

TALAVERA

the tiles that compose the mosaic of San Miguel

INTRODUCTION

San Miguel is a growing rural community shaped by its agricultural heritage, cultural diversity, and historic identity. Despite these strengths, barriers such as limited pedestrian infrastructure, fragmented open spaces, environmental challenges, and a lack of community gathering spaces can restrict opportunities for residents to connect with one another and their environment. As the community continues to grow, there is an opportunity to improve quality of life through a landscape that supports health, safety, accessibility, and belonging. This proposal envisions a connected network of parks, streets, habitats, and public spaces that strengthen community health at multiple scales. Through complete streets, safer crossings, expanded tree canopy, habitat corridors, bioswales, native planting, community gathering spaces, and a revitalized downtown experience, the project creates opportunities for recreation, social interaction, environmental stewardship, and economic vitality. By connecting people, nature, and culture, the vision fosters a healthier, more resilient, and more connected future for San Miguel.

STAKEHOLDERS

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Definition
Resident well-being, social connectivity, environmental quality, & access to nature

Challenges
Budget
Park space policy
Maintenance

Opportunities
County-owned land
Distinct character
Potential for growth

Needs
Bridge intergenerational gap
Climate action
Cost efficiency

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Definition
Businesses should not only survive, but thrive; residents should have access to stable, local jobs, & basic services

Challenges
Gentrification
Affordability
Resources

Opportunities
East Mission Street
Local vendors & artisans
Adaptive reuse

Needs
Space for local vendors
Start-up support

RESIDENTS

Definition
Living in a safe, shaded, connected town where residents can comfortably live, commute, & spend time together

Challenges
Lack of sidewalk
Lighting

Opportunities
Cultural expression
Interactive experiences

Needs
More shaded elements
Bike path
Accessible green spaces

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Definition
Access to environments that support physical, mental, & social wellbeing, especially for children and seniors

Challenges
Road Safety
Senior accessibility

Opportunities
Vacant lots
Wide roads

Needs
Safe road crossing & side-walks
Green spaces
Recreational/Exercise areas

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

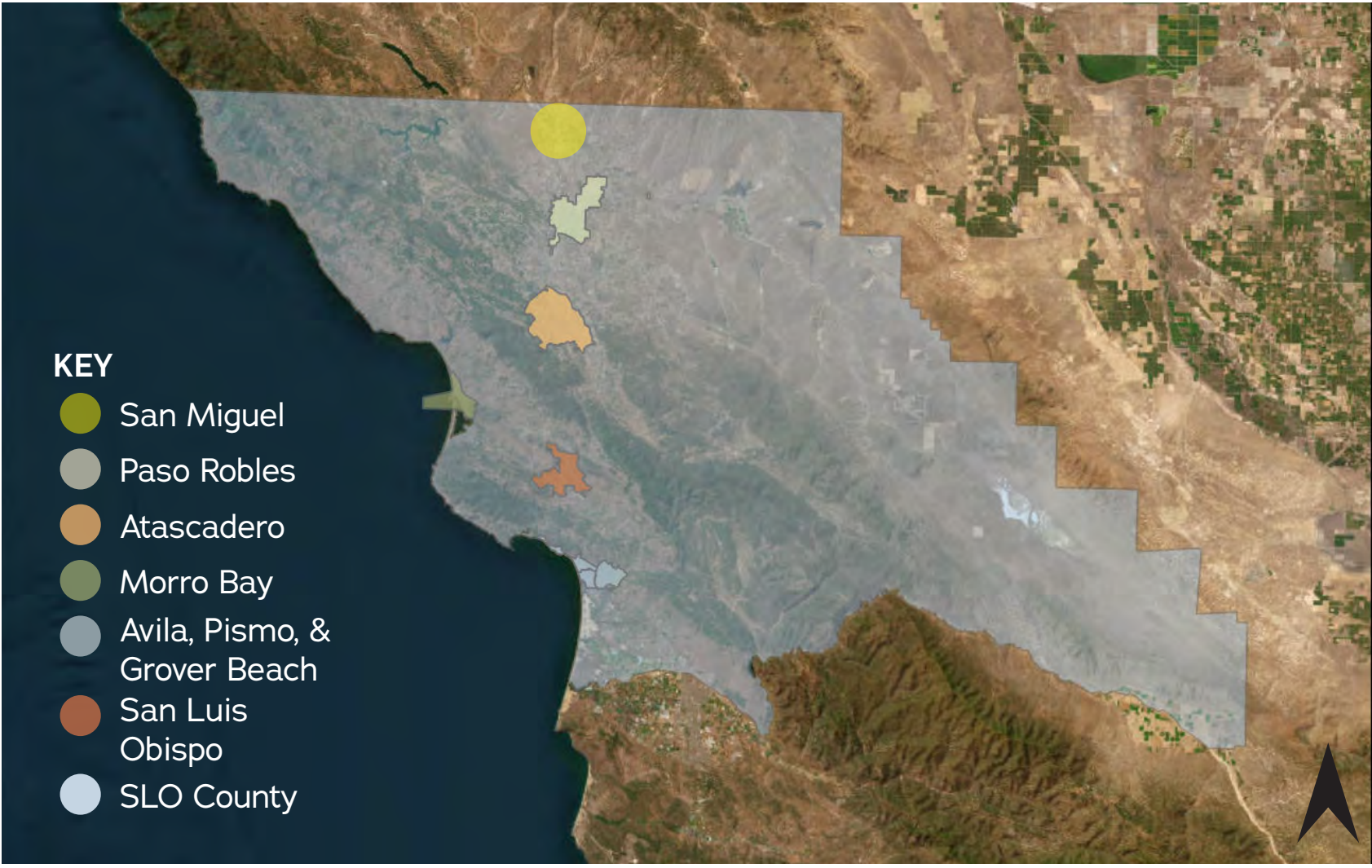
Definition
Habitat connectivity, quality of air, soil, & water, and biodiversity reflected in native plantings & canopy coverage

