

TO: James L. App, City Manager

FROM: Ronald Whisenand, Community Development Director

SUBJECT: Highway 101 Median Barrier Project Recommendations

DATE: February 2, 2010

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Needs: Consider and provide recommendations to Caltrans on a modified Highway 101 median barrier project

Facts:

1. On June 2, 2009, Caltrans presented a proposal to install a safety barrier in the median of State Route 101 from the City's southerly Spring Street off ramp north to Highway 46 East. The project is being proposed to prevent cross median traffic collisions and improve Caltrans worker safety.
2. While Council understood the safety aspect of the project, aesthetic impacts resulted in direction to Caltrans to retain existing landscaping and install a metal Thrie Beam barrier for added safety.
3. Caltrans has since modified the project. While vegetation removal and use of concrete is still proposed, Caltrans has greatly enhanced landscaping to address the Council's aesthetic concerns.
4. Caltrans would like to present the revised plan to the Council, seek community input, and receive direction on barrier treatment options.

Analysis &  
Conclusion: While Caltrans is still proposing removal of some existing vegetation and the use of concrete rather than metal Thrie Beam as a barrier material, the latest proposal differs in the following design aspects:

- Increase the extent of dual barrier stretches that will allow additional landscaping
- Reduce the paved shoulder width from 9 to 7 feet
- Increase the spacing of dual barriers from 13 to 17 feet to allow more substantial plantings
- Use of a variety of ornamental tree species that have canopies that can grow beyond the barrier limits but not over the travel lanes
- More substantial tree plantings with 140 new trees in the median
- Planting of ornamental grasses on the outside of single barrier stretches

- Save and enhance existing oleanders in areas where the dual barriers are proposed

Caltrans has presented three optional treatments for the concrete barrier. While other options are available, Caltrans has suggested colored concrete, a stamped vineyard motif, and a stamped “dry stack” rock wall. Caltrans would like community and Council input and recommendations on wall treatment.

Options:

- a. Provide Caltrans with feedback on project landscaping and design treatment for the proposed concrete barrier.
- b. Amend, modify or reject the foregoing options.

## **Paso Robles Median Barrier Landscaping Concept**

**[Note: For photo-simulations of landscaping concept, refer to separate “Paso Robles – Highway 101 Barrier Aesthetic Options” handout].**

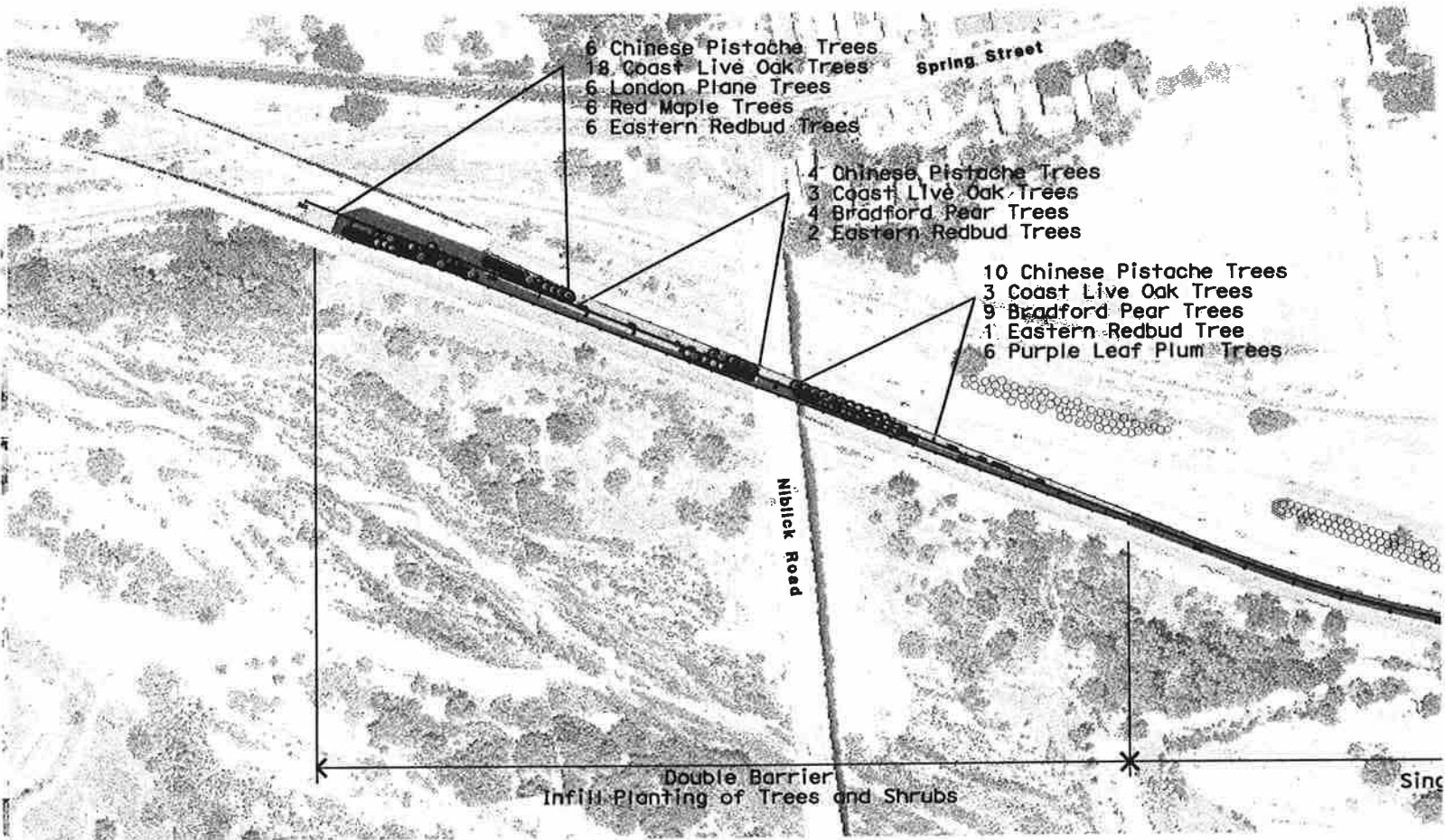
The following landscaping concept was developed as a result of several community workshops and meetings:

### **In areas of double barrier:**

- Plant 140 new trees in the median. Trees will provide color and visual interest near bridges and along straight sections. Tree species include:
  - Chinese pistache*
  - Bradford pear*
  - Purple-leaf plum*
  - Coast live oak*
  - Eastern Redbud*
  - London plane tree*
- Plant approximately 70 new shrubs in existing median shrub gaps. Shrubs will include the two varieties currently found in the median:
  - Toyon*
  - Oleander ‘Mrs. Roeding’*
- Save existing median oleanders
- Save 4 of 6 existing median trees

### **In areas of single barrier:**

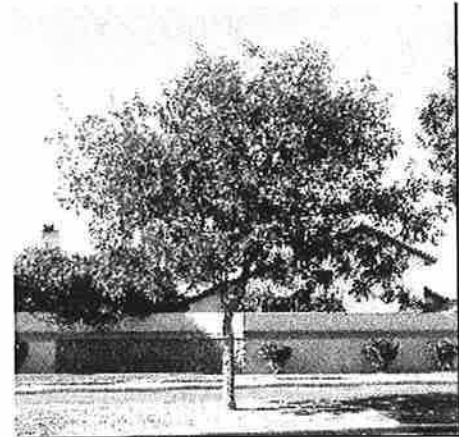
- Plant six types of grasses on wide side of barrier. Grasses are selected to provide a natural, softer look and filter visibility of the barrier. Grass species include:
  - California fescue*
  - Purple needlegrass*
  - Coast range melic*
  - California melic grass*
  - California field sedge*
  - Nodding needlegrass*



