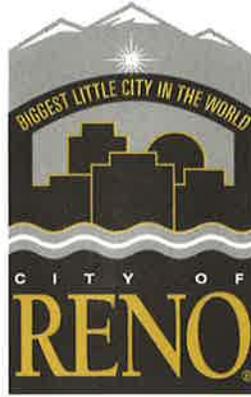


Andrew K. Clinger
City Manager



October 19, 2015

Paul J. Jackson, Environmental Scientist
TTL Associates, Inc.
44265 Plymouth Oaks Boulevard
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

RE: NEPA Scoping Letter
Department of Veterans Affairs
Campus Renovation and Modernization
VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System
975 Kirman Avenue
Reno, Nevada

Dear Mr. Jackson:

The City of Reno has reviewed the NEPA Scoping Letter dated September 24, 2015. Your letter indicates that the construction of a new parking structure east of the boiler plant is included in this NEPA effort but the potential reduction of travel lanes in Kirman Avenue and improvements to pedestrian safety is not. City of Reno staff concurs that the cumulative effects of all the planned campus projects must be assessed in this EA and will therefore comment on those aspects.

The City of Reno has the following comments:

1. The VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare facility is currently reporting that there are issues with the pedestrian crossing at Kirman Avenue between the west and east portions of the campus. Any additions to the east side of the campus should address the current situation.
2. The City requests that a pedestrian walkway over the street be considered as an alternative to at-grade pedestrian crossing at Kirman Avenue.
3. City staff is not opposed to the reduction of Kirman Avenue from two lanes to one lane, however, Reno City Council approval will be required.
4. Reno will review all plans for modifications to Kirman Avenue at the 30%, 60%, 90% and 100% design levels. Plans should include striping and signage, including modifications to surrounding street sections, civil plans for all improvements, bicycle and pedestrian plans, lighting, bus stops, existing and planned utilities.

5. Presentations to the Ward 3 Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) and Reno City Council will be required in the preliminary and final stages of plan development.
6. The VA must assume maintenance responsibility for any non-standard treatments, pavements, sidewalks, fencing, pedestrian signals, or other appurtenances required for this project that will be located in the City of Reno right-of-way. If necessary, an agreement would be brought for City Council approval at such time that the improvements are finalized and approved.

The City of Reno appreciates the opportunity to participate in this environmental assessment and will continue to work with the VA Sierra Nevada to develop the best solution for the veterans served by the facility and the adjacent neighborhood.

Sincerely,



Andrew Clinger
City Manager

Attachments: NEPA Scoping Letter dated September 24, 2015

cc. Bill Thomas, Assistant City Manager
John Flansberg, Director, Public Works
Charla Honey, Engineering Manager
Steve Bunnell, Traffic Engineer
Claudia Hanson, Planning Manager



RECEIVED

SEP 28 2015

CITY OF RENO
Public Works Department

44265 Plymouth Oaks Blvd.
Plymouth, MI 48170
T 734-455-8600
F 734-455-8608
www.ttlassoc.com

Reno Department of Public Works
Ms. Charla Honey
1 East First Street
P.O. Box 1900
Reno, Nevada 89505

September 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (NEPA Scoping Letter) for the Department of Veterans Affairs Campus Renovation and Modernization VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System 975 Kirman Avenue Reno, Nevada

Dear Ms. Honey:

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in order to meet the current and growing needs of area Veterans, is preparing environmental documentation to assist in the Federal decision-making process concerning several renovation and modernization projects at the VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System (VASNHCS) campus in Reno. Existing VASNHCS campus facilities, mostly constructed between the late 1930s and early 1980s, are antiquated and inadequately sized to provide the modern delivery of healthcare services needed by current Reno area Veterans. These deficiencies are projected to grow in the future as the patient workload for the VASNHCS continues to increase. In addition, the VASNHCS campus does not meet all modern Federal setback and security requirements; the proposed projects will renovate and modernize VASNHCS facilities to meet these requirements. The location of the VASNHCS campus in Reno is shown on **Attachments 1a – 1d.**

VASNHCS is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic issues associated with the Proposed Action pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code (USC) §4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26 (*Environmental Analysis of VA Actions*)). TTL Associates, Inc. is assisting VASNHCS in conducting this NEPA process.

