

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE
SECRETS UNSEALED CHURCH PROJECT**

Date: February 13, 2026

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Other Interested Agencies and Tribes, and Members of the Public

From: County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Public Scoping Meeting for the Secrets Unsealed Church Project

The County of Fresno (County), as the Lead Agency, is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to assess the potential impacts of the project described below on the environment, pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and is hosting a public scoping meeting.

The purpose of this notice and the scoping meeting is to solicit input on potential environmental issues and project alternatives to be evaluated in the EIR, not the merits of the project itself or the project design. Responsible agencies may need to use the EIR when considering permits or other approvals for the project, and trustee agencies should plan to review and comment on the EIR with respect to trust resources within their jurisdiction.

WRITTEN COMMENTS: Written input should be emailed, submitted or postmarked to the address below within 30 days of receiving this Notice, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15082(b), and thus should be received no later than **March 16, 2026, 5:00 PM**. Please 1) reference EIR No. 8736, Secrets Unsealed Church, and 2) include your name, address, and phone number and/or email address (typed or written legibly) so we may contact you for clarification, if necessary.

Attn: Alyce Alvarez, Planner
Project: EIR No. 8736, Secrets Unsealed Church Project
County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor
Fresno, California 93721
Email: alyalvarez@fresnocountyca.gov

SCOPING MEETING: Pursuant to the public participation goals of CEQA, as set forth in particular in Public Resources Code section 21083.9, subdivision (a), the County will host an EIR Scoping Meeting at the date, time and location indicated below to share information about the project and gather additional input on the scope of the EIR analysis. The meeting will be virtual.

Date: February 24, 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m – 11:30 a.m

If joining from a computer, please use this Microsoft Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/23405579593488?p=Iz2pyXnSs8jqUnBv45>

Meeting ID: 234 055 795 934 88

If joining by phone, call: +1 559-494-4226,,95630791#

Phone conference ID: 956 307 91#

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

Secrets Unsealed Ministry (SUM) proposes to develop a church facility on a 47.8-acre portion of its 445.37-acre property located in unincorporated Fresno County. The property is located southeast of the intersection of Tollhouse Road and Lodge Road, approximately 35 miles northeast of the City of Fresno (**Figure 1**). The campus site is located within Assessor Parcel Number 14003102 and is approximately one mile from Tollhouse Road, below a ridge line on a gentle north-facing slope (**Figure 2**). The site was selected to minimize visibility from surrounding properties, avoid water courses, and minimize grading and tree removal. The remainder of the property would remain undeveloped.

The Fresno County General Plan designates the project site for Agriculture. The County's Zoning Map identifies the Project site as AE-40 (Exclusive Agriculture, 40-acre minimum parcel size). The Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) designates the site as Grazing Land. The Project site is not subject to a Williamson Act contract.

The proposed Project would include four church facility buildings (Buildings A, B, C, and D), a caretaker residence, parking areas, landscaping, utilities, and related infrastructure (**Figure 3**). Development would occur in three phases, with Buildings A and B constructed as part of Phase 1, Building C constructed as part of Phase 2, and Building D constructed as part of Phase 3. Building sizes and facilities are listed in **Table 1**. The buildings would be designed with architectural treatments, colors, and materials that are harmonious with the surrounding natural environment.

Supporting infrastructure would include an on-site well, fire water storage tank, three septic systems with leach fields designed to County standards, and a private waste hauler for solid waste removal. Power would be provided onsite with ground-mounted solar panels, and on-site gas or propane-powered generators would be used for backup power for the solar-power system. Outdoor lighting would consist of low- and standard-voltage fixtures that are hooded and directed downward to minimize light spillover onto surrounding properties.

Native vegetation and trees would be retained where feasible, with native and drought-tolerant landscaping installed around buildings and parking areas. Parking areas would be landscaped consistent with Fresno County shade requirements.

Site access would be provided by a new approximately one-mile-long, 24-foot-wide paved private road extending east from Tollhouse Road, with an emergency access route available via Quail Mountain Lane. The access driveway would terminate at a centrally located circular drop-off area near the campus buildings, and a designated loading zone would be located on the north side of the multi-purpose building (Building C).

