jim Bullock at the contact information shown above. **The deadline for submission of comments is Friday, December 6, 2019.**

**Project Location and Description:** The proposed project includes construction and operation of a new elementary school campus on a turfed area currently being used by Hilmar High School, as well as the reconfiguration of a portion of the existing Elim Elementary School site. The project site encompasses approximately 18 acres at the northwest corner of Geer Avenue and Pearl Street in the community of Hilmar, Merced County, CA. The local and regional location, project site, and preliminary site plan are displayed in Figures 1, 2, and 3.

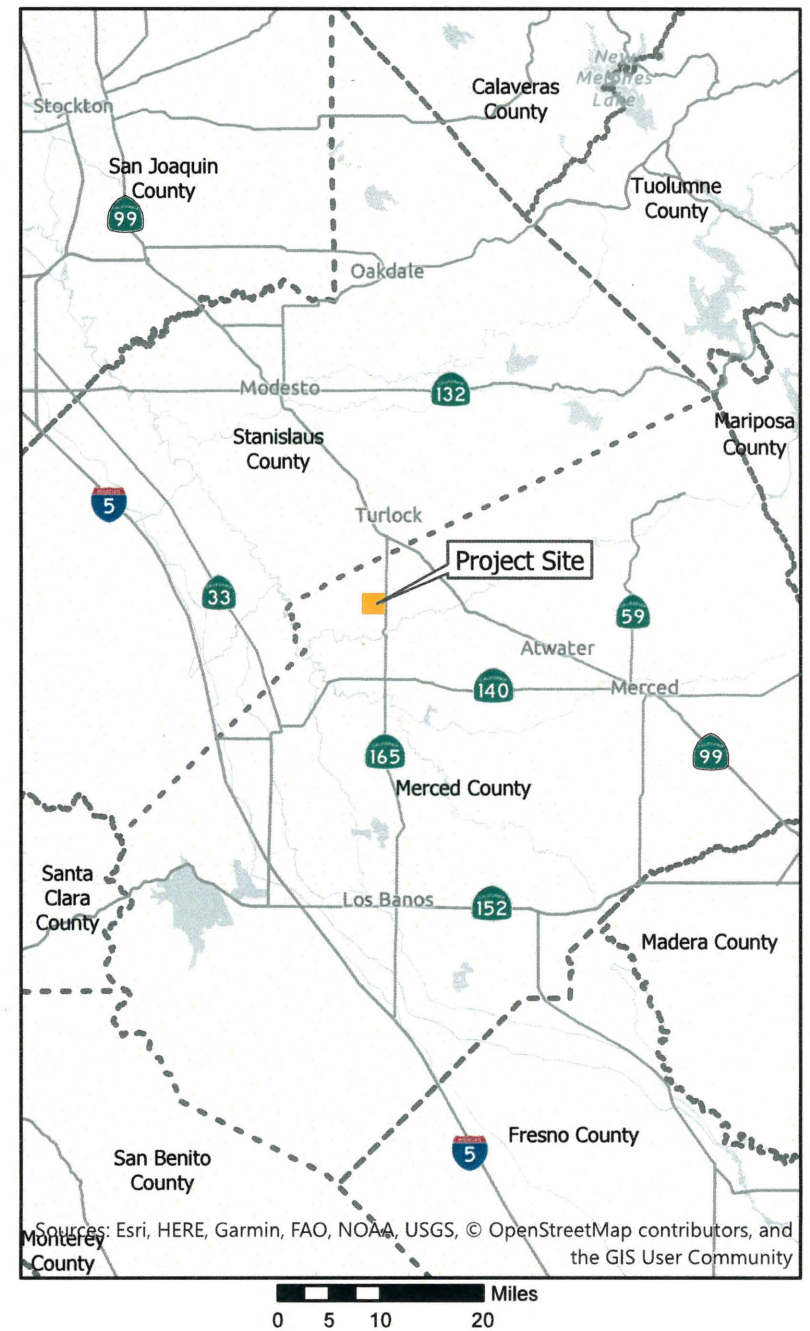
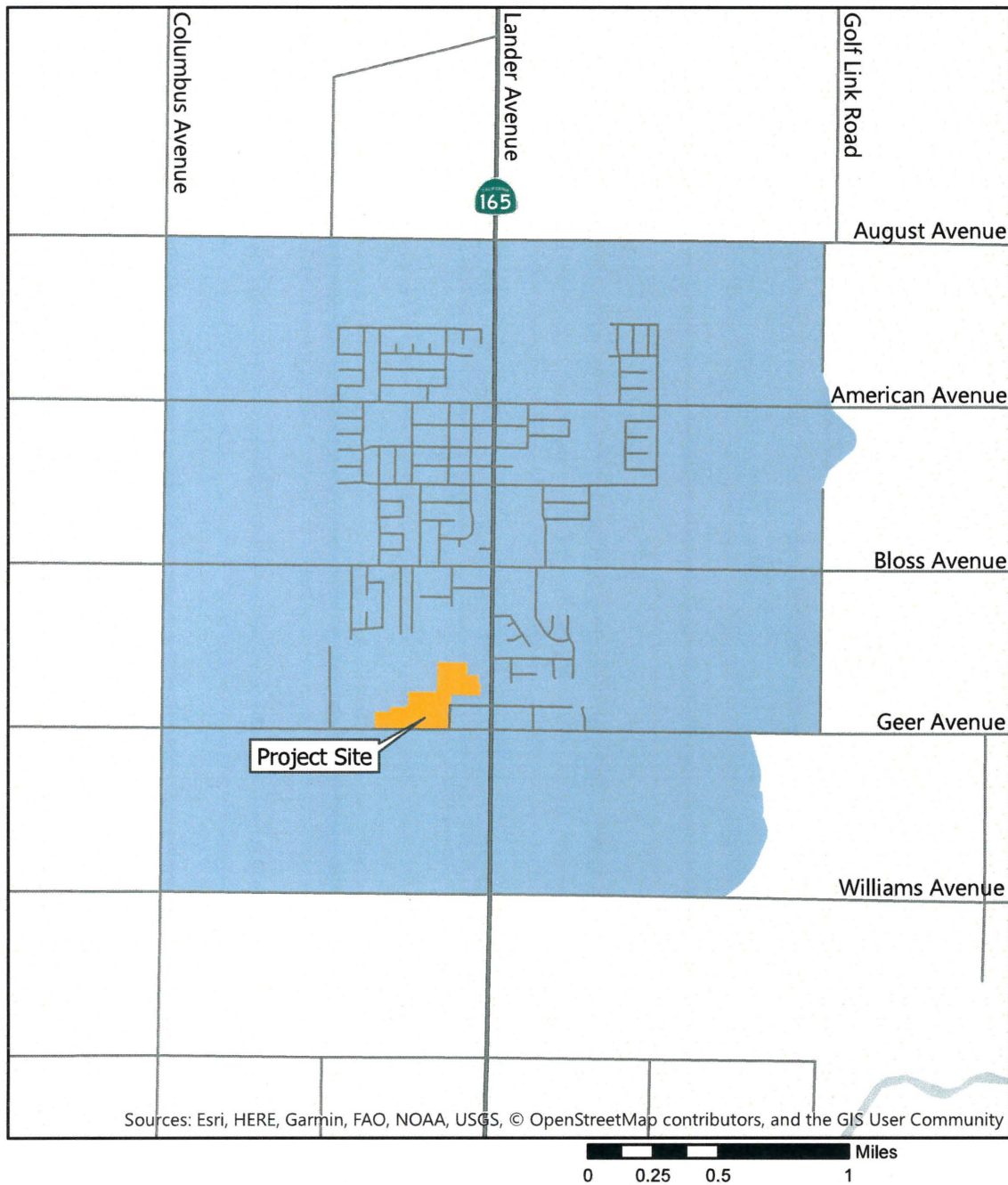
The new elementary school site will provide instruction for Pre-K through 2nd grades and will serve approximately 600 students. Buildout of the campus would encompass approximately 10 acres and include four classroom buildings housing 24 classrooms; one building housing a library, administrative office, and multipurpose room; and recreational areas including turfed athletic fields, hardcourts, and a climbing structure.