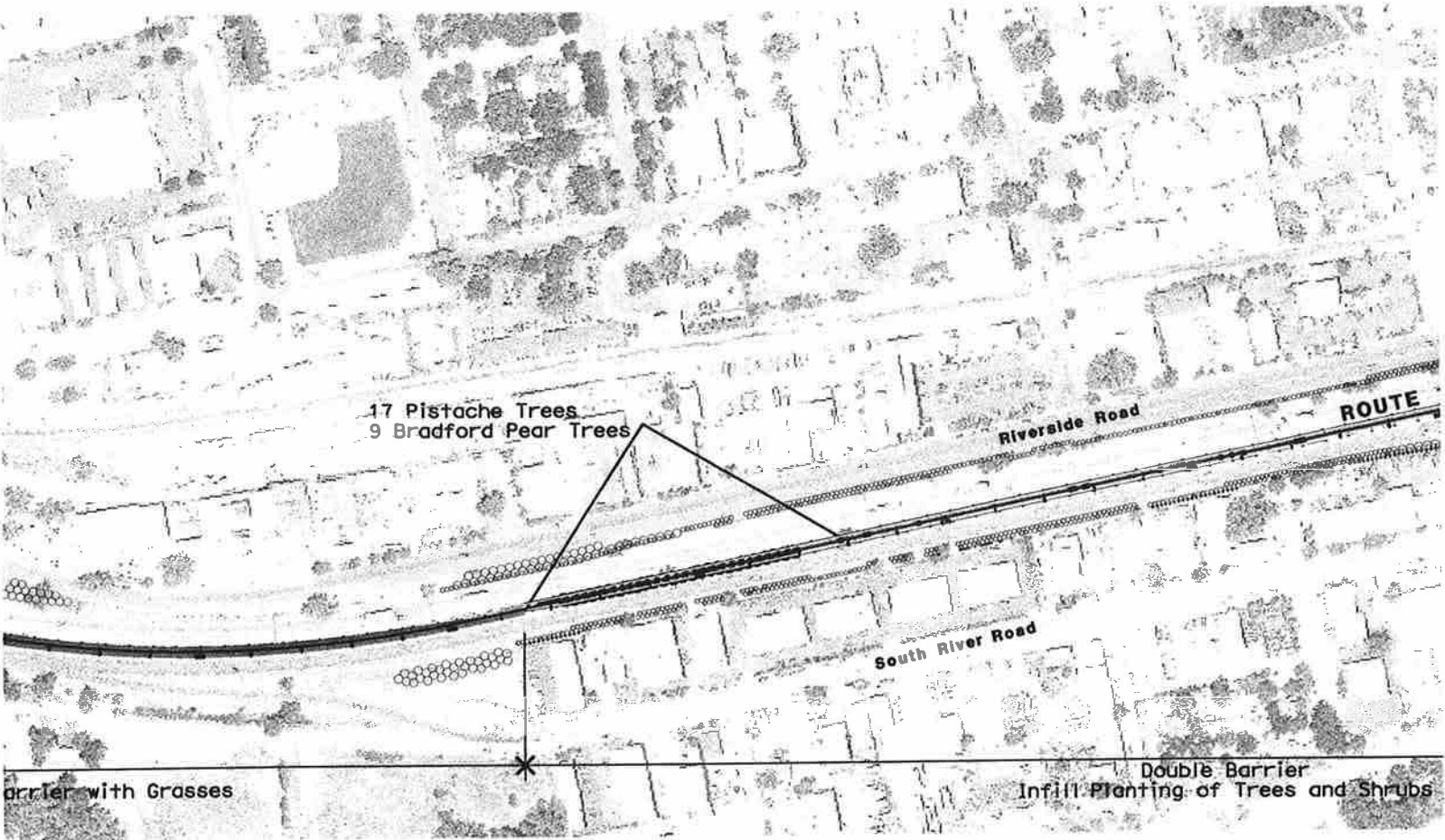
Acer x freemanii/Red Maple



Cercis canadensis/Eastern Redbud



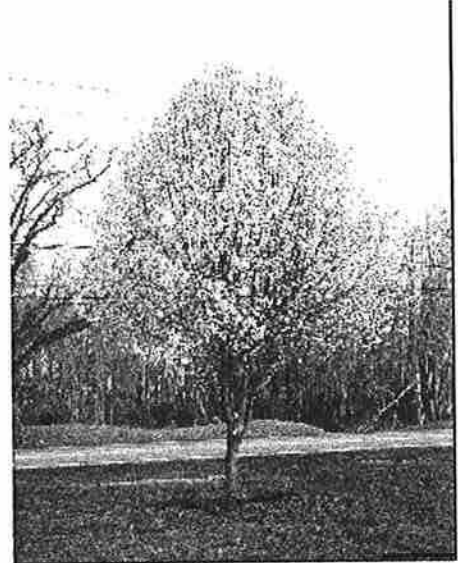
Pistachia chinensis/Chinese Pistache



*Platanus acerifolia*/London Plane Tree



*Prunus cerasifera* 'Krauter Vesuvius'  
Purple Leaf Plum

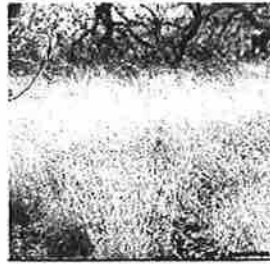
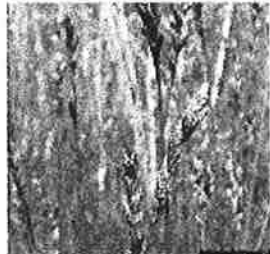
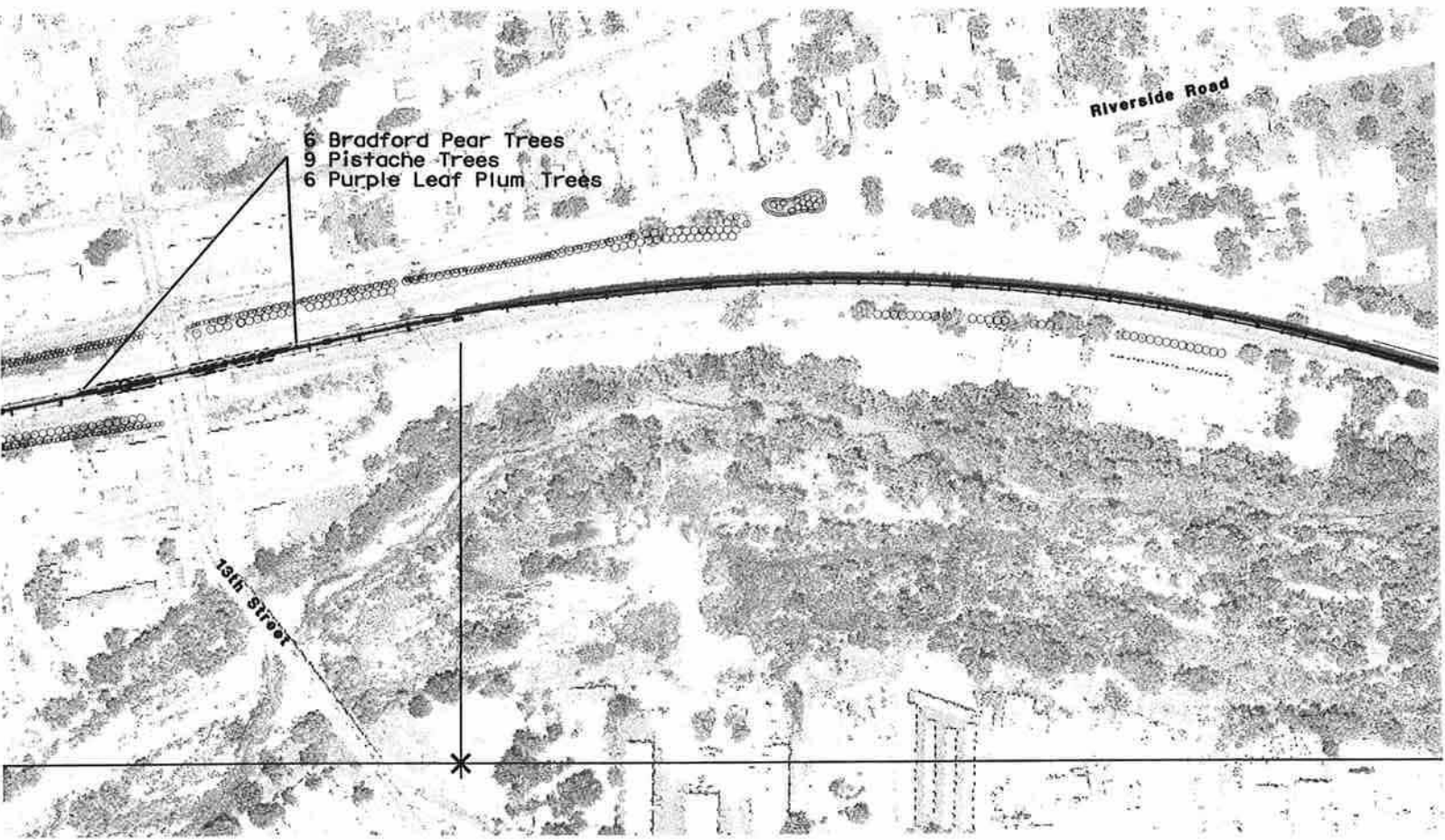


*Pyrus calleryana* 'Bradford'/Bradford Pear



**Proposed**





*Quercus agrifolia*/Coast Live Oak

*Heteromeles arbutifolia*/Toyon

*Nerium oleander* 'Mrs Roedings'/Oleander

*Melica impericalis*  
Coast Range Meli

**Tree Species**

**Proposed Shrub Species**

**Paso Robles**



## Plant List

### BOTANICAL NAME

### COMMON NAME

#### TREES

● <i>Acer x freemanii</i>	Red Maple
● <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern Redbud
● <i>Pistachia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistache
● <i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	London Plane Tree
● <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Krauter Vesuvius'	Purple leaf plum
● <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford'	Bradford Pear
● <i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak

#### SHRUBS

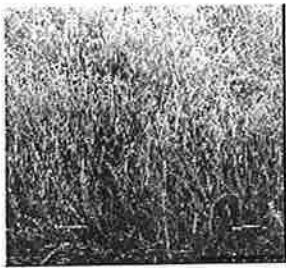
● <i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
● <i>Nerium oleander</i> 'Mrs. Roedings'	Oleander

#### GRASSES

■ <i>Carex pro gracilis</i>	California Field Sedge
■ <i>Festuca californica</i>	California Fescue
■ <i>Melica californica</i>	California Melic Grass
■ <i>Melica imperfecta</i>	Coast Range Melic
■ <i>Nassella cernua</i>	Nodding Needlegrass
■ <i>Nassella pulchra</i>	Purple Needlegrass

○ Trees and shrubs recently planted by Caltrans

Median Barrier Project Total: 140 Trees  
65 Shrubs



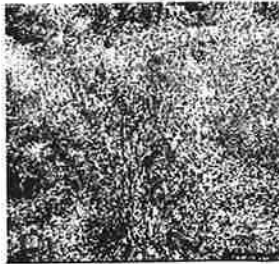
*Festuca californica*  
California Fescue



*Melica californica*  
California Melic Grass



*Nassella cernua*  
Nodding Needlegrass



*Nassella pulchra*  
Purple Needlegrass

## Proposed Grass Seeds

# les Median Barrier Project



No Scale

# PASO ROBLES - HIGHWAY 101 BARRIER AESTHETIC OPTIONS

The design team is requesting Council's preference regarding the appearance of the median barrier. Specifically, the following recommendations are requested:

1. Should the barrier include texture, or just color only? and;
2. If the barrier should be textured, should it be:

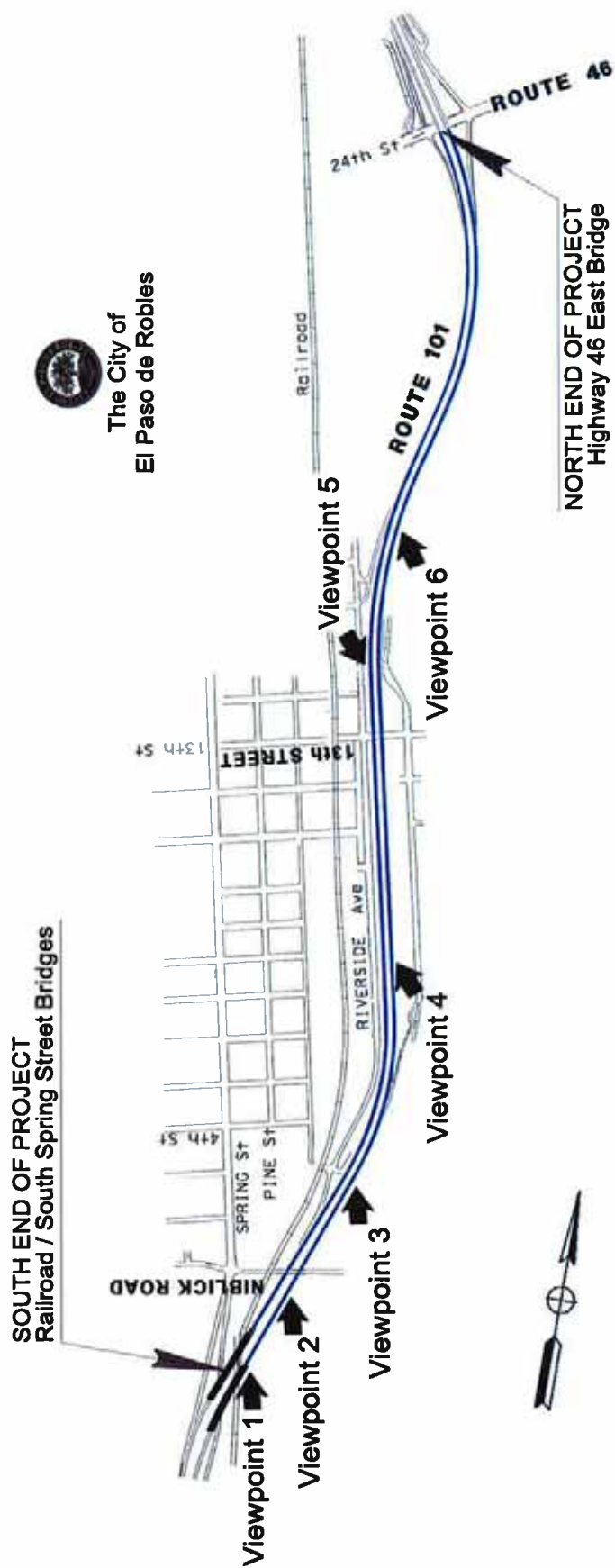
**Grapevine imprinted and colored, or**



**Drystacked stone imprinted and colored**





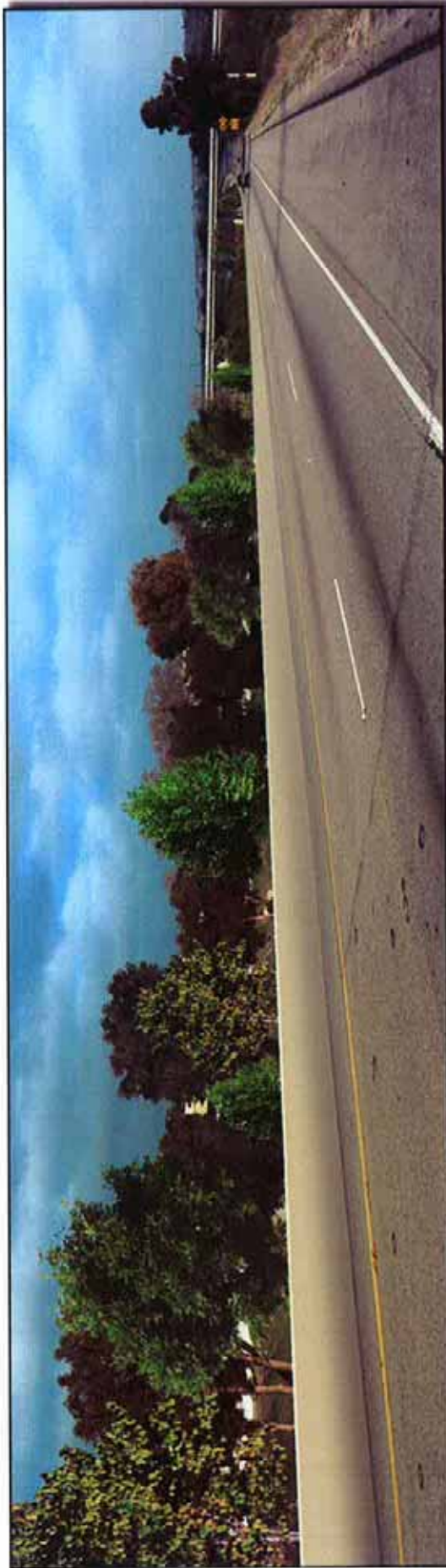


LOCATIONS OF PHOTO-SIMULATION VIEWPOINTS  
Figure 1



EXISTING VIEW

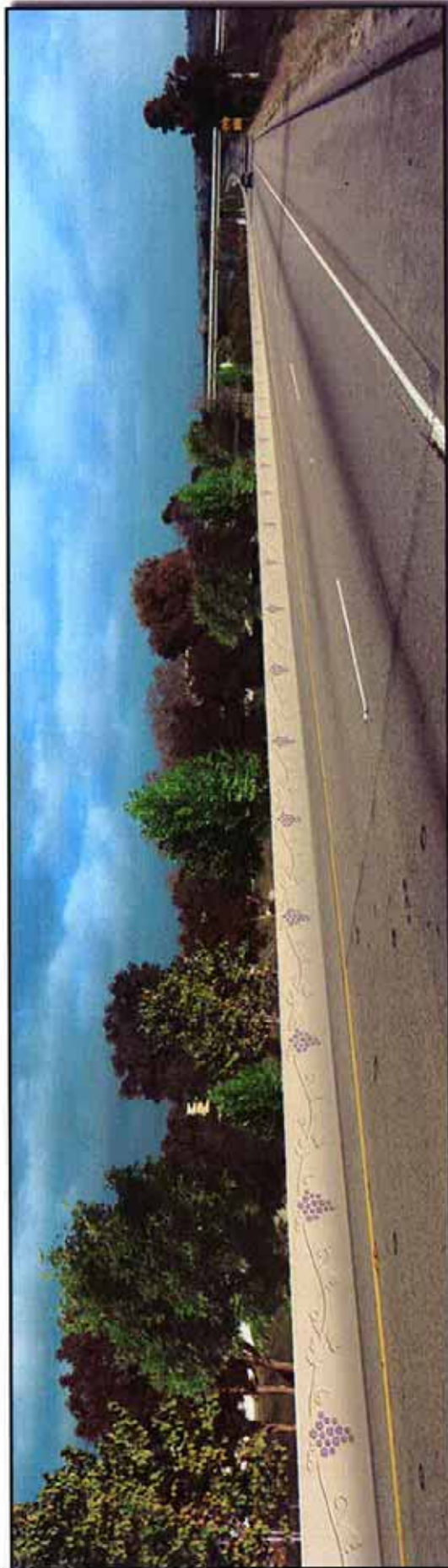
NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT RAILROAD BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 1  
Figure 2



