

P93-125 - BREUNERS/AUTO PARTS CLUB SIGNS

REQUEST: Variance to increase the number of signs allowed per tenant from two to four for a 102,848 square foot, two tenant, retail building on 7.05± developed acres in the General Commercial (C-2) zone.

LOCATION: 6700 Mack Road, Mack Road at Highway 99  
117-0170-062 and 117-0170-064  
South Sacramento Community Plan Area  
Sacramento City Unified School District  
Council District 8

APPLICANT:	Ad Art Signs, Inc., Ralph Cundiff, (800)350-7773 P.O. Box 8570, Stockton, CA 95208
OWNER:	Breuners 3250 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-4395
APPLICATION FILED:	August 20, 1993
STAFF CONTACT:	Cindy Gnos, 264-7636

**SUMMARY/RECOMMENDATION:** The applicant proposes to erect two additional signs on an existing building with three attached signs. The 102,848 square foot building is being divided into two tenant spaces, therefore the applicant is requesting additional signage for the second tenant. In order to meet the applicant's objectives, the project requires the variance described above. **Staff recommends approval of the project.** This recommendation is based on the unusual circumstances of the building design and parcel shape.

**PROJECT INFORMATION:**

General Plan Designation:	Community/Neighborhood Commercial & Offices
Community Plan Designation:	General Commercial
Existing Land Use of Site:	Breuners
Existing Zoning of Site:	C-2

**Surrounding Land Use and Zoning:**

North: Mack Road and Vacant land; C-2  
 South: Kaiser Hospital; H-R  
 East: Highway 99; C-2  
 West: Retail; C-2

Property Dimensions:	Irregular
Property Area:	7.05± acres
Square Footage of Building:	102,848 square feet
Height of Building:	47 feet, 1 story
Exterior Building Materials:	Concrete
Number of Proposed Attached Signs:	5
Number of Detached Signs:	1
Topography:	Flat
Street Improvements:	Existing
Utilities:	Existing

**OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED:** In addition to the entitlements requested, the applicant will also need to obtain the following permits or approvals, including, but not limited to:

<u>Permit</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Sign Permit	Building Division

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The existing 102,848 square foot building was constructed approximately 25 years ago for the Breuners furniture store. Breuners has indicated that the furniture sales no longer require the amount of storage which was constructed with the original building. The building, therefore, has been remodeled in the interior to allow the Auto Parts Club to lease a portion of the building.

**STAFF EVALUATION:** Staff has the following comments:

A. Policy Considerations

The existing retail use is consistent with the commercial designations in both the General Plan and the South Sacramento Community Plan. The General Plan and South Sacramento Community Plan also promote the rehabilitation and revitalization of existing commercial strips. The conversion of the storage area to a tenant space supports these policies. The purpose of the Sign Ordinance is to encourage signs which, by their good design, are integrated with and harmonious to the buildings and sites which they occupy, and which eliminate excessive sign displays. The applicant's proposal does not increase the total number of signs allowed, nor exceed the maximum square footage allowed. The proposal, therefore, is not in conflict with the purpose of the Sign Ordinance.

**B. Site Plan Design/Zoning Requirements****1. Setbacks/Parking**

There are no proposed increases in the total building square footage. This results in no changes in existing setbacks or additional required parking. Also, no additional parking is required based on the conversion of use from Breuners to Auto Parts Club.

**2. Signage**

The existing Breuners building has three attached signs located on the north, south, and east sides of the building. There is also one detached sign which is located on the west side of the property. The applicant is proposing to locate two additional attached signs on the building.

The site is located within 660 feet of the freeway, therefore the criteria for freeway oriented signs apply to the site. This limits attached signs to a maximum area of one square foot for each front foot of building occupancy, with a maximum of 200 square feet. It also limits the height of the signs to 20 feet. The Breuners tenant space would be allowed four attached signs, and the Auto Parts Club would be allowed two attached signs.

The Sign Ordinance addresses sign requirements based upon tenant space. Due to the configuration of the existing building, two existing Breuners signs are located on the Auto Parts Club tenant space. This results in four instead of two attached signs for Auto Parts Club, and one instead of four attached signs for Breuners. The total number of attached signs is less than the maximum allowed by the Sign Ordinance. Staff, therefore, has no objection to the Variance to increase the number of signs. Staff does recommend that the Breuners tenant space not be allowed to have any additional attached signage. In order to comply with the Sign Ordinance Breuners would be required to relocate the sign to their tenant space. This would mean relocating the sign on the north elevation approximately 30 feet to the west. Since the signs have been on the building for over 25 years, the relocation constitutes a hardship. Breuners has also indicated that the freeway visibility of the signage is necessary for their business.