VASNHCS is planning the following projects (Proposed Action) as part of the renovation and modernization of the VASNHCS campus in Reno:

Construction Projects:

- Provide 24 Single Patient Rooms for New Community Living Center (CLC) Pod 1
 - Construction of a new 2-story structure (approximately 20,000 SF) at the southeast corner of Locust Street and Taylor Street (24 private patient/resident rooms for long term care)
- Demolish Existing East Campus Buildings Minus Boiler Plant
 - Demolition of small underutilized support buildings east of Kirman Avenue (excludes the boiler plant)
 - Provides space for master planned expansions
- Relocate Modular Buildings 138 and F
 - Relocation of Buildings 138 (3,600 SF) and F (2,800 SF) for improved adjacencies

Teamwork - Trust - Leadership Since 1927

- Construct New Parking Structure
 - New 3-level parking garage located east of boiler plant
 - Needed to help address current and projected Reno VASNHCS parking deficiency (580 parking spaces)
 - Approximately 320 new parking spaces provided
- Provide Required Redundant Electrical Power, North Campus
 - Backup generator to support the CLC and Specialty Clinic
 - Located adjacent to Blockhouse 10

Renovation Projects:

- Renovate Building B3 space adjacent to new Intensive Care Unit (all interior)
- Renovate and Right-Size Operating Rooms
 - Renovate existing space to construct Operating Rooms that meet current VA criteria (all interior)
- Renovate and Expand Operating Rooms
 - Renovate existing space to construct Operating Room support spaces
 - Small building addition into courtyard area (north) of current Operating Rooms
- Expand/Renovate Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
 - Renovation of existing MRI Wing area
 - Small building addition for second MRI area
- Renovate Sterile Processing Service area (all interior)
- Renovate Current Primary Care Space

Information Request: *Information your agency can provide on any of the following environmental issue areas (at or in the vicinity of the project) would be appreciated. Examples of such information include, but are not limited to:*

- Potential environmental concerns or issues;
- Surface and groundwater resources, including streams, wetlands, floodplains, open water features, wells, and local aquifers;
- Federally or state listed threatened or endangered species, or any species proposed for such listing, or critical habitat for such species that may occur within a one-mile radius around the proposed Site;
- Parks, nature preserves, conservation areas, designated wild or scenic rivers, migratory bird habitats, or special wildlife issues;
- Natural resource issues;
- Soils and geologic data, including lists of hydric soils;
- Prime and unique farmland (*National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) only*);
- Traffic, noise, or socioeconomic concerns;
- Air quality concerns; and
- Additional environmental, cultural, land use, or socioeconomic information or concerns your agency may have with regard to the referenced properties.

Data that you make available will be used to scope the NEPA analysis and will provide valuable and necessary input into the Environmental Assessment process. As part of the NEPA process, local citizens, groups, and agencies, among others, will have opportunity to review and comment on the information and alternatives addressed in the EA.

In addition to the proposed campus renovation and modernization projects identified above, VASNHCS is planning the partial demolition of Building 1 and the construction of an approximately 160,000 square foot, 5-story addition to the east of Building 1 to provide expanded outpatient services; the acquisition of up to 11 residential parcels adjacent to the north and east of the campus for surface parking; and the reduction of Kirman Avenue to one lane between the eastern and western portions of the campus to improve the safety of patients and staff crossing from parking facilities east of Kirman Avenue with medical center buildings west of Kirman Avenue. These additional VASNHCS projects are currently being assessed as separate proposed actions in separate EAs and are not directly included in this NEPA effort. However, the cumulative effects of these other planned campus projects will be assessed in this EA.