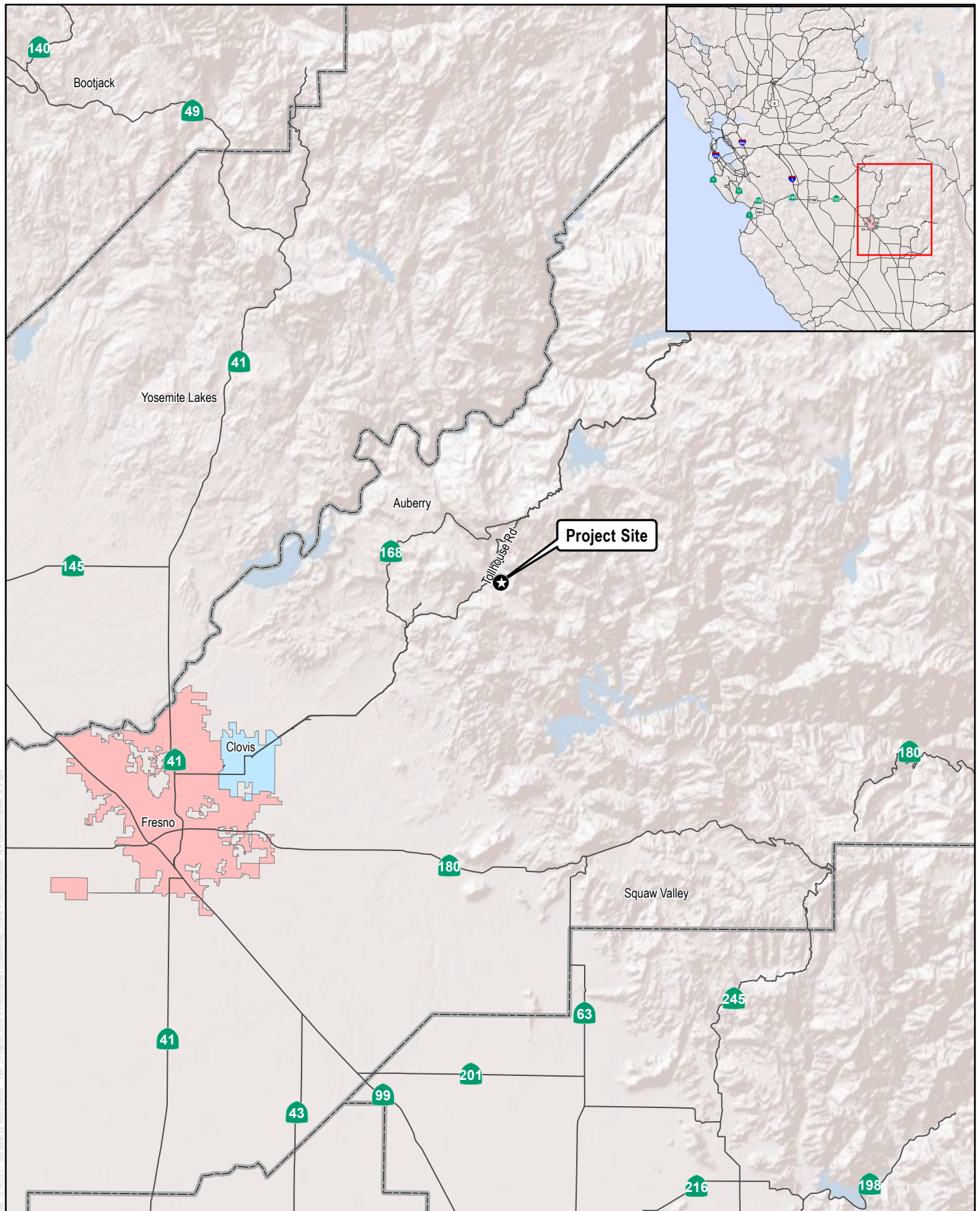
Attendance at church events would vary depending on the activity. Regular Saturday services are initially expected to have 20 to 50 attendees and could grow to approximately 25 attendees as subsequent phases are developed. Special services would occur four to six times per year and are anticipated to draw 150 to 200 attendees. Holiday services and banquets would occur up to four times per year with an estimated attendance of up to 150 people.

General administrative activities would occur from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Indoor events such as seminars and banquets would take place between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Initial staffing would be approximately 10 full-time employees, 3 part-time employees, and 6 volunteers, with an estimated increase of up to 20 full-time and 6 part-time employees by Phase 3.

Table 1: Project Phases and Building Facilities	
Phase 1	• Building A: 9,996 square-foot building with administrative office uses • Building B: 19,817 square-foot building with multipurpose room with a stage, gym, conference room, volunteer workstations, storage space, and bridal room. The building would also serve as an interim sanctuary until the permanent sanctuary is constructed in Phase 3. • Caretaker residence: 3,800 square feet • Parking stalls: 143 • Project access road alignment • Well
Phase 2	• Building C: 9,600 square-foot multi-purpose building used primarily to store furniture and equipment. • Parking stalls: 12
Phase 3	• Building D: 25,686 square foot building with 250-seat sanctuary, banquet hall with kitchen, and two multipurpose rooms • Parking stalls: 103
Note: The total required parking if all four buildings (A, B, C, D) are in use would be 258 stalls, which is the total number of parking stalls presented in this table. However, Building D would not be used at the same time as Buildings A, B or C.	

