

# CANYON COUNTRY

# Canyon Country

## Table of Contents

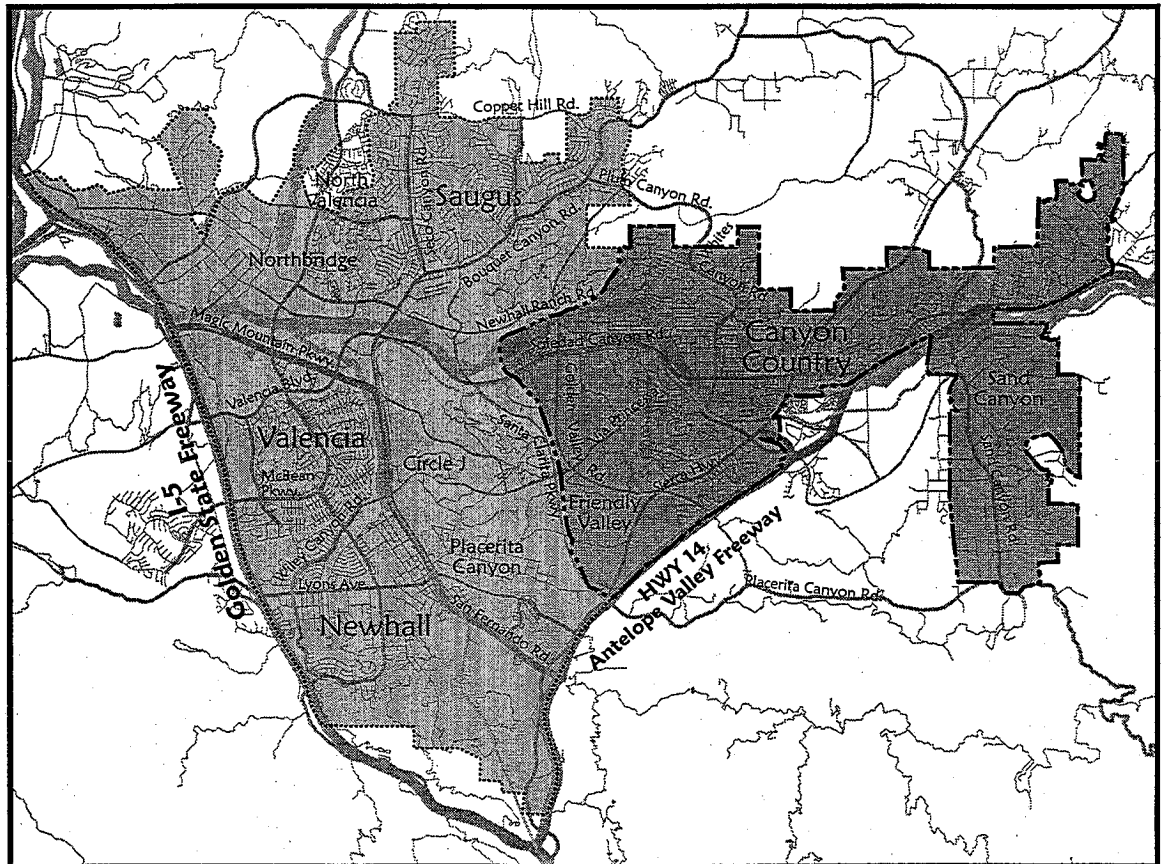
	Page Number
<b>II. Canyon Country Design Guidelines .....</b>	<b>II-1</b>
A. Introduction.....	1
1. Community Identity .....	1
2. Beautification Needs .....	2
B. Treatment of Primary Corridors.....	II-3
1. Signs and Logo .....	4
2. Median Treatment.....	5
3. Street Edge Treatment.....	7
C. Community Entrances and Intersections.....	II-9
1. Community Entrance Treatment and Locations.....	9
2. Community Entrance Design .....	10
3. Key Intersection Treatment and Locations.....	13
D. Other Beautification Ideas.....	II-18
1. Specific Beautification Needs.....	18
2. Private Property Treatment .....	18
3. Getting Involved In The Process.....	18

---

## II. Canyon Country Community Design Guidelines

### A. Introduction

The following beautification guidelines contain specific recommendations for the community of Canyon Country. Where there is overlap with the *Citywide Design Guidelines*, cross references are made. Though there is not a clear boundary for Canyon Country, the map below delineates the general area. These guidelines focus on areas within the public right-of-way in Canyon Country.