Challenges
Fragmentation
Heat Island

Opportunities
Empty/unused lots
Salinas River connection
Road Crossings

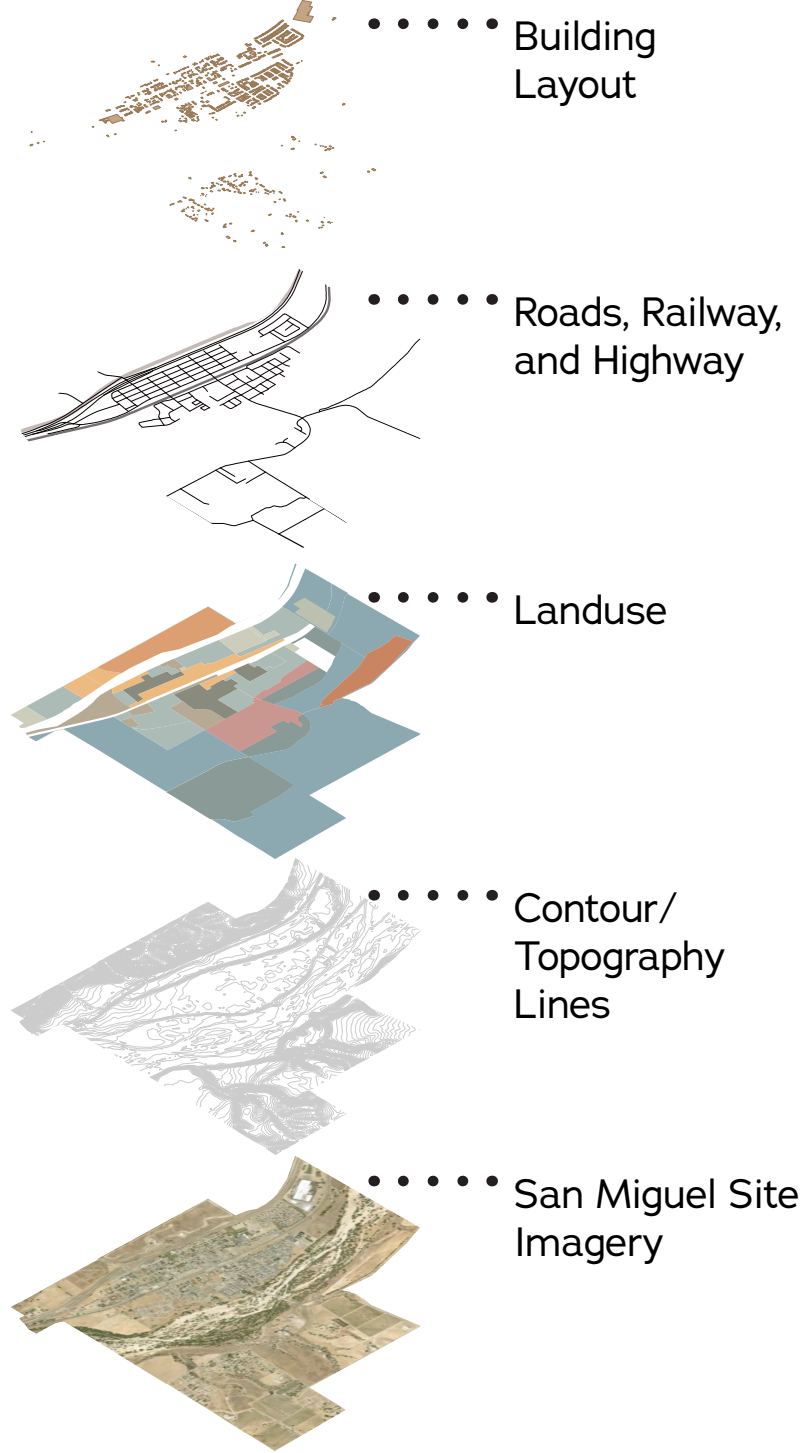
Needs
Connected habitats
Stormwater management