COLOR CONCEPT



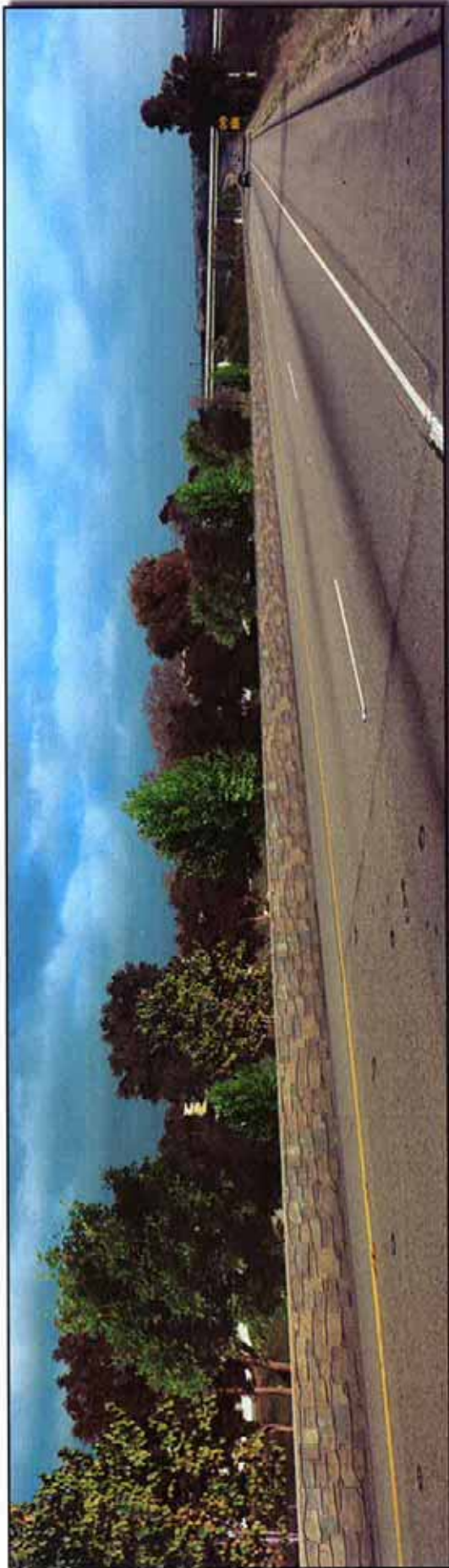
NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT RAILROAD BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 1  
Figure 3



**NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT RAILROAD BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 1**  
Figure 4

**GRAPEVINE CONCEPT**





**NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT RAILROAD BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 1  
Figure 5**