The sign area of the signs also does not exceed the requirements. The north elevation is allowed 402 square feet of signage, with each tenant sign not exceeding 200 square feet. The east elevation is allowed 346 square feet of signage with each tenant sign not exceeding 200 square feet.

The other requirement of the Sign Ordinance is that attached signs visible from the freeway not exceed 20 feet in height. The existing Breuners signs

exceed the 20 feet in height, however, were constructed prior to the current codes. The new Auto Parts Club signs meet the height requirement.

In summary, staff supports the Variance to allow four attached signs on the Auto Parts Club tenant space for the following reasons:

- o The building was not designed originally to be a multi-tenant building.
- o The existing Breuners signs have been in their location for about 25 years.
- o The total number of signs is not being exceeded.
- o The total area of signs allowed is not being exceeded.
- o The two proposed signs are meeting Sign Ordinance requirements.

C. Building Design

The existing building has a concrete finish. The colors are beige and maroon. The only modification to the exterior of the building is the construction of the entrance to the Auto Parts Club. Staff has no objection to the proposed modification.

PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS:

A. Environmental Determination

The proposed project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to State EIR Guidelines (CEQA Section 15305 and 15311[a]).

B. Public/Neighborhood/Business Association Comments

The proposed sign variance was sent to property owners within 500 feet of the property, and the South Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. No comments have been received.

C. Summary of Agency Comments

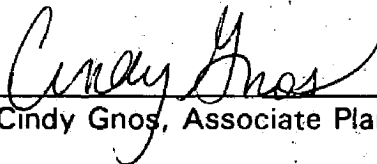
The project has been reviewed by several City Departments and other agencies. The agencies had no comments on the requested sign variance.

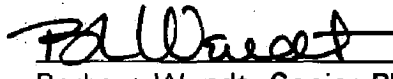
PROJECT APPROVAL PROCESS: The Planning Commission has the authority to approve or deny the requested sign variance. The Planning Commission action may be appealed to the City Council. The appeal must occur within 10 days of the Planning Commission action.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends the Planning Commission Adopt the attached Resolution approving the Variance to increase the number of signs allowed per tenant from two to four.

Report Prepared By,

Report Reviewed By,

  
Cindy Gnos, Associate Planner

  
Barbara Wendt, Senior Planner

Attachments

Attachment A	Vicinity Map
Attachment B	Land Use and Zoning Map
Resolution	Variance
Exhibit A	Site Plan
Exhibit B	Elevations