CONTEXT MAP



SITE INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

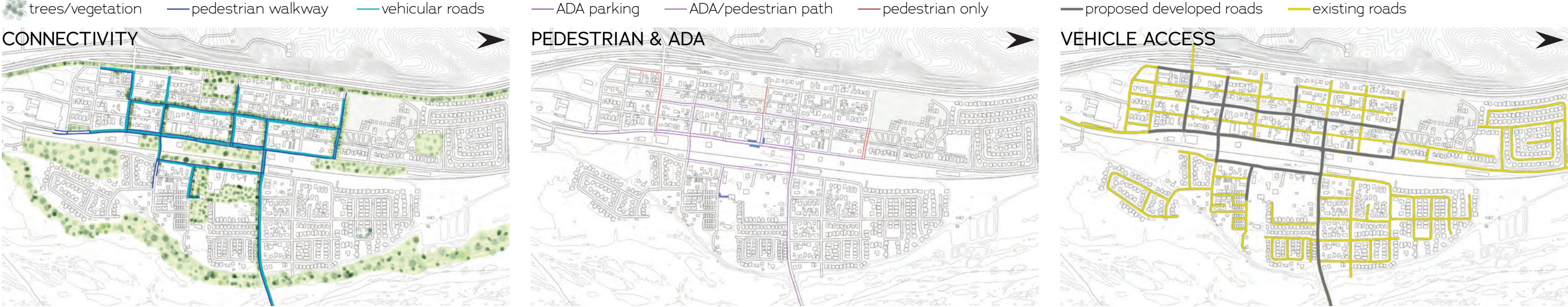
AXONOMETRIC



SITE IMAGES



ANALYSIS DIAGRAMS



NEGOTIATED MASTER PLAN



NEGOTIATION IMAGES



Our initial stakeholder groups of three spent two studio days presenting and negotiating our concepts to each other. Through this process, each of the stakeholder interventions, needs, and strategies were addressed in order to create three new collaborative concepts. At the end of the negotiation, one 'expert' from each stakeholder group joined one of the three concepts to form new groups of 5.

CLIENT PRESENTATION



16th Street

13th Street

L Street

Mission St. Marketplace

Mission St. Collective

Eco Park

San Miguel Train Tracks

San Miguel Senior Center

Salinas River

KEY

- Proposed Buildings
- Proposed Bike Lanes
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Proposed Complete Street

SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"

0' 50' 100' 200'

The image displays nine different types of outdoor signage for San Miguel, arranged in a grid-like fashion. Each sign is shown with its dimensions and a label.

- lamppost**: A tall, dark brown lamppost with two white globe lights. It features a green sign with a pink flower graphic and the text "Bienvenidos a SAN MIGUEL". Dimensions: 15'-0".
- directional**: A wooden post with five orange directional signs pointing right. The signs read: "Senior Center", "Salinas River", "Railroad EcoPark", "San Miguel Park", "Library", and "Community Center". Dimensions: 10'-0".
- safety**: A green sign with a white border, featuring a graphic of children playing and the text "SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY". It is mounted on a wooden post. Dimensions: 8'-0".
- welcome banner**: A long, horizontal banner with a decorative floral border. The text reads "WELCOME TO - BIENVENIDOS A SAN MIGUEL". Dimensions: 35'-0".
- welcome**: A wooden signpost with three blue signs. The top sign reads "San Miguel", the middle sign reads "Senior Center", and the bottom sign reads "Open Monday-Sunday 10am-4pm". Dimensions: 6'-0".
- entry**: A wooden signpost with three blue signs. The top sign reads "San Miguel", the middle sign reads "Senior Center", and the bottom sign reads "Open Monday-Sunday 10am-4pm". Dimensions: 6'-0".
- informational**: A wooden signpost with a white sign featuring a photograph of a river and the text "Kingsville". Dimensions: 5'-0".
- community**: A green sign with a white border, featuring a graphic of vegetables and the text "SAN MIGUEL FARMERS MARKET". It is mounted on a wooden post. Dimensions: 3'-0".

Community health in the town of San Miguel can be defined as an overall system of **connectivity & well-being** through spaces that are accessible, safe, social, and comfortable for all community members, no matter their age, cultural background, identity, or mobility level. Promoting physical and mental health through outdoor spaces that provide pedestrian **safety, night lighting, and shade**, as well as access to **nature, essential services, and local businesses** are all ways to contribute to the health of the community.

In order to create a **healthy** and **resilient** future for the town of San Miguel, its framework should be built up from an existing foundation of cultural and community **pride**. Creating a network of connected outdoor spaces built upon this foundation is a way to preserve the town's **identity** while providing access to more essential services, natural and shaded areas, walkable streets, and local connection.