**STONE CONCEPT**





EXISTING VIEW

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 2  
Figure 6



COLOR CONCEPT

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 2  
Figure 7



**NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 2  
Figure 8**

**GRAPEVINE CONCEPT**

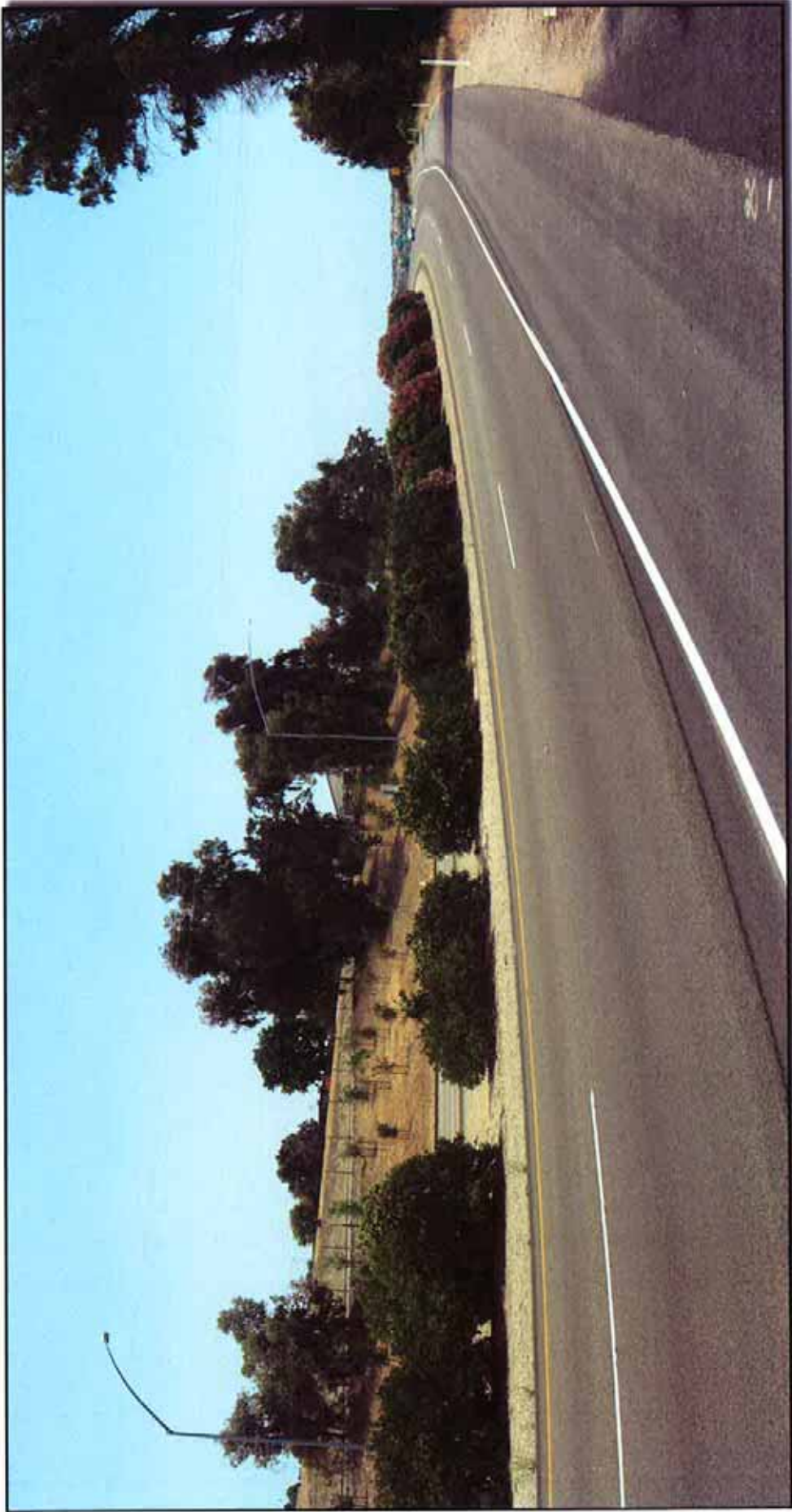




**STONE CONCEPT**



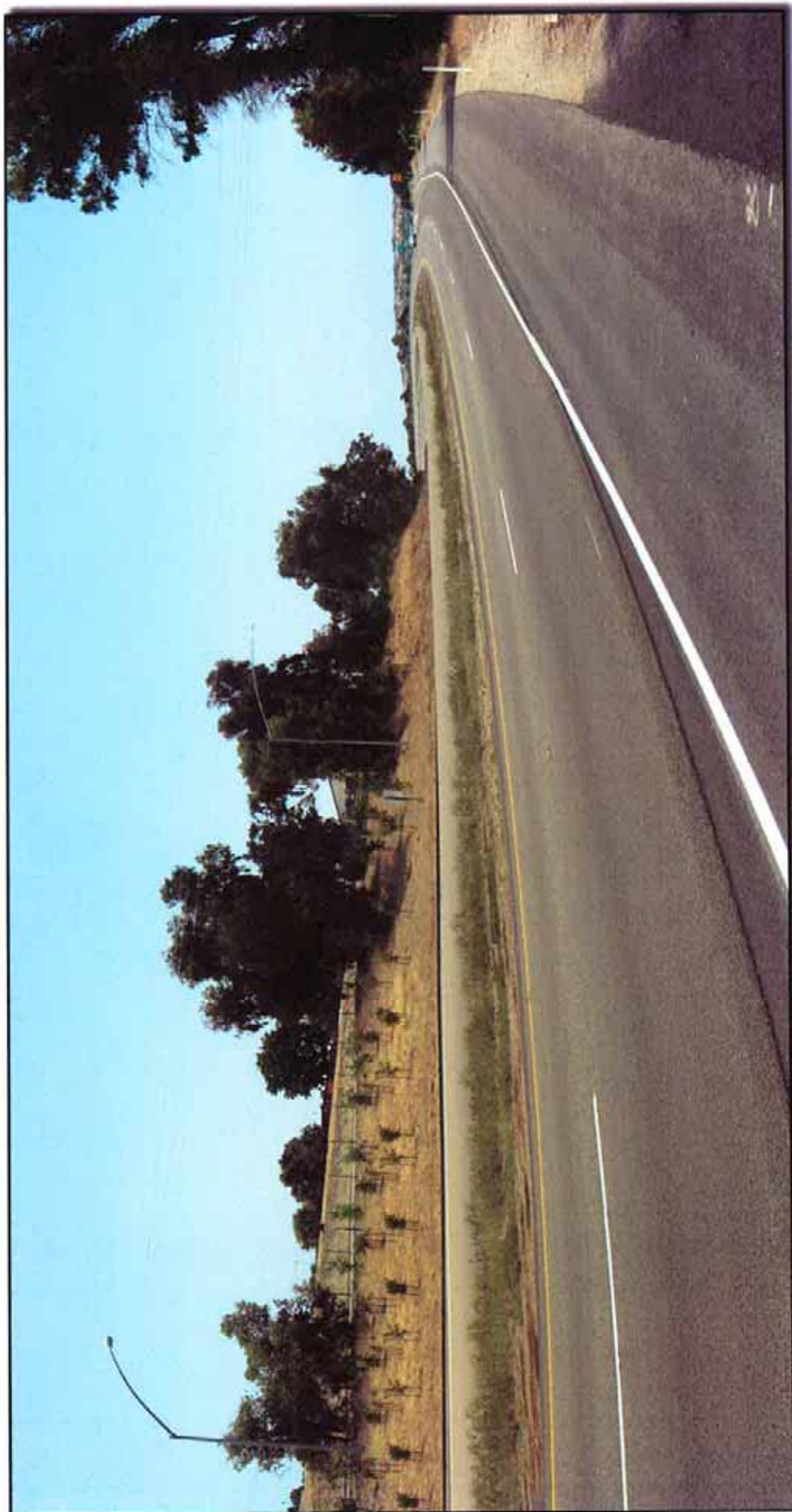
**NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 2  
Figure 9**



EXISTING VIEW

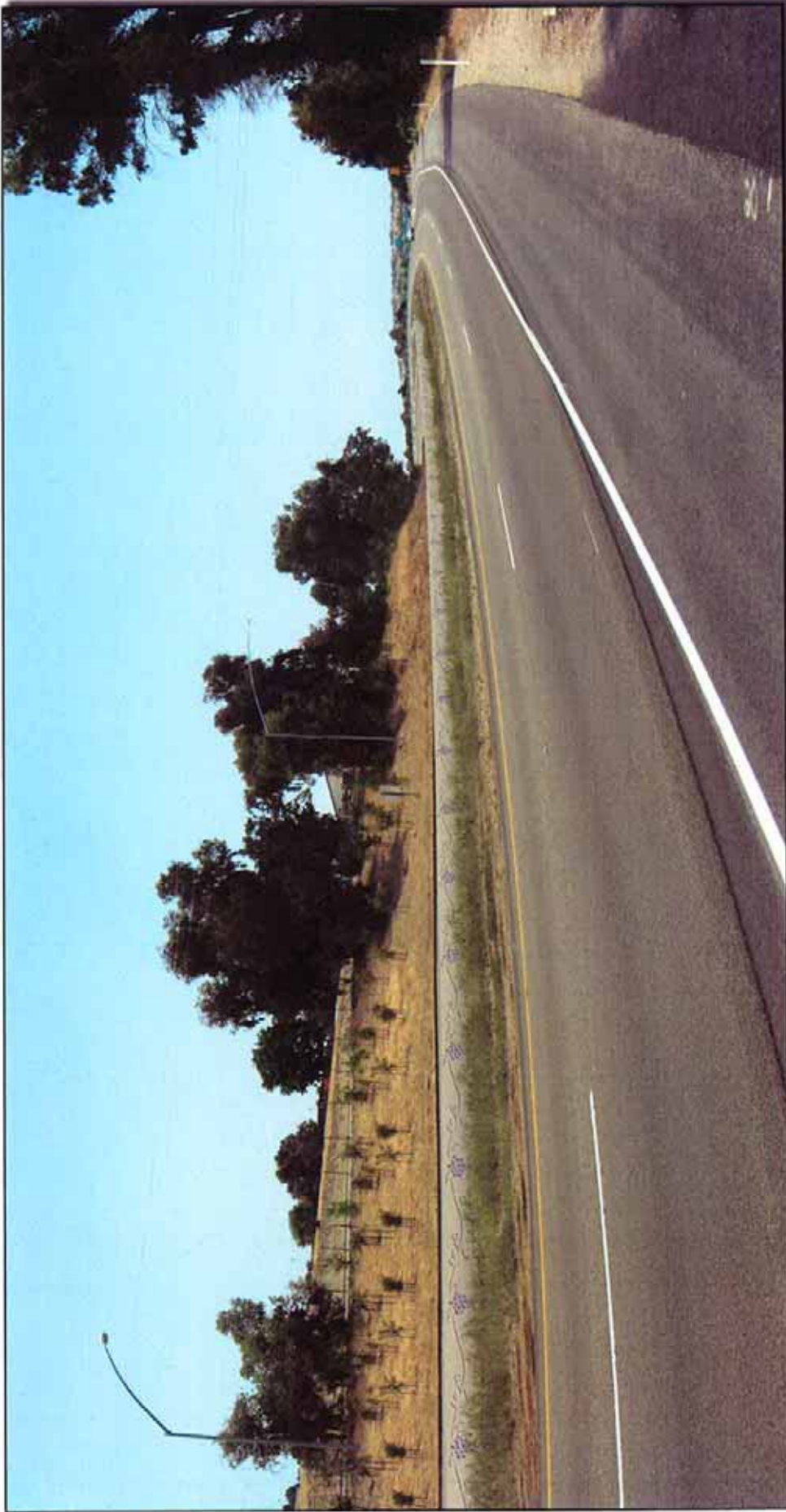
NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT CURVED SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 3  
Figure 10





COLOR CONCEPT

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT CURVED SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 3  
Figure 11



**NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT CURVED SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 3  
Figure 12**

**GRAPEVINE CONCEPT**





STONE CONCEPT

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT CURVED SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 3  
Figure 13