The project also includes removal of facilities and new construction at Elim Elementary School (encompassing approximately 5.5 acres at the existing Elim Elementary campus), as well as the addition of new parking areas. As part of the project's operation, Pre-K through 2nd grades will relocate from Elim Elementary School to the new elementary school, leaving Elim with 3rd through 5th grades. Elim's student population will be reduced from approximately 1,000 to 500 students, staff will be reduced from approximately 60 to 30 employees, and 24 of the 50 classrooms will be removed, leaving approximately 26 classrooms.

New driveways from Geer Avenue leading to a roundabout will serve as the main access to both elementary schools. The "front" of Elim will be moved from Lander Avenue (State Route 165) to the new interior access. A new building housing a library, administrative office, and multipurpose room will be constructed at Elim near the new main entrance.

A parking area with approximately 250 spaces is proposed to be developed on about 2.5 acres north of Geer Avenue, west of the new elementary school site. Two other smaller parking areas are proposed in conjunction with the new elementary school site (27 spaces) and the reconfigured Elim Elementary School (18 spaces), along with bus and vehicle drop-off areas for each of the elementary schools. The larger parking area will not only provide additional parking for the new elementary school, but also additional parking for the existing high school athletic fields and stadium.

Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in late 2020 and be completed by spring 2022.



## Local and Regional Location

New Elementary School Project  
Hilmar Unified School District

**ODELL Planning & Research, Inc.**  
Environmental Planning • School Facility Planning • Demographics

Project Site  
Hilmar Census Designated Place

**Figure 1**





## Project Site

New Elementary School Project  
Hilmar Unified School District

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0 125 250 500 Feet



**Figure 2**