Other Agencies and Organizations: A listing of agencies and organizations to which this request was sent is provided in **Attachment 2**. *Should you know of any additional agencies or organizations that may have data or concerns relevant to this project, please forward them a copy of this letter, include their information in your response, or contact us directly with this information.*

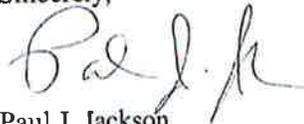
We look forward to and welcome your participation in this process. **Please respond on or before October 23, 2015** to enable us to complete this scoping phase of the project within the scheduled timeframe.

Please send your written responses via regular or e-mail (preferred) to:

TTL Associates, Inc.
44265 Plymouth Oaks Boulevard
Plymouth, Michigan 48170
ATTN: Paul J. Jackson, Environmental Scientist
pjackson@tlassoc.com

If you have any questions concerning this request, please direct them to Mr. Jackson at (734) 582-4960.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Jackson
Environmental Scientist
TTL Associates, Inc.

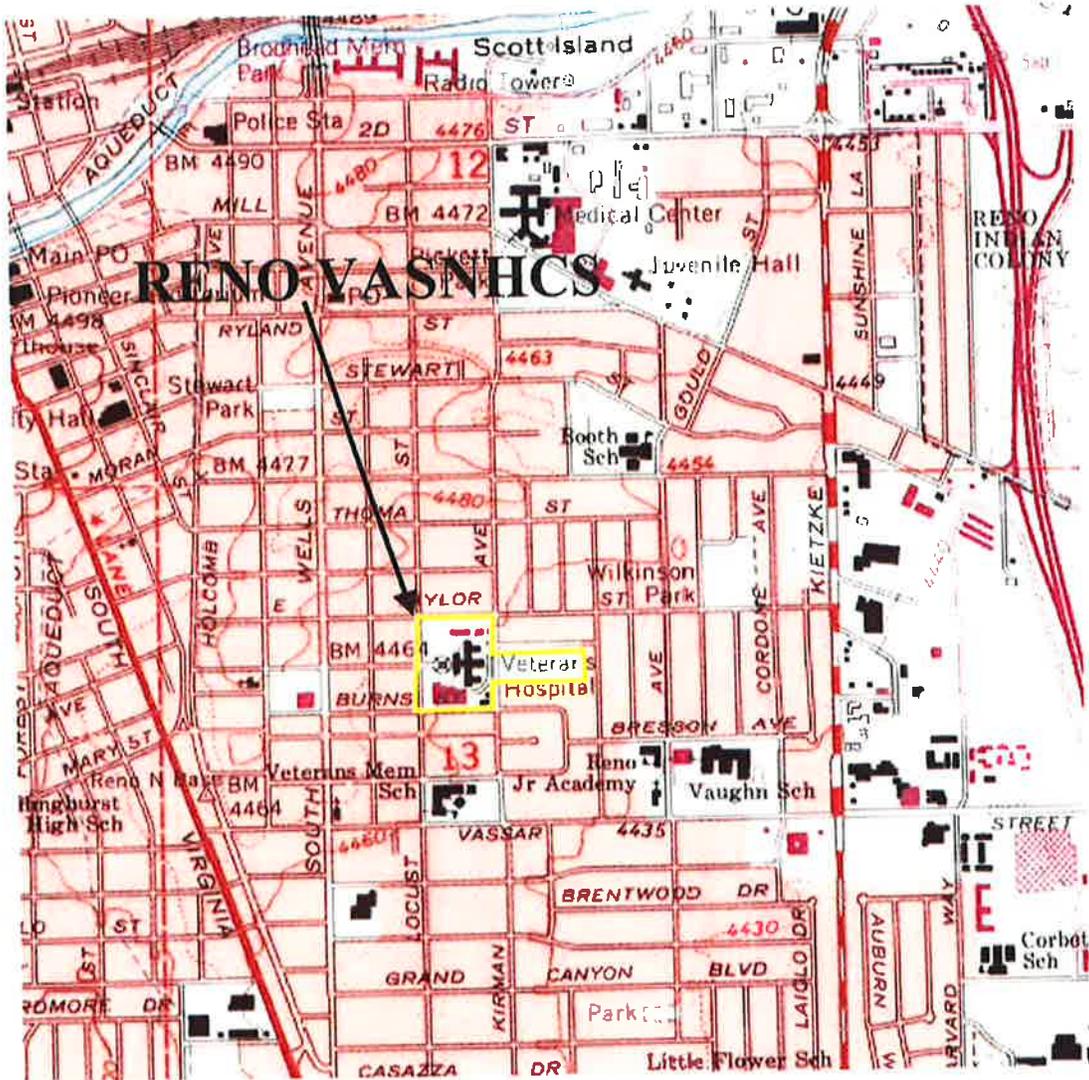
Attachment 1a: Property Locations Map (1967 Topographic Map)
Attachment 1b: Property Locations Map (Street Map)
Attachment 1c: Property Locations Map (2014 Aerial Map)
Attachment 1d: Reno VASNHCS Campus Map
Attachment 2: List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted



**ATTACHMENTS 1A THROUGH 1D
RENO VASNHCS LOCATION MAPS**

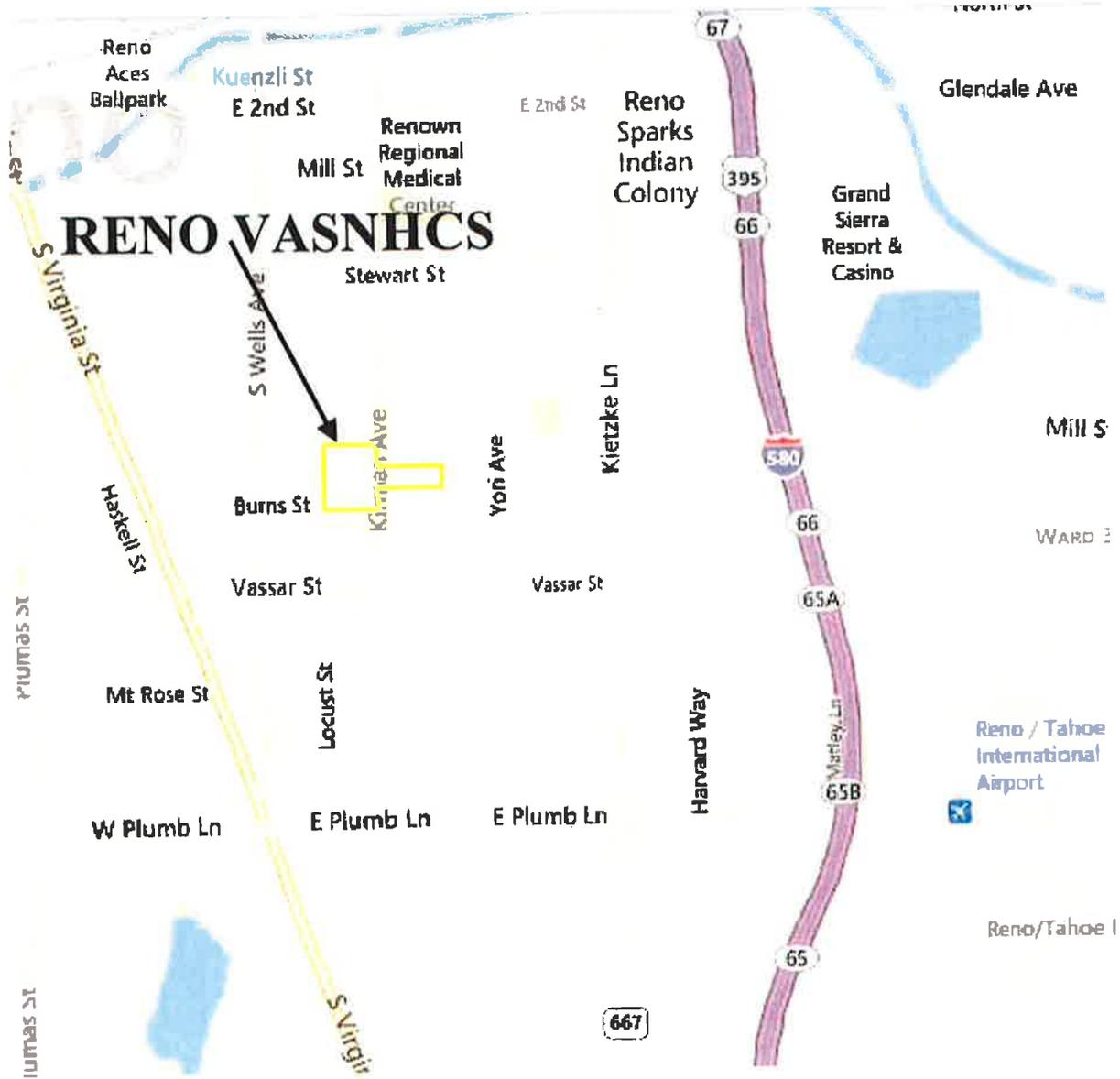
ATTACHMENT 1A

**RENO VASNHCS LOCATION MAP (1967 TOPOGRAPHIC MAP)
975 Kirman Avenue, Reno, Nevada**



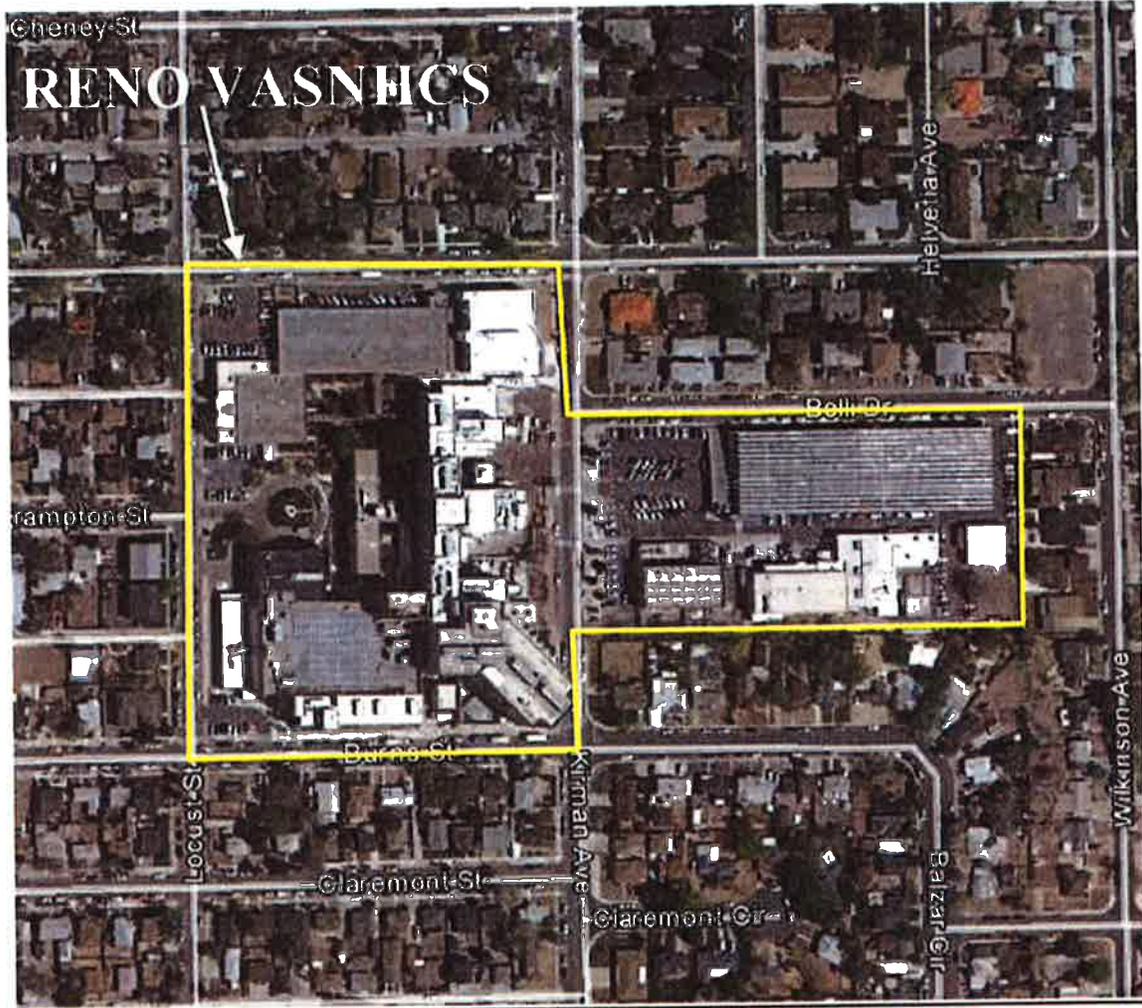
ATTACHMENT 1B

RENO VASNHCs LOCATION MAP (STREET MAP)
975 Kirman Avenue, Reno, Nevada



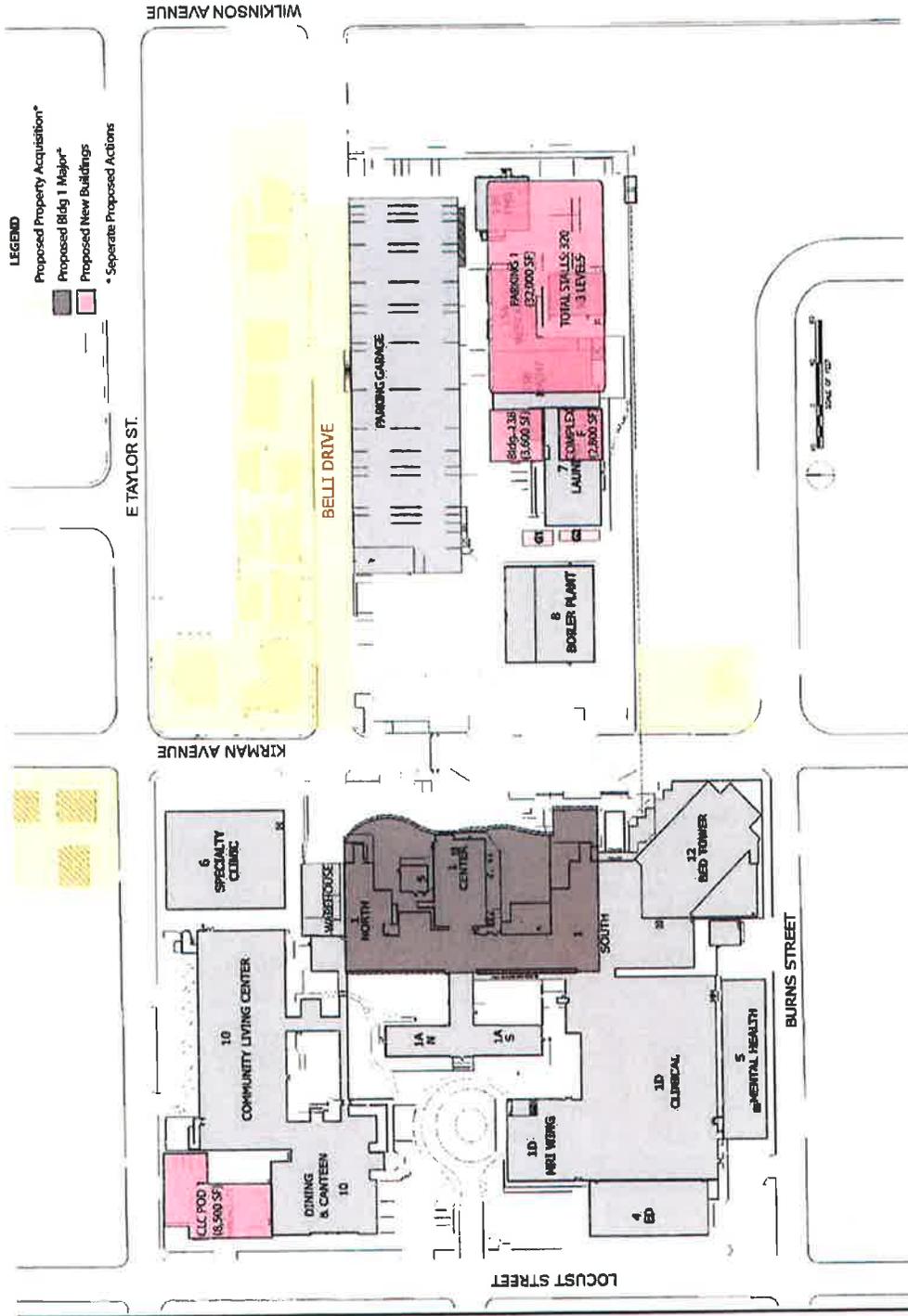
ATTACHMENT 1C

**RENO VASNHCS LOCATION MAP (2014 AERIAL MAP)
975 Kirman Avenue, Reno, Nevada**



ATTACHMENT 1D

RENO VASNHCS CAMPUS MAP 975 Kirman Avenue, Reno, Nevada



Attachment 2
List of Agencies and Organizations Contacted
Department of Veterans Affairs
NEPA Environmental Assessment
Campus Renovation and Modernization
VA Sierra Nevada Healthcare System
975 Kirman Avenue, Reno, Nevada

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office
1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147
Phone: (775) 861-6300