Community of Canyon Country Boundary

#### 1. Community Identity

The community of Canyon Country deems itself “The Best Kept Secret of the Valley.” It is a place full of community pride and rural character. Surrounded by a series of mountains and canyons that penetrate the community, the location contributes to community members’ appreciation for the natural environment. In addition to natural sensitivity, Canyon Country is a community that encourages economic and cultural diversity and is perceived by locals as a rural community with an essence of sophistication.

The following characteristics were used to describe Canyon Country during a public workshop.

- Family-oriented
- Rural
- Rustic
- Equestrian
- Country
- Mountainous
- River trails
- Culturally diverse
- Economically diverse
- Estate homes
- Large lots
- Rock precipice
- Ranch / rugged
- Outdoor-oriented
- Natural
- Best kept secret
- Small town feel
- Community involvement
- Friendly

## 2. Beautification Needs

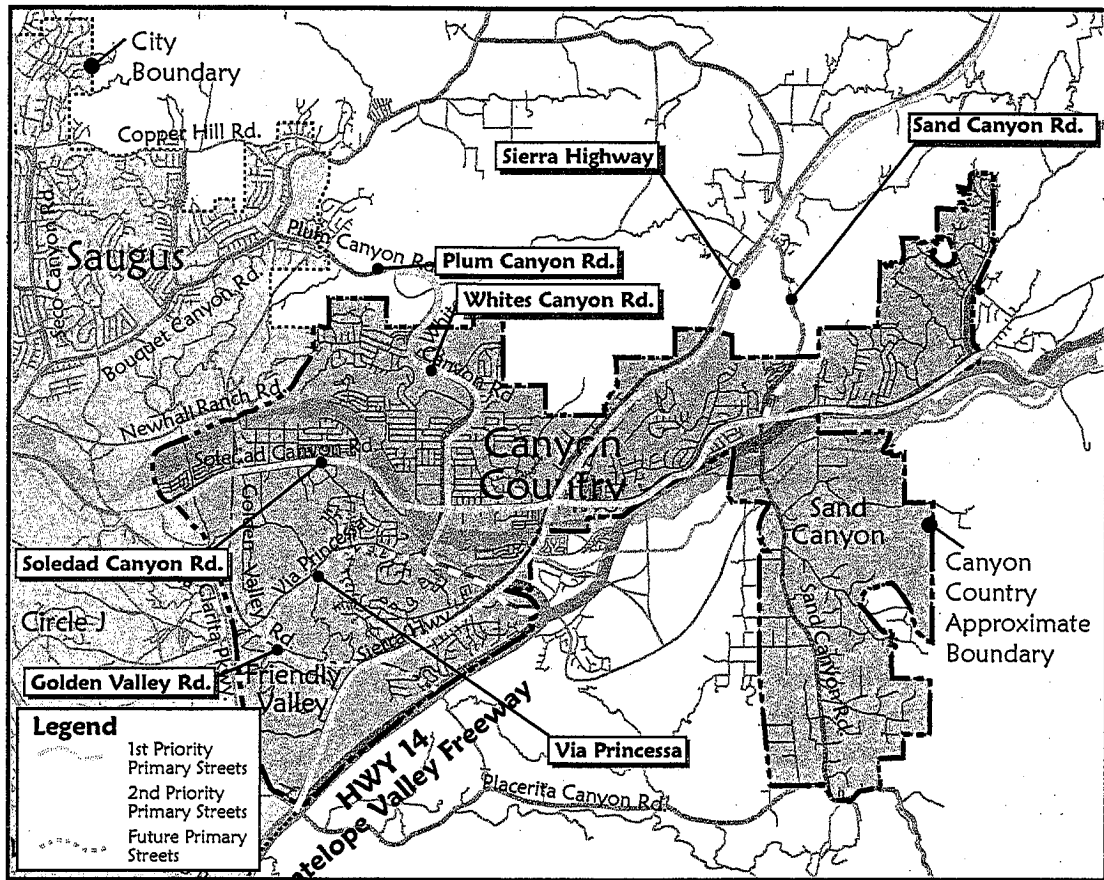
Recognizing the need for beautification in their community, Canyon Country has organized a number of volunteer groups that have committed many hours of hard work to help define community beautification goals and identify specific needs. These groups have contributed significantly to the contents of these guidelines.