GOALS	Make San Miguel more accessible for pedestrians and bikers	Revitalize Mission Street to support locals and visitors	Address environmental concerns and preserve essential habitat	Create systems that support community sustainability and long term development	Connect all residential stakeholders
OBJECTIVES	Implement complete streets in high traffic areas Create safer railroad crossings in residential areas Implement pedestrian buffers and signage on L. Street for students walking to school Add night lighting on major streets and connected areas	Slow vehicle traffic and provide business parking Enhance pedestrian experience with shade and pathways Create a strong sense of place for downtown through art, murals, planting, and architecture Create opportunity for local businesses & essential services to thrive Create greenspace and multi-use outdoor areas Create space for vendors and events	Implement habitat corridors Expand greenspace Manage stormwater, using it to recharge groundwater Increase canopy coverage to reduce urban heat island effect	Propose policies that support the longevity of rural towns Zone for local businesses and support community growth Implement solar panels to commercial areas to increase energy efficiency	Support the health and safety of youth and senior residents with spaces that encourage socialization and physical movement Create greenspace connection through residential areas Implement a space for community events and dancing Propose a community garden for hands-on learning

street trees

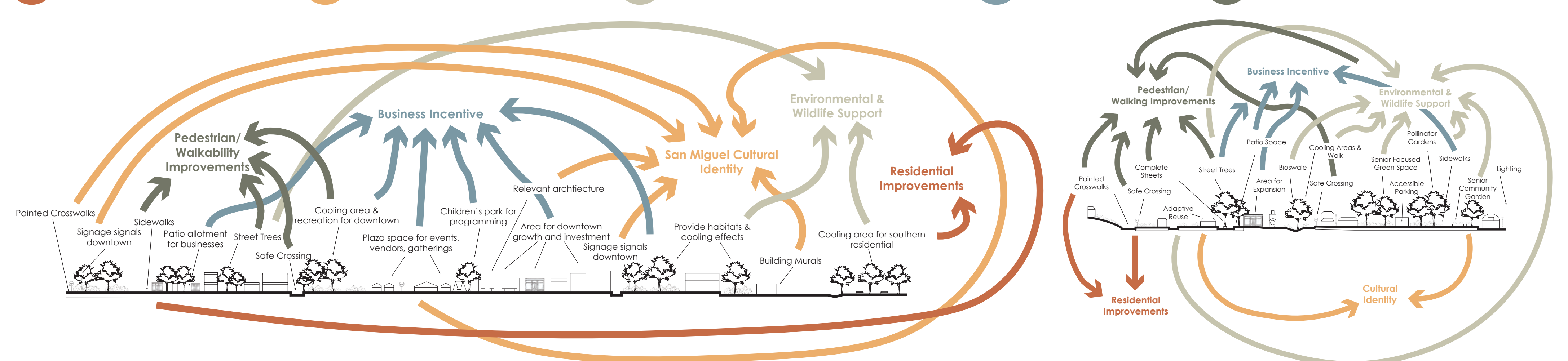
complete streets

adaptive reuse

phasing/zoning

colored crosswalks

RESIDENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS SAN MIGUEL CULTURAL IDENTITY ENVIRONMENTAL & WILDLIFE SUPPORT BUSINESS INCENTIVE PEDESTRIAN / WALKING IMPROVEMENTS