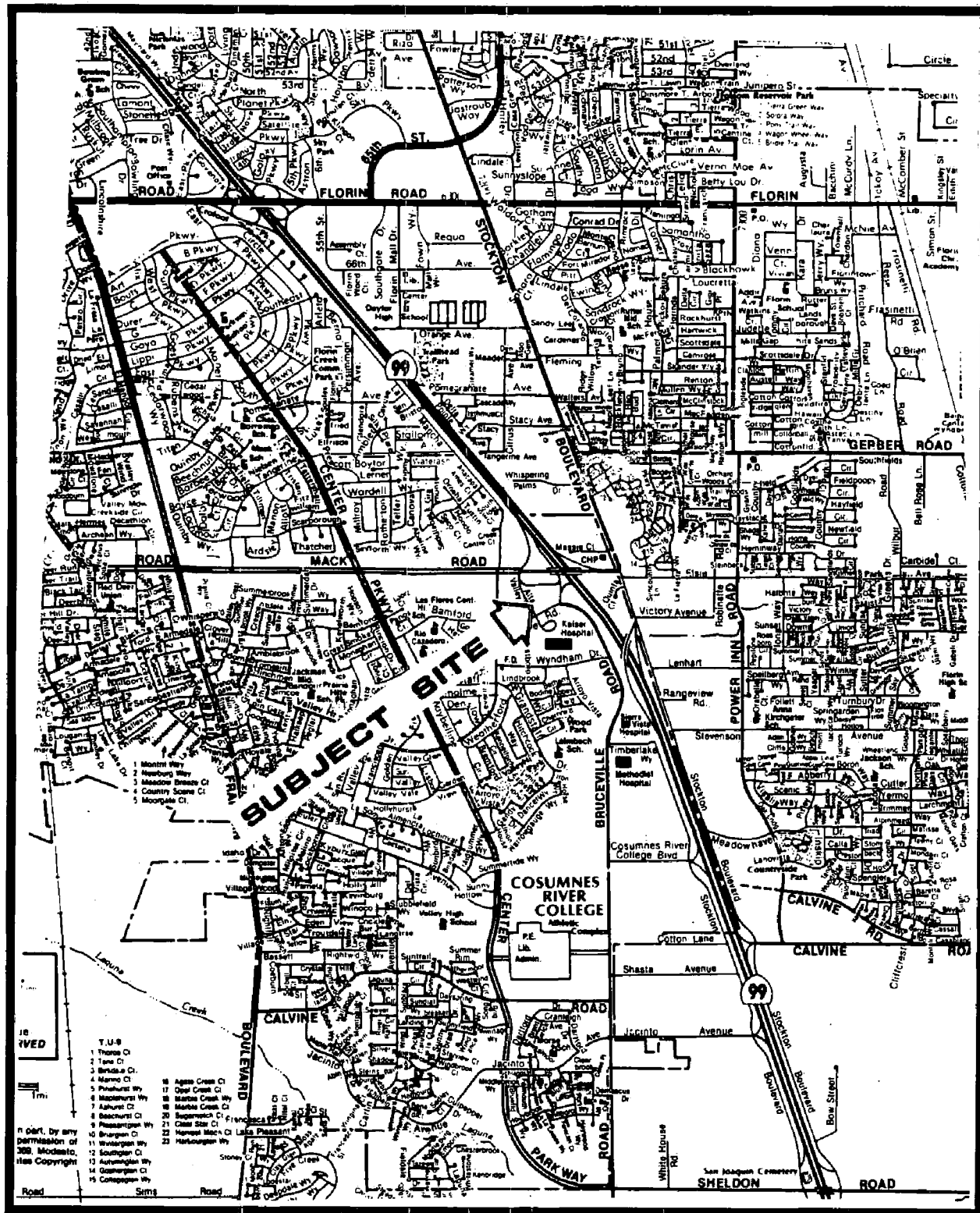
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ATTACHMENT A