The following list of beautification needs was generated at a public workshop conducted with members of the community, members of the Canyon Country volunteer organizations and Santa Clarita planning staff.

- Vacant lots should be screened.
- Caltrans / Los Angeles County areas should be beautified.
- Bus stops should be beautified and trash cans should be added.
- Key intersections should be designed consistently with crosswalks, landscaping, amenities and lighting.
- Blank walls should be screened with landscaping, including vines.
- Street parkways and medians should be planted and median treatments should be extended to the edges of the community.
- The Santa Clara River should be exposed and taken advantage of as an amenity.
- The amount of visual clutter including signs, overhead utilities and vehicular access points should be reduced.
- The strip commercial look of Soledad Canyon Road should be improved.
- A logo that will help to unify Canyon Country should be developed.
- Community entry signage should be designed with a logo image, colors and font that represents Canyon Country.
- Community identity should be strengthened, but not at the expense of citywide unification.

Based on this community feedback, the following beautification guidelines were drafted to address the following topics. The guidelines address a range of design improvements that can lead to a more cohesive and unified look for Canyon Country.

- |                      |                           |                               |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) Primary corridors | 4) Street edge treatments | 7) Main intersections         |
| 2) Signs             | 5) Fences                 | 8) Other beautification ideas |
| 3) Medians           | 6) Community entries      |                               |



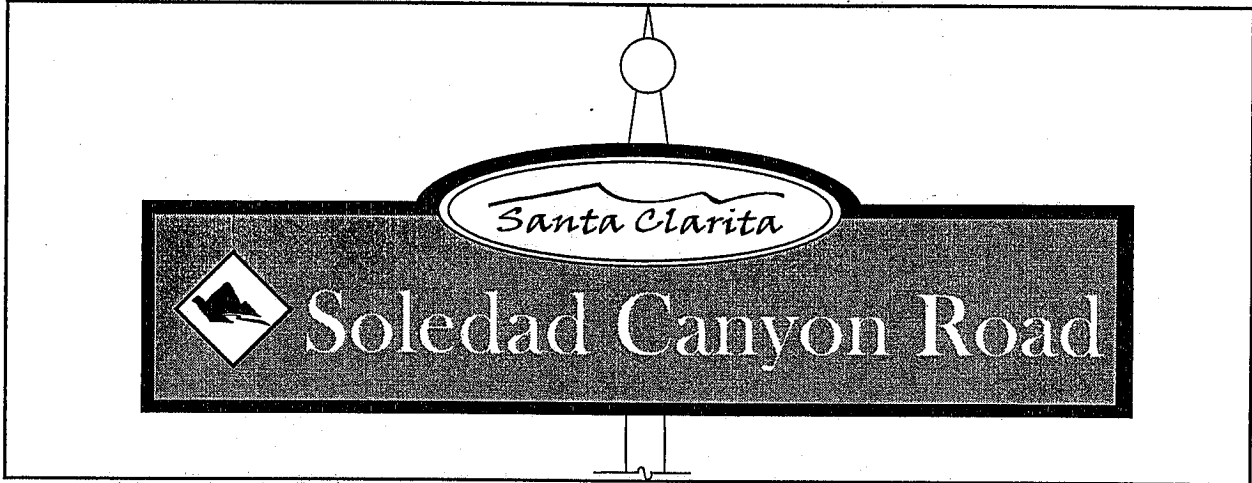
Canyon Country Primary Streets

## B. Treatment of Primary Corridors

The primary corridors that extend through a given community act as the most visible and consequently the strongest unifying element within the community. Each community within the City of Santa Clarita should be clearly identifiable with distinct primary corridors that help unify it. The implementation of a community logo on each street sign, a uniform median and corridor edge treatment, a unique fence type and landscaping improvements bring together the image of a cohesive community. One of the goals of the Beautification Master Plan is to set forth long-range guidelines for improvements, enhancements and beautification of such corridors so that implementation occurs in a direction that provides a clear and easily recognizable individual community. The following streets have been designated as primary corridors within Canyon Country:

- First Priority Primary Streets: Whites Canyon Road / Plum Canyon Road, Soledad Canyon Road, and Sierra Highway
- Second Priority Primary Streets: Via Princessa, Sand Canyon Road, and Placerita Canyon Road
- Future Primary Streets: Golden Valley Road, and Via Princessa