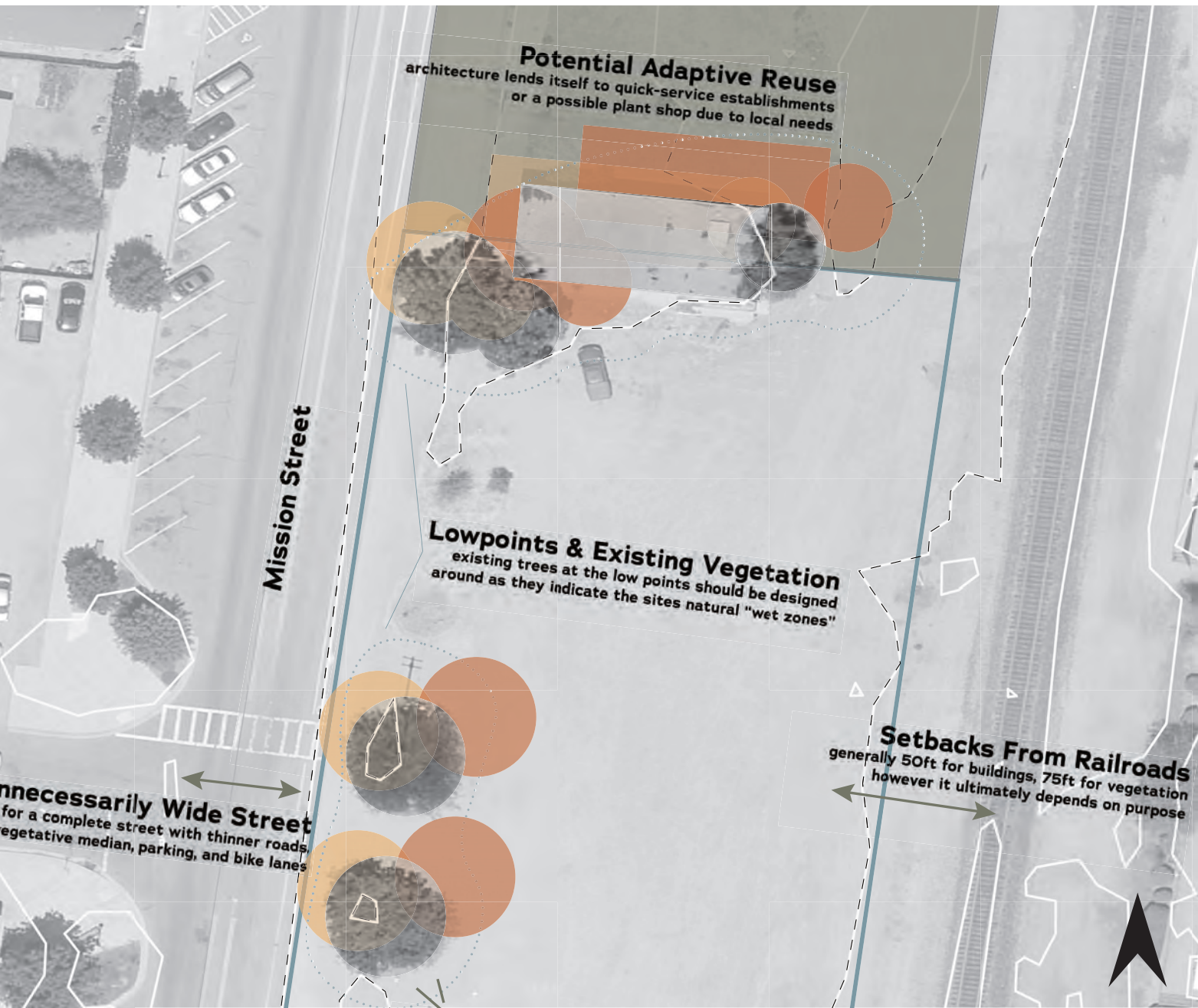
MISSION STREET MARKET

AIDEN ARGUE

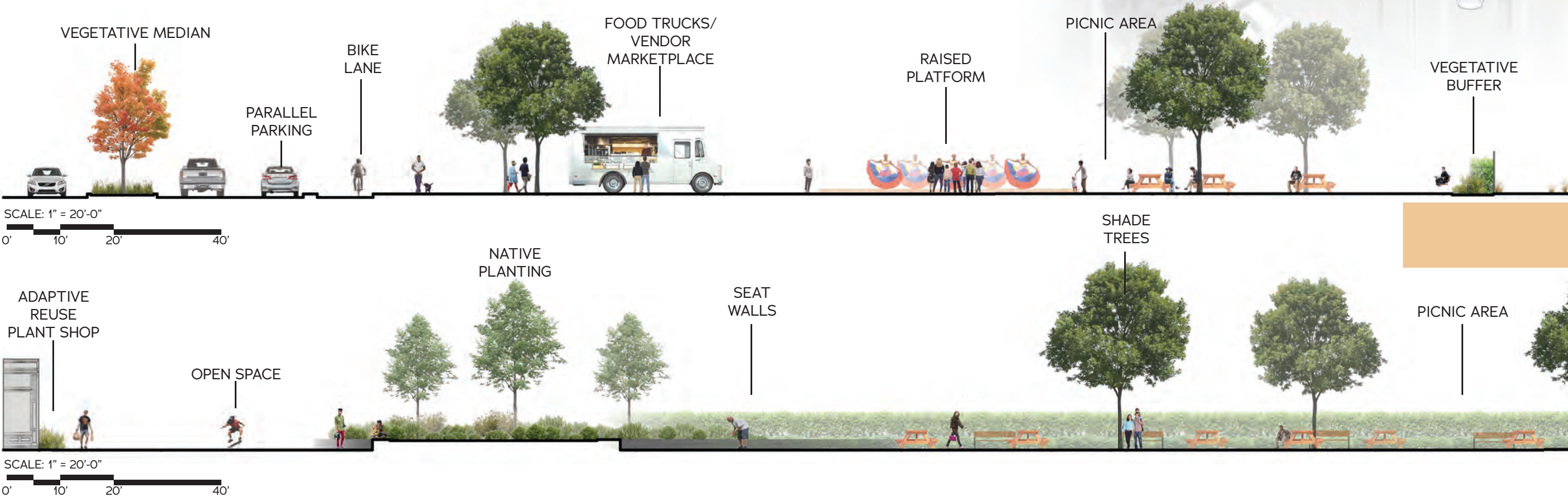
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mission Street Marketplace transforms a vacant, unshaded, and underutilized site adjacent to the railroad into the heart of downtown San Miguel and a central gathering place for the community. The plaza provides flexible spaces for daily recreation and community events, including a children's play area, a performance stage, and an open plaza that can accommodate artisan and farmers markets, food trucks, and seasonal celebrations. Addressing the site's lack of shade and pedestrian accessibility, the design introduces a complete street along Mission Street with expanded sidewalks, bike lanes, shade trees, enhanced parking, a vegetated median, and narrowed car lanes.