EXISTING VIEW

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 4  
Figure 14





COLOR CONCEPT

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 4  
Figure 15





GRAPEVINE CONCEPT

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 4  
Figure 16



STONE CONCEPT

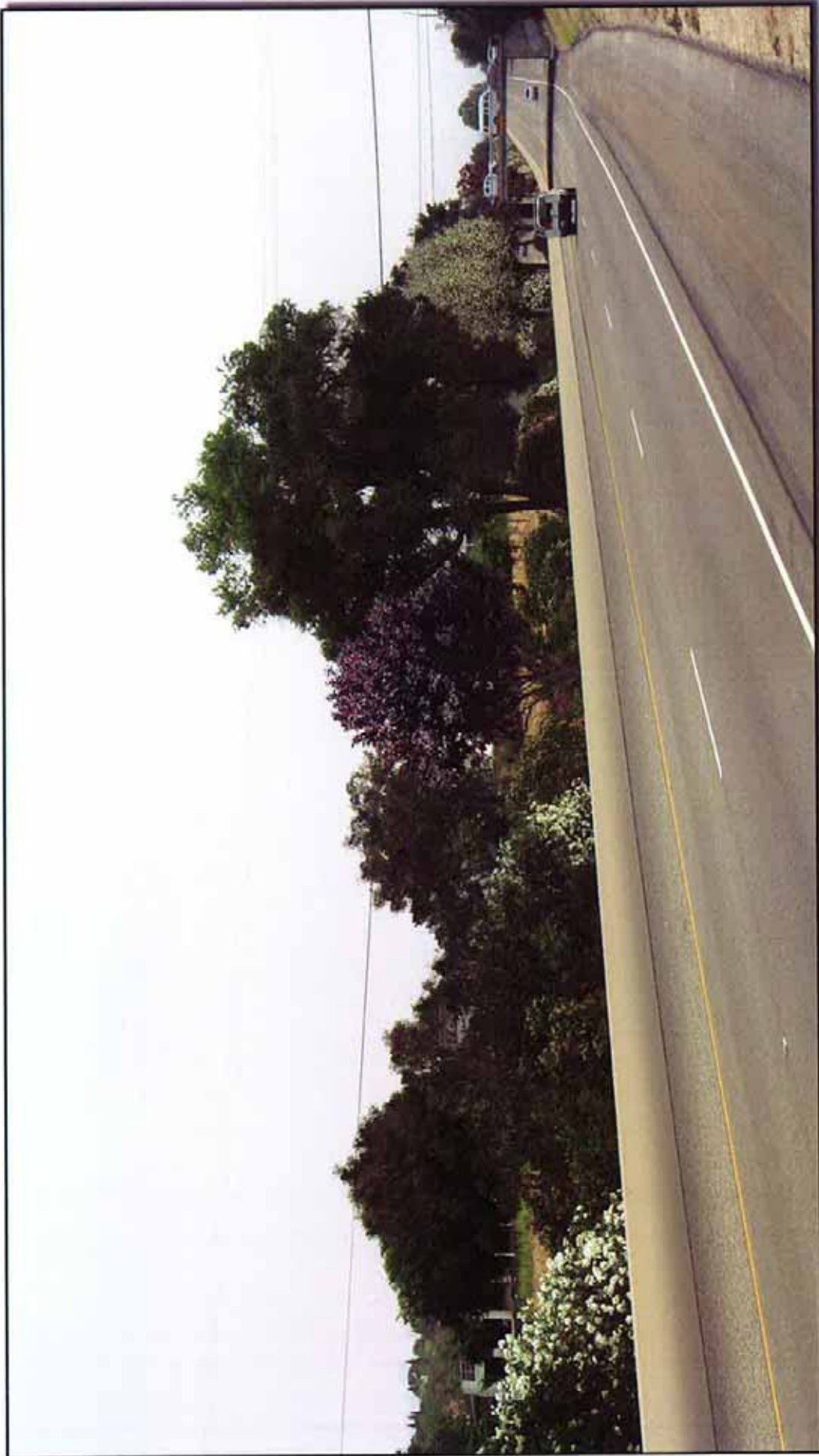
NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF NIBLICK BRIDGE  
VIEWPOINT 4  
Figure 17





EXISTING VIEW

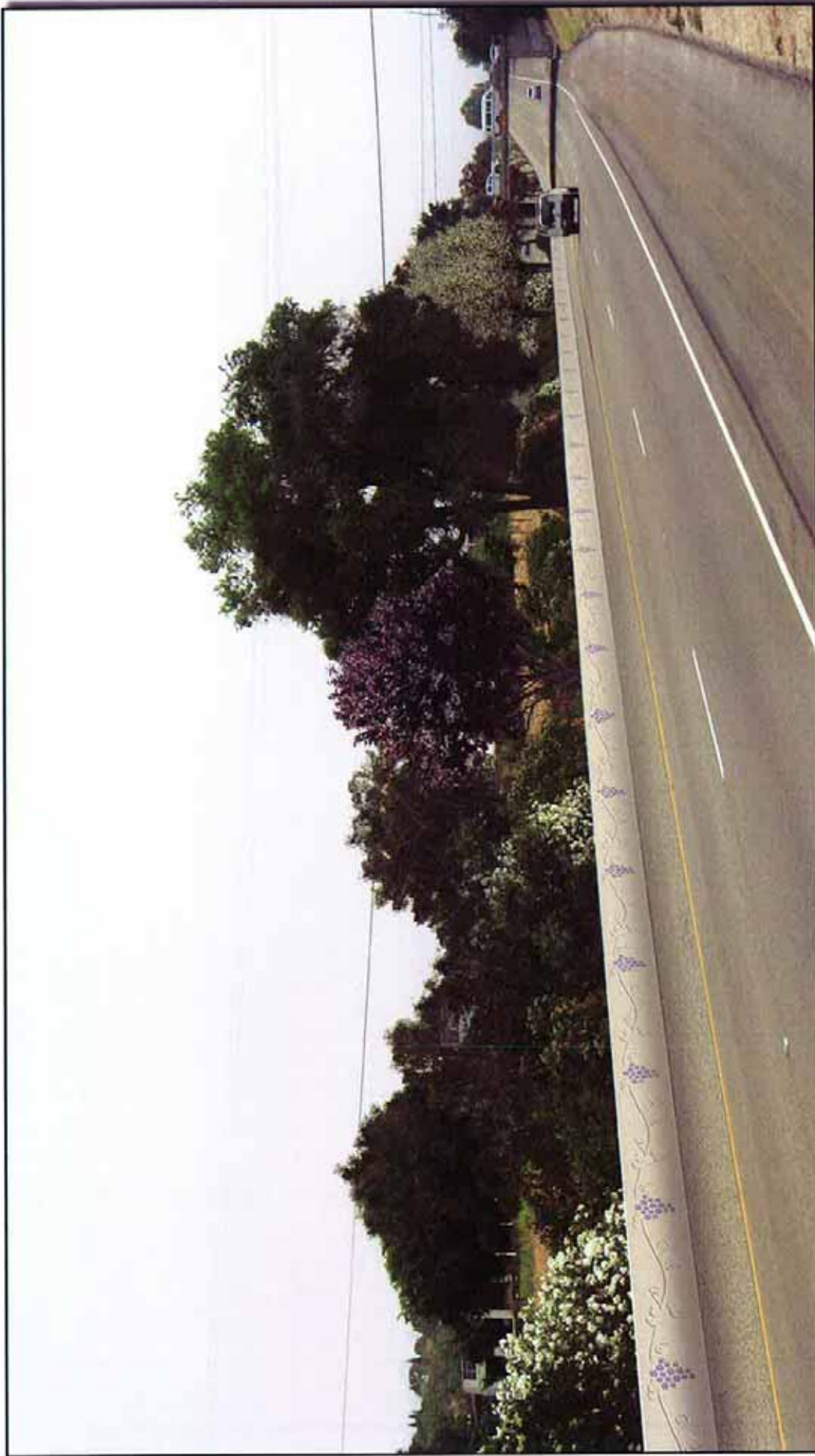
SOUTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 5  
Figure 18