1. Signs and Logo



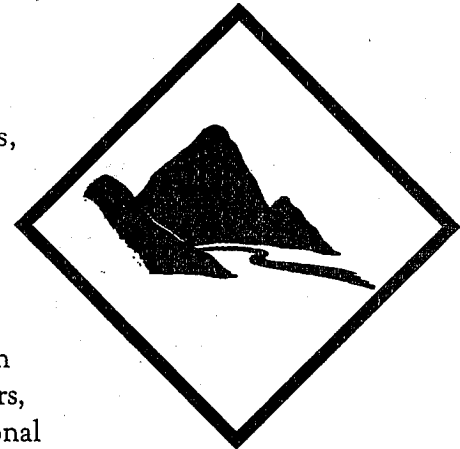
Example of a Street Sign Designed to Incorporate a Canyon Country Logo

Street Sign:

The most prevalent and obvious component of the primary corridor elements is the street sign treatment. It is here that a clear and distinct demarcation occurs for each individual community. Every street sign within the community of Canyon Country should contain a community logo. This logo provides a recognizable sense of repetition that clearly enables a motorist, bicyclist or pedestrian to know where they are and if they are still within the community limits. The logo will be placed within a diamond on the left side of the sign and each diamond will be a specific color for each community. This simple and quickly recognizable feature will provide a highly visible statement as to the community that an individual is in. Refer to the *Citywide Signage Program* for further information.

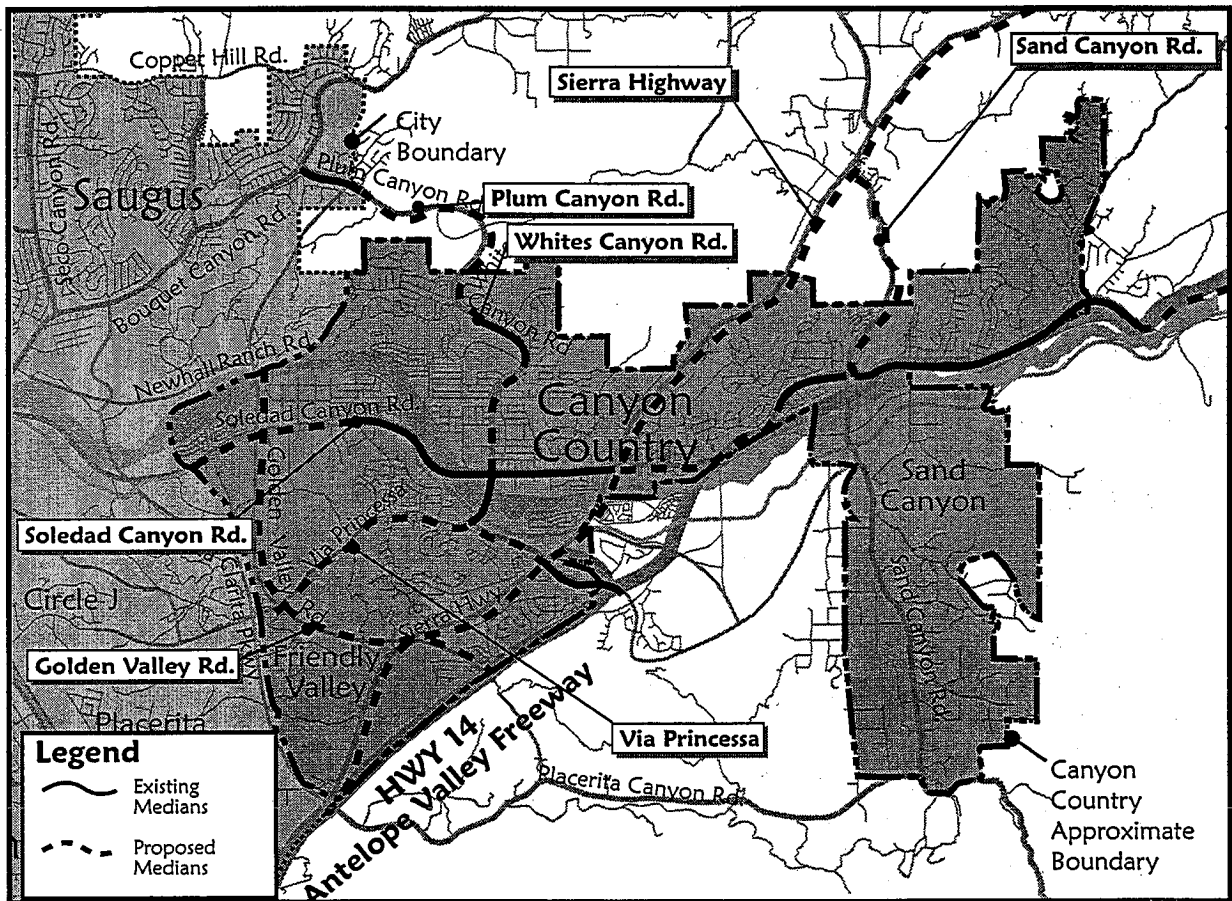
Canyon Country Community Logo:

Through the interview and public outreach process, participants generated a list of ideas for a Canyon Country logo. Of the proposed logos listed below, the majority of the participants agreed that an icon that incorporates a river, mountains, canyons, or oak trees would be most appropriate and representative of the community. The logo should incorporate an icon or symbol that is timeless, avoiding trendy images, colors, or fonts. A specific logo will be designed with additional community input at the time of implementation, however, some possibilities include:



Example of Possible Canyon Country Logo

- Oak tree
- Mountains
- Canyon Country brand
- Sunshine
- 20-mule team borax
- Honey bee industry
- River
- Railroad history
- Vasquez Rocks
- Canyons



Canyon Country Medians Map

2. Median Treatment

One intent of the Beautification Master Plan is to build on and extend Santa Clarita’s existing network of roadway medians into one, cohesive citywide plan that identifies each community. Each community will have a planting theme for all medians to promote an identity within the area. The plant palette selection that will be used in the beautification and implementation of the medians will continue to enhance the adjacent landscape. The materials shall be consistent within a given community and act as a clear indicator of the difference between communities. New raised and planted medians should be considered a long-term objective for community beautification. Along with providing aesthetic appeal and consistency, the proposed medians will also control vehicle circulation, movements and serve to calm traffic. The medians will also provide a place for roadway approach street signs and directional signage at key intersections as part of the citywide signage program discussed in the *Citywide Design Guidelines*. Within Canyon Country and vicinity, the selected median treatment will be applied to the following roads at the locations indicated on the figure above.

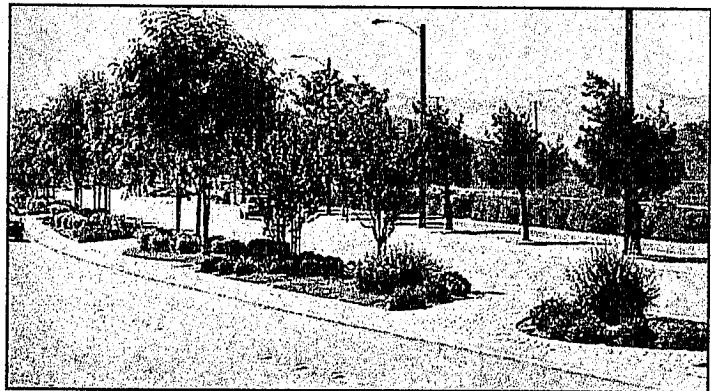
- Via Princessa - Golden Valley Road east to existing median
- Whites Canyon Road / Plum Canyon Road - fill gaps between existing medians
- Soledad Canyon Road - fill gaps between existing medians
- Golden Valley Road - Newhall Ranch Road south to Highway 14
- Sierra Highway - Santa Clarita Parkway to the north

Currently, median maintenance is funded by either the City General Fund or privately-funded Landscape Maintenance Districts (LMD). These different funding sources provide opportunities for different median design concepts. Both designs incorporate a similar plant palette that will help to enhance and unify the community. A drought tolerant design offers a lower maintenance solution with plants that have an ability to thrive in tough conditions and require less water. A wide variety of plants have been selected that can add beauty and diversity to any landscape. A combination of crescent shaped landscaped pockets and stamped concrete paving should continue to be used in areas that are funded by the City General Fund. The LMD medians will use a similar plant palette, but with less stamped concrete.