SITE ANALYSIS



CROSS SECTION



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



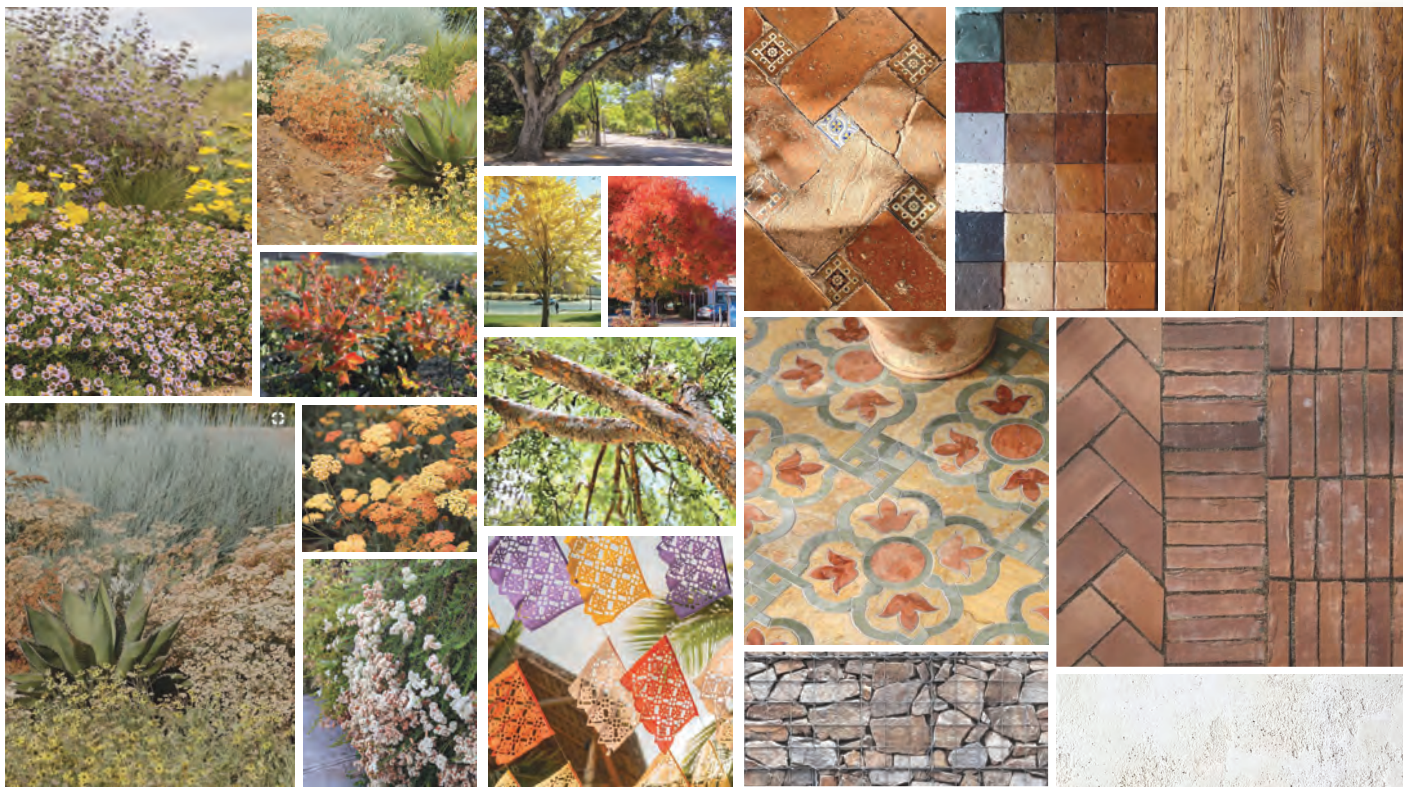
VENDOR AND EVENT SPACE



MISSION STREET COLLECTIVE

ADAH SMALL
BUSINESS + INDUSTRY
REPRESENTATIVE

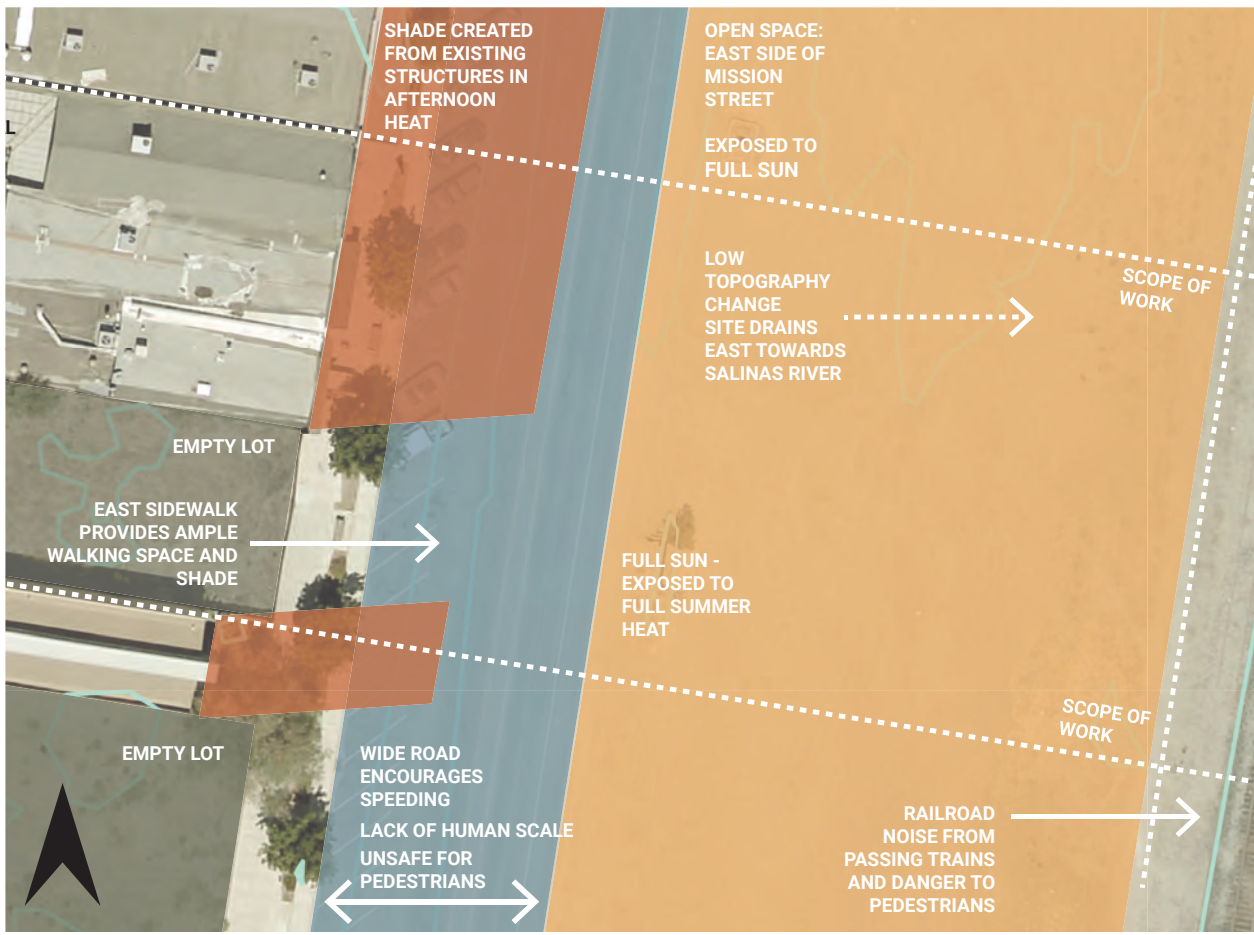
Adjacent to the Mission Street Marketplace, Mission Street Collective builds upon the revitalization of downtown San Miguel by transforming underutilized railroad land, vacant lots, and empty buildings into essential services and local businesses startups that reflect the town's unique character and community identity. Through the creation of shaded outdoor gathering spaces and adaptive-reuse opportunities, the Collective strengthens the relationship between downtown businesses, residents, and visitors. Together with the Marketplace, the Collective contributes to an enlivened, walkable downtown that serves as the center of the community in San Miguel.



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



SITE ANALYSIS



CROSS SECTION



POCKET PLAZA



SENIOR CENTER GARDEN

SOLENE THELLIEZ
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
REPRESENTATIVE