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105
Phone: (415) 947-8702

US Army Corps of Engineers – Sacramento District
Public Affairs Office
1325 J Street - Room 1513
Sacramento, California 95814
Phone: (916) 557-5100

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Corrective Actions
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: (775) 687-9374

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Management
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: (775) 687-9461

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: (775) 687-9518

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Pollution Control
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City Nevada 89701-5249
Phone: (775) 687-9418

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Conservation Districts Program
901 South Stewart Street, Suite. 1003
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: (775) 684-2700

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: (775) 684-2500

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Natural Heritage Program
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5002
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5245
Phone: (775) 684-2900

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5004
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4285
Phone: (775) 684-3448

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Division of Water Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 2002
Carson City, Nevada 89701
Phone: (775) 684-2800

Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
Phone: (775) 688-1500

Nevada Department of Transportation
1263 South Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89712
Phone: (775) 888-7000

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Nevada State Office
1365 Corporate Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89502-7102
Phone: (203) 287-8038

Washoe County Air Quality Management Division
1001 E. 9th Street, Building B, Suite 171
Reno, Nevada 89512
Phone: (775) 784-7200

Reno Economic Community Development Department
Ms. Claudia C. Hanson, AICP
Planning & Engineering Manager
1 East First Street
Reno, Nevada 89501
Phone: (775) 334-2381

Reno Economic Development and Redevelopment Department
1 East First Street
Reno, Nevada 89501
Phone: (203) 937-3590

Reno Department of Public Works
Ms. Charla Honey
Public Works Engineering Manager
1 East First Street
P.O. Box 1900
Reno, Nevada 89505
Phone: (775) 334-2350

Reno Department of Public Works
Mr. Steve Bunnell
Public Works Traffic Engineer
1 East First Street
P.O. Box 1900
Reno, Nevada 89505
Phone: (775) 334-2350

Reno Regional Transportation Commission
Mr. David Jickling
Director of Public Transportation and Operations
P.O. Box 30002
Reno, Nevada 89520
Phone: (775) 348-0400