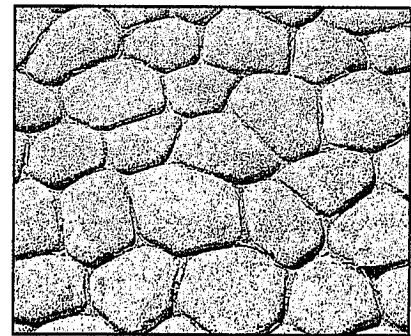
The median treatment that has been selected for Canyon Country is a drought tolerant landscaping design that incorporates a drip irrigation system and natural boulders. The landscaping is planted in crescent shaped pockets and is surrounded with a stamped concrete safety curb that is shaped like river rock and laid in a four-to-six inch pattern. The concrete is natural grey and speckled with obsidian and burnt orange lithochrome color hardener.



*Median Treatment with Drought Tolerant Landscaping*

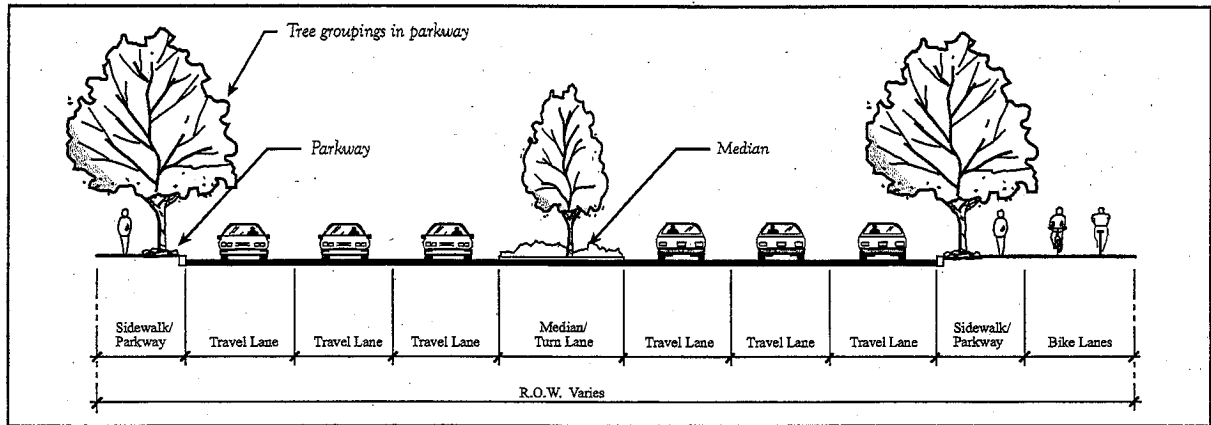


*Example of Canyon Country Median Treatment*



*River Rock Safety Strip*





Example of Roadway Section

The following landscaping palette has been created using and enhancing existing plant palettes used within the area. Future planting should utilize this list or plants that are similar and compliment the desired theme.

**Median Landscaping**

Trees types that are being used

Botanical Name

*Prunus cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea'

*Quercus agrifolia*

*Robinia ambigua Idahoensis*

Common Name

Purple Leaf Plum

Coast Live Oak

Idaho Locust

Shrubs which are being used

Botanical Name

*Dietes vegeta*

*Pittosporum tobira* 'Wheeler's Dwarf'

*Raphiolepis indica*

*Rosmarinus officinalis*

*Myoporum parvifolium* 'Putah Creek'