P93-125

OCTOBER 14, 1993

ITEM # 17



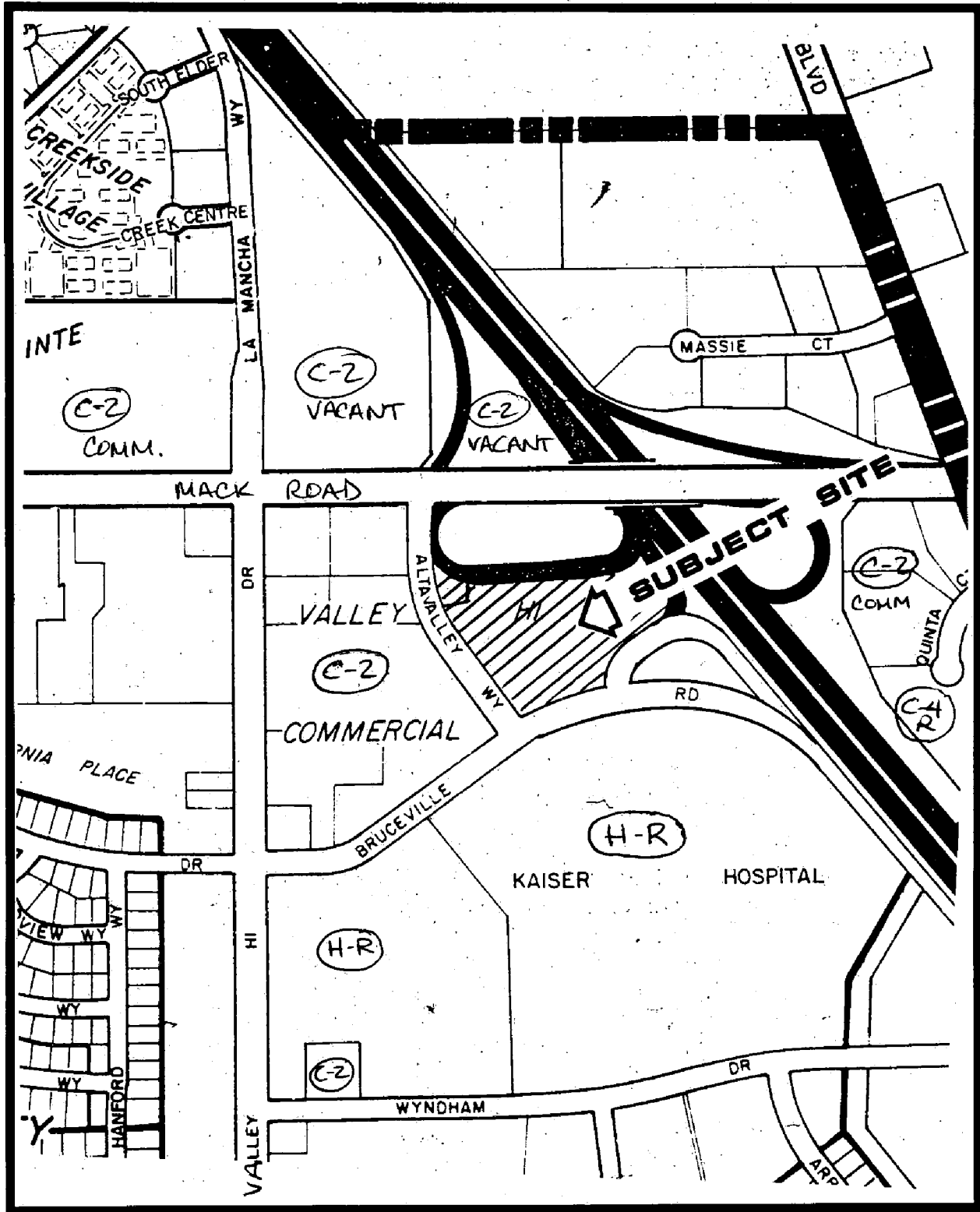
VICINITY MAP

ATTACHMENT B

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ITEM #7



LAND USE AND ZONING MAP

#7

## **RESOLUTION NO.**

**ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO PLANNING COMMISSION**

**ON DATE OF OCTOBER 14, 1993**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINDINGS OF FACT AND APPROVING A VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6700 MACK ROAD**

**(P93-125) (APN: 117-0170-062 and 117-0170-064)**

WHEREAS, the City Planning Commission on October 14, 1993, held a public hearing on the request for approval of a variance to increase the allowed signage for property located at the above described location;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to State EIR Guidelines (CEQA Section 15305 and 15311(a)).

WHEREAS, the Planning staff has submitted to the City Planning Commission its report and recommendations on the proposed development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:

1. The variance to increase the number of attached signs per tenant from two to four is hereby approved based upon the following findings of fact:
  - A. Granting the variance does not constitute a special privilege extended to an individual property owner in that variances would be granted to other property owners facing similar circumstances.
  - B. Granting the variance would not be detrimental to the public welfare nor result in the creation of a public nuisance in that:
    - 1). the total number of signs is not exceeding the maximum and, therefore, does not result in excessive sign displays; and
    - 2) the total square footage of signs is not exceeding the maximum and, therefore, does not result in excessive sign displays.
  - C. Granting the variance does not constitute a use variance in that Breuners and Auto Part Club are allowed in the General Commercial (C-2) zone.



#7

- D. The project is consistent with the General Plan and South Sacramento Community Plan which designate the site for Community/Neighborhood Commercial and Offices, and General Commercial, respectively.
2. The variance to increase the attached signage for a tenant from two to four signs is hereby approved, subject to the following conditions:
- A. The Breuners tenant space shall not have any additional attached signs, beyond the existing 104 square foot attached sign on the south elevation.
  - B. There shall be no more than the four attached signs, as shown, on the Auto Parts Club tenant space.
  - C. The "Home Furnishers Since 1856" below the Breuners sign on the east elevation shall be removed as proposed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECRETARY TO PLANNING COMMISSION