COLOR CONCEPT

SOUTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 5  
Figure 19

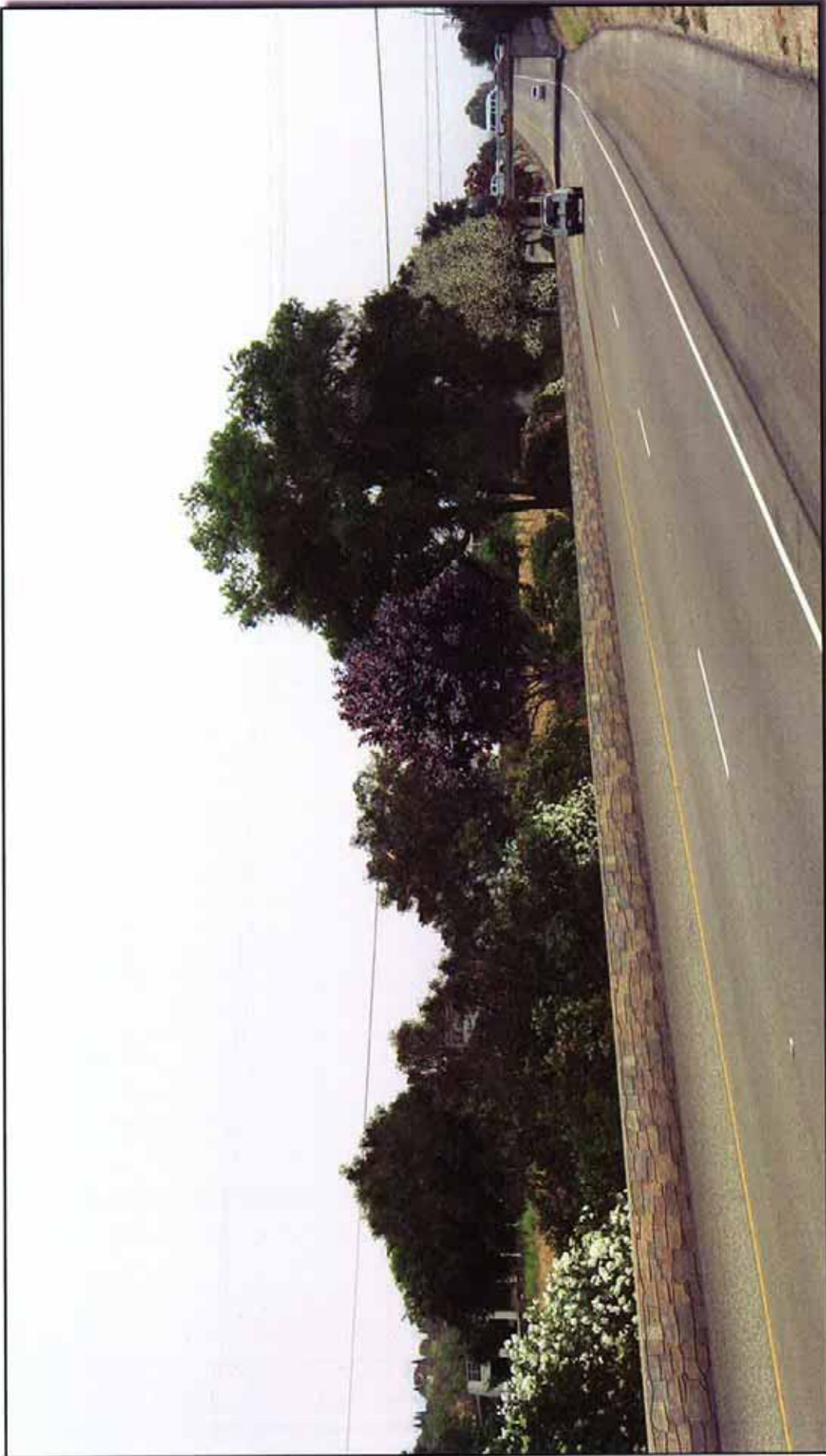




**GRAPEVINE CONCEPT**

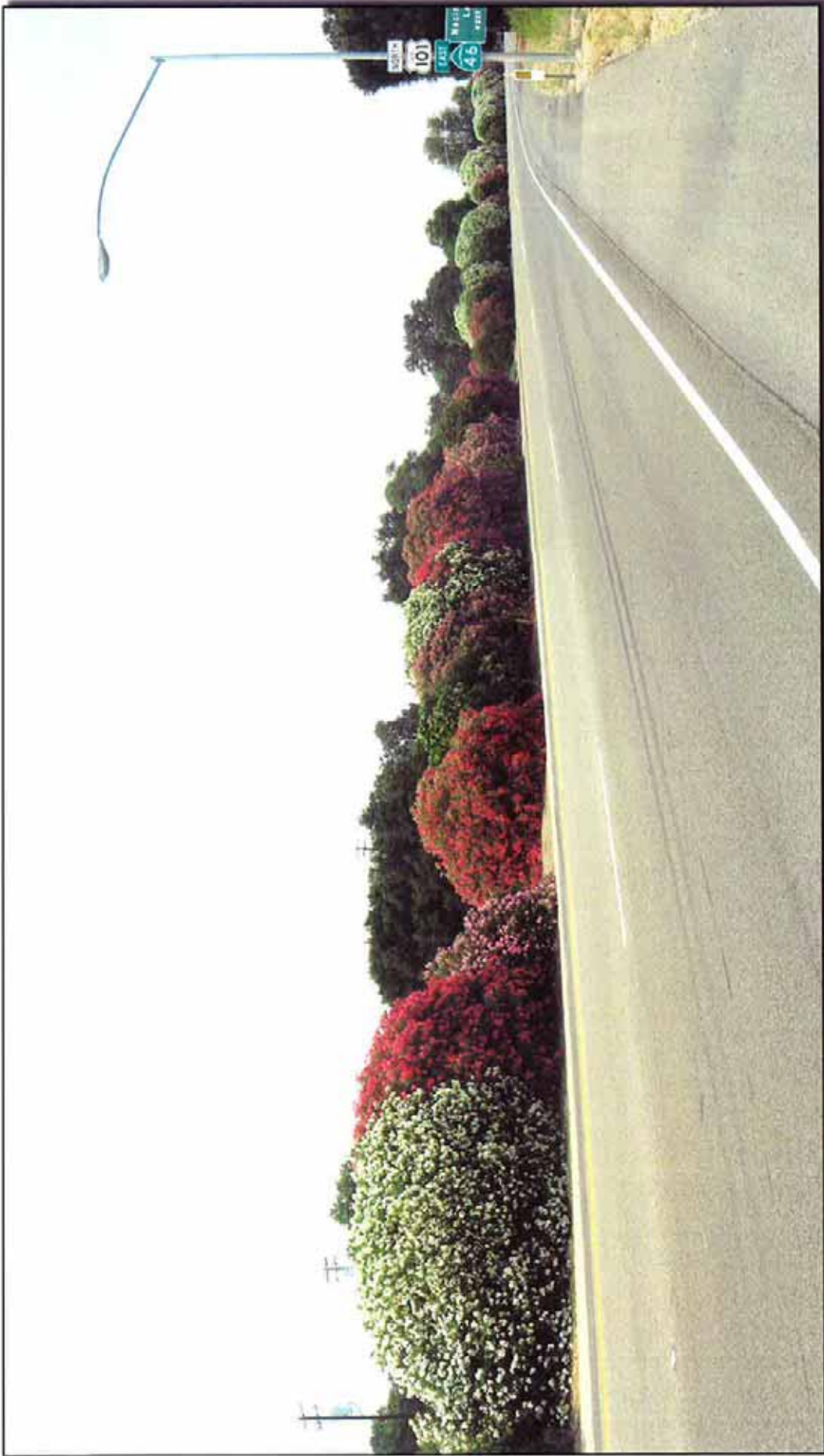
**SOUTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 5  
Figure 20**





**STONE CONCEPT**

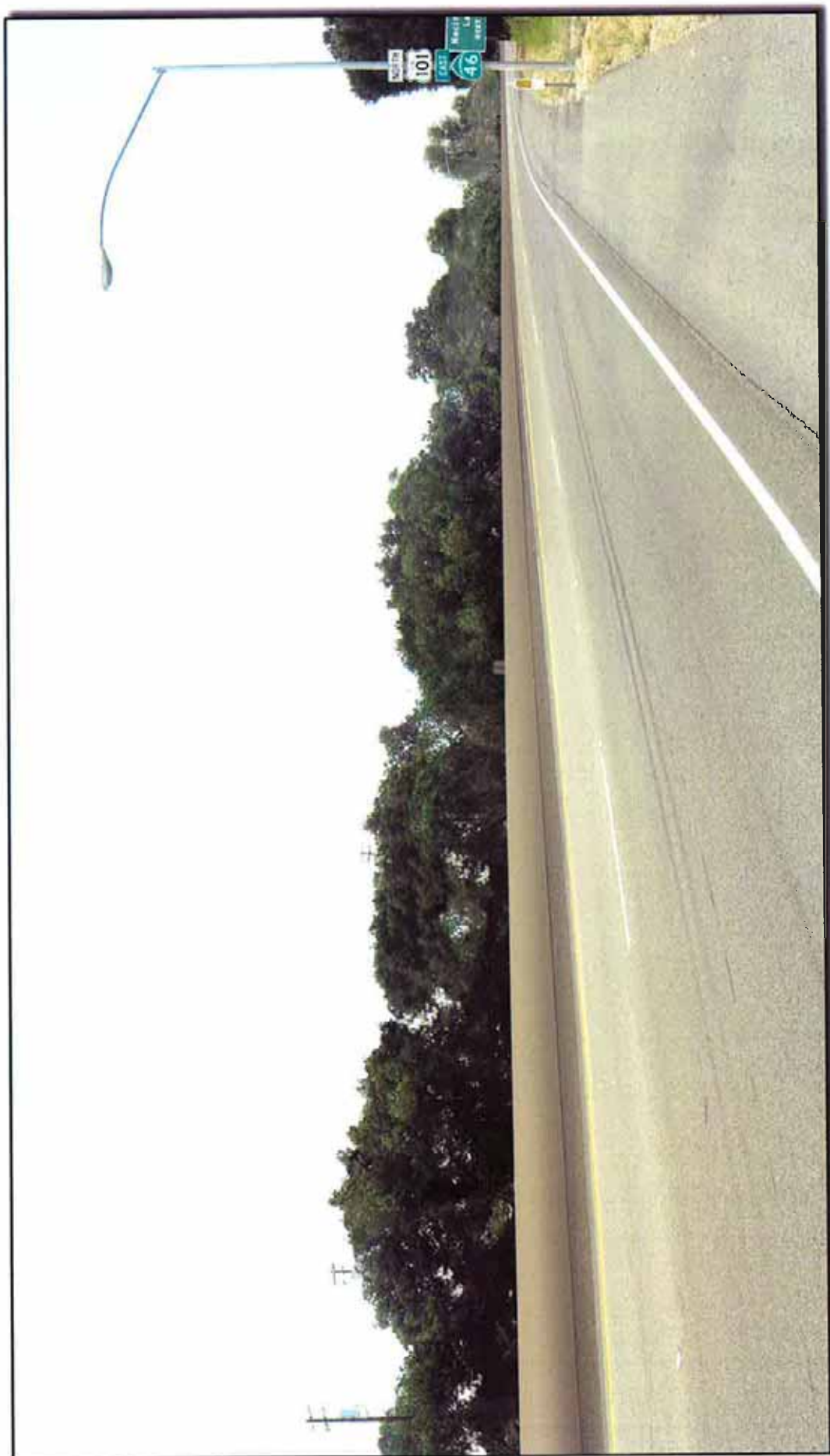
**SOUTHBOUND VIEW  
AT STRAIGHT SECTION NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 5  
Figure 21**



NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT THE INSIDE OF CURVE NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 6  
Figure 22

EXISTING VIEW



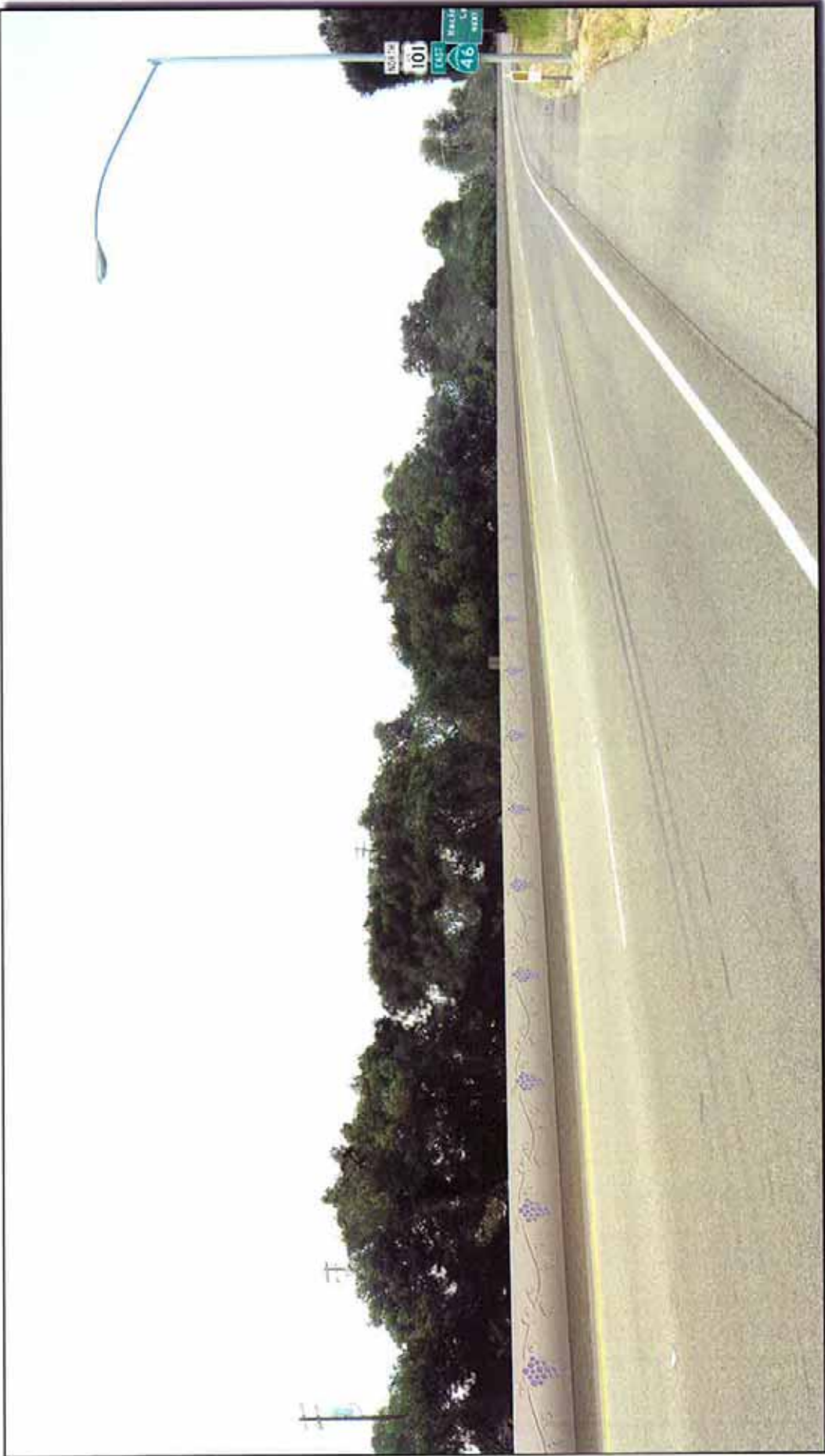


NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT THE INSIDE OF CURVE NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 6  
Figure 23

COLOR CONCEPT

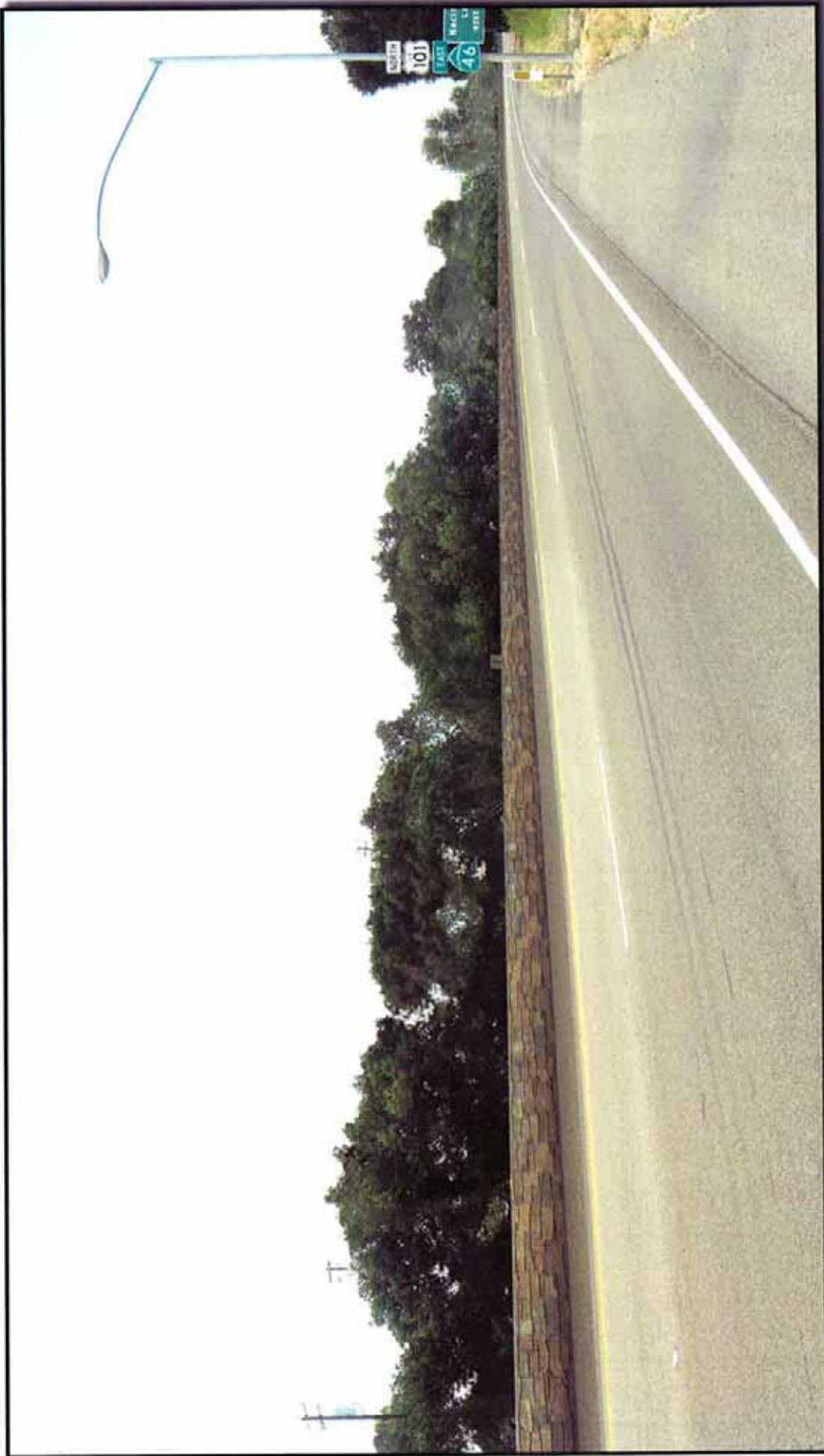






**NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT THE INSIDE OF CURVE NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 6**  
Figure 24

**GRAPEVINE CONCEPT**



STONE CONCEPT

NORTHBOUND VIEW  
AT THE INSIDE OF CURVE NORTH OF 13th STREET  
VIEWPOINT 6  
Figure 25