The San Miguel Senior Center Garden transforms a vacant lot adjacent to the existing Senior Center into a dedicated outdoor space that supports the health, well-being, and social connection of the town’s senior residents. As part of a larger network of parks and open spaces connecting a residential park and the railroad Ecopark, the garden provides a more private space specific to the needs of the seniors of San Miguel. Accessible walking loops and bocce courts encourage mobility and outdoor activity, while the community garden, orchard, and shaded seating areas create opportunities for recreation, food production, and social engagement.

SITE ANALYSIS



GOLDEN GROVE



CROSS SECTION



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



ECO PARK

TALAR YERGANIAN

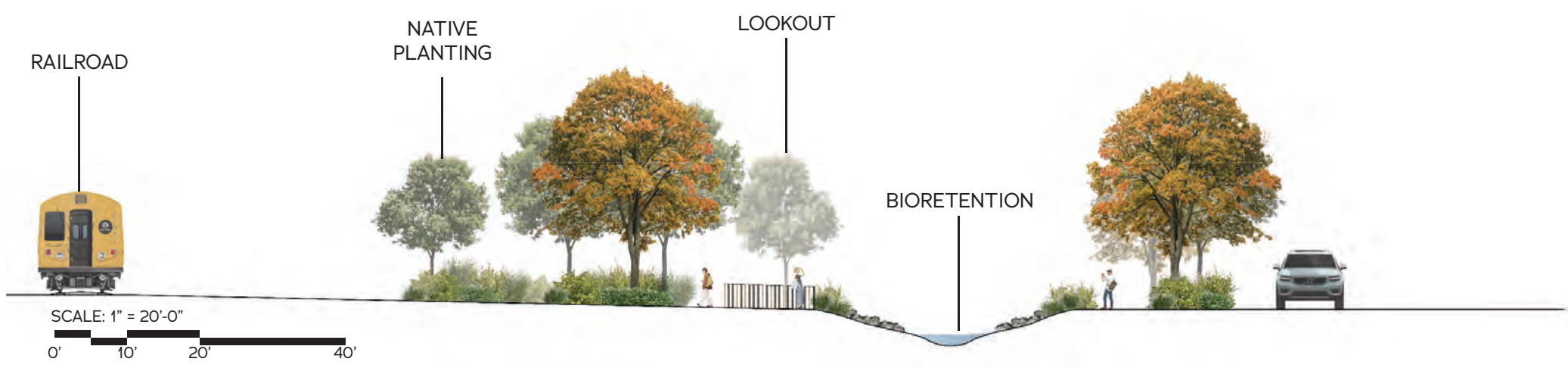
ENVIRONMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE

The Ecopark transforms underutilized land along the railroad into a multifunctional space that addresses San Miguel's stormwater management needs while expanding the community's access to green spaces and recreation. Through the integration of a bioswale and native planting areas, the Ecopark improves stormwater filtration and reduces runoff into the nearby Salinas River. Educational signage and walking paths provide opportunities for residents to engage with local environmental systems, creating a space that supports learning, recreation, and environmental stewardship.