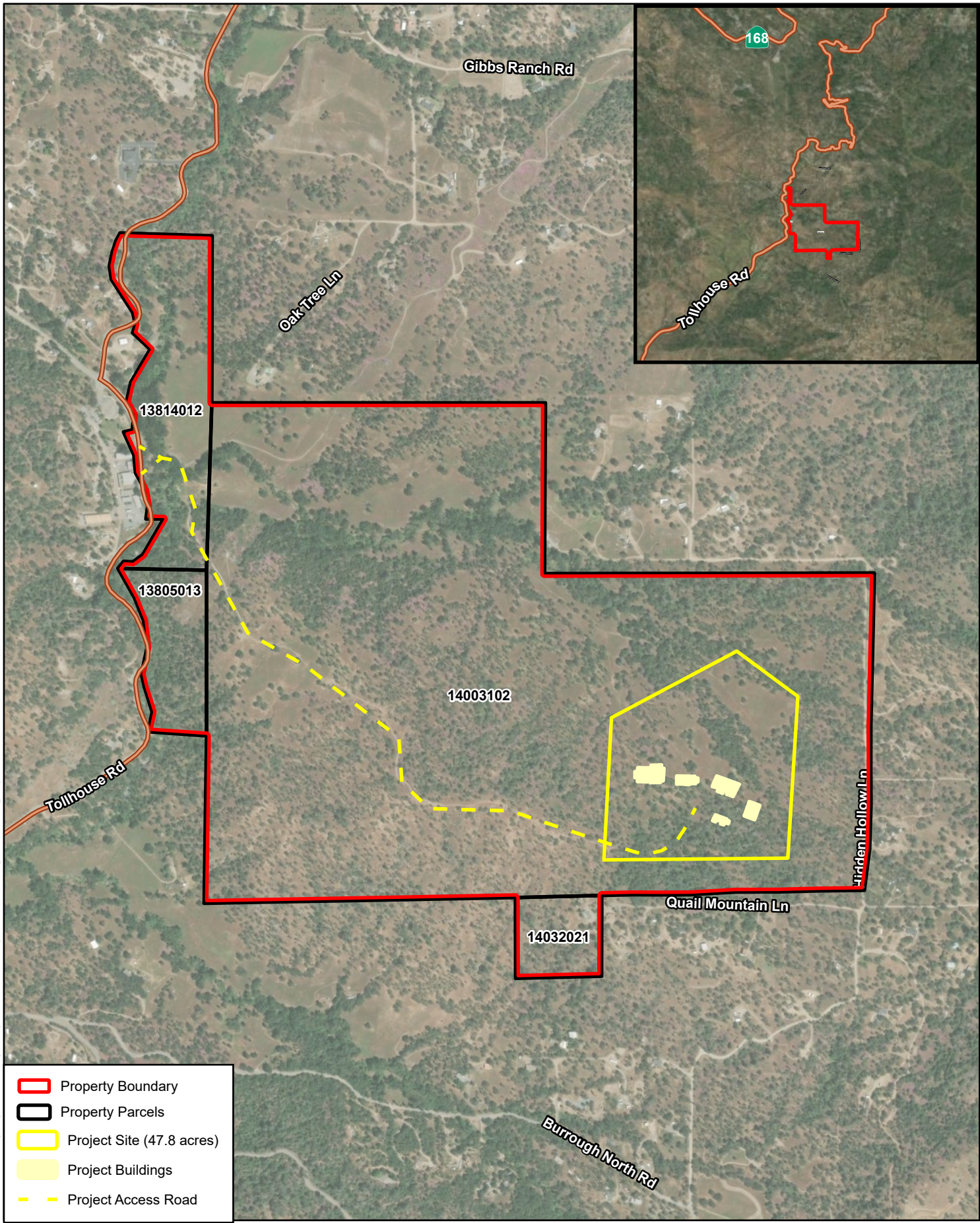
PROJECT ALTERNATIVES: In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15126.6, the Draft EIR will assess a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project, including a No Project Alternative and other alternatives that would meet most of the basic objectives of the Project while avoiding or reducing any of its significant environmental effects. Input is requested in identifying potential alternatives for consideration in the EIR.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: At this early stage of the environmental review process, it is not possible to know with certainty the precise nature and extent of the environmental effects that will be identified as preparation of the Draft EIR gets underway. However, it is possible to identify key categories of environmental effects that the Project may affect. These include: Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Transportation, Tribal Resources, and Wildfire.



Source: ESRI 2023.





Source: Maxar Imagery, 2024.



Source: SJA Design Group, 2025.