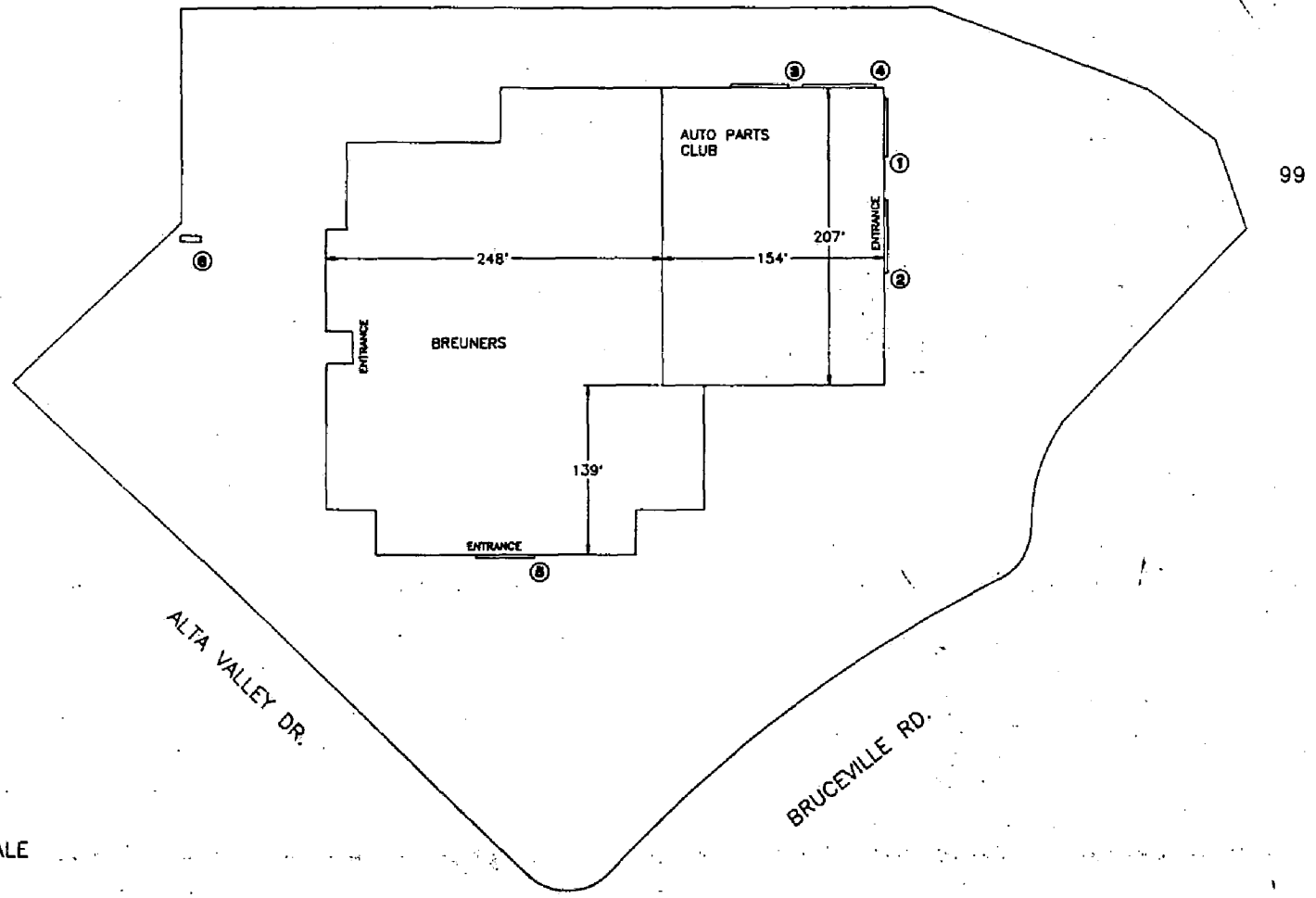
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EXHIBIT A

October 14, 1993

Nov #17



SITE PLAN  
NOT TO SCALE

**AD-ART**

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SALES: EC  
 DESIGNED BY: HAL  
 DES. NO.:                 DRW. NO.: 920003

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REVISIONS	
NO.	
BY:	
DATE:	

APPROVALS	
SALES	DATE
PRODUCTION	DATE

CUSTOMER  
BREUNERS  
 DISPLAY ADDRESS  
6700 WALK ROAD  
 CITY SACRAMENTO STATE CA

CUSTOMER APPROVAL	
DATE	

JOB NO.  
 SCALE  
1/8" = 1'  
 DATE  
8/14/93