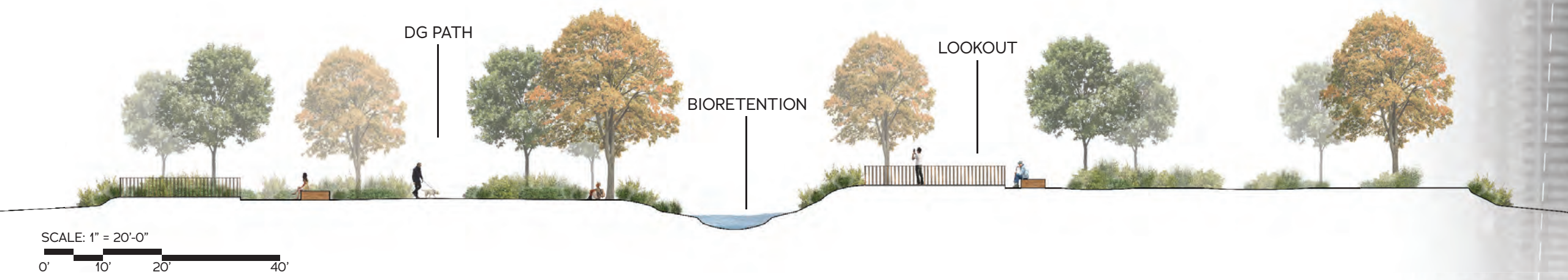
SITE ANALYSIS



CROSS SECTION



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



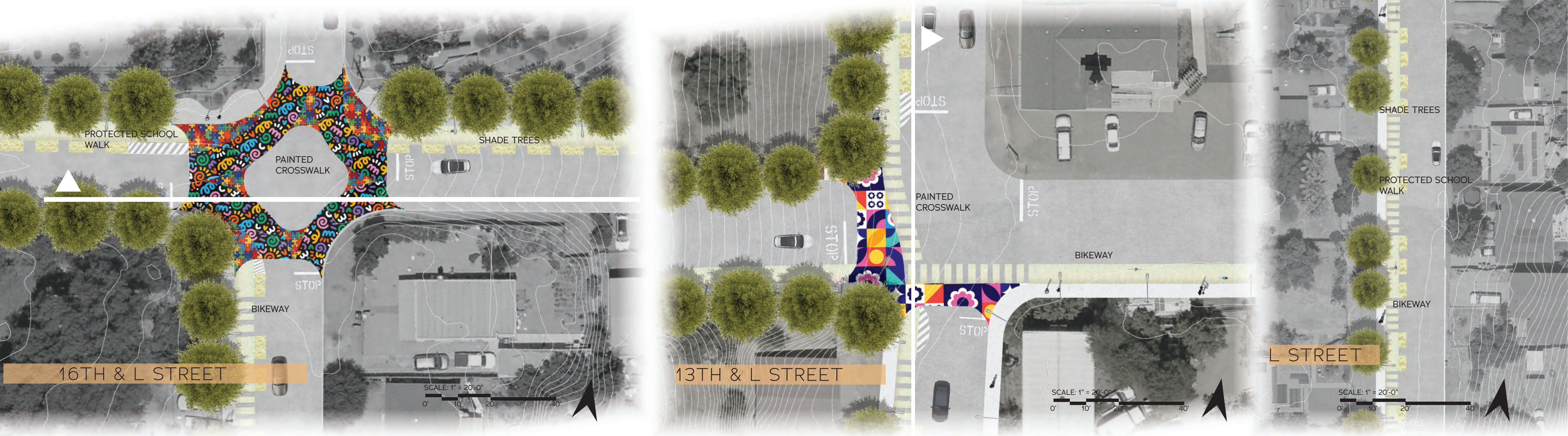
BIOSWALE LOOKOUT



INTERSECTIONS

WENCESLAO CAMPOS
RESIDENTS REPRESENTATIVE

The L Street redesign transforms the primary route used by children walking and biking to Lillian Larsen Elementary School and San Miguel Park into a safer and more accessible streetscape. Where there used to be a wide, unshaded street with fast traffic, no sidewalks, and no crosswalks, the design implements narrowed traffic lanes to calm traffic, sidewalks, bike lanes, vegetated buffers, and shade trees to enhance safety and pedestrian comfort. The design also includes the use of painted crosswalks to enhance road safety for pedestrians and provide an opportunity for community engagement and participation in the painting of the crosswalks.



SECTION ALONG L STREET



SECTION THROUGH L STREET



SITE ANALYSIS



13TH STREET CROSSWALK