Common Name

Fortnight Lily

Dwarf Tobira

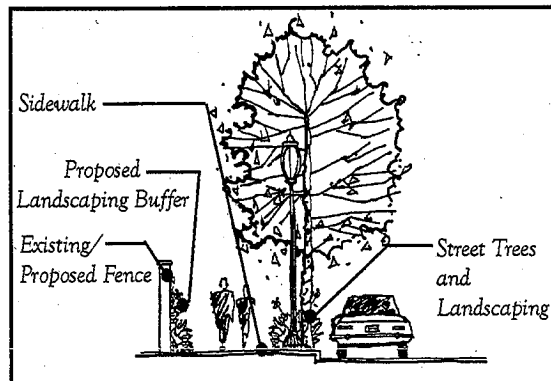
India Hawthorn

Rosemary

-----

**3. Street Edge Treatment**

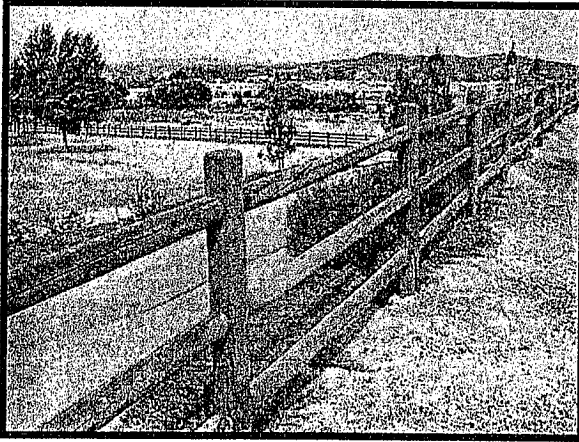
The sides of the primary corridors are just as important as the median treatment. Well landscaped parkways provide pleasant driving and walking environments while creating a sense of place. All planting shall be consistent with City Ordinance 90-15 and shall be reviewed and approved by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. A planting palette for such parkways is included in the Citywide Landscaping Palettes section of the document.



Example of Street Edge Treatment

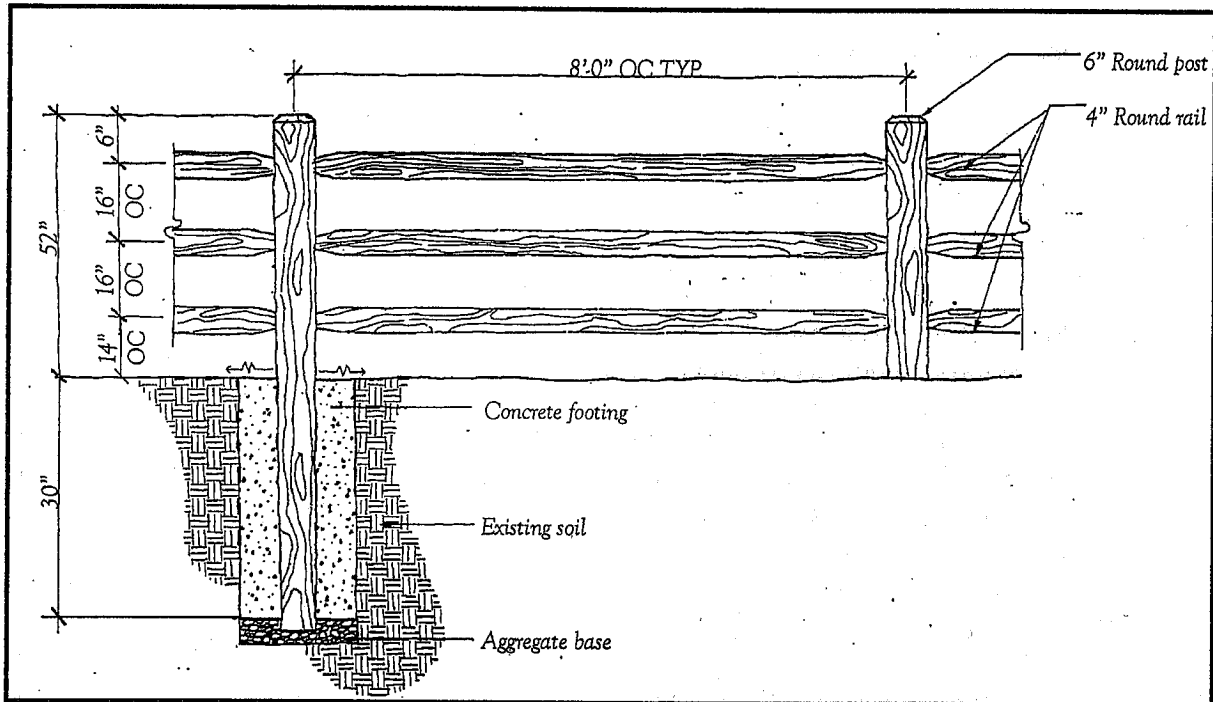
**Fences:**

Fences should be used to unify the City of Santa Clarita. They provide accent and help define a space and can be used to buffer parking lots adjacent to the roadway. In addition, fences used at vacant lots can “bridge” large void spaces and provide unity along the street scene. Each community should incorporate its own fencing type at intersections and along primary corridors where appropriate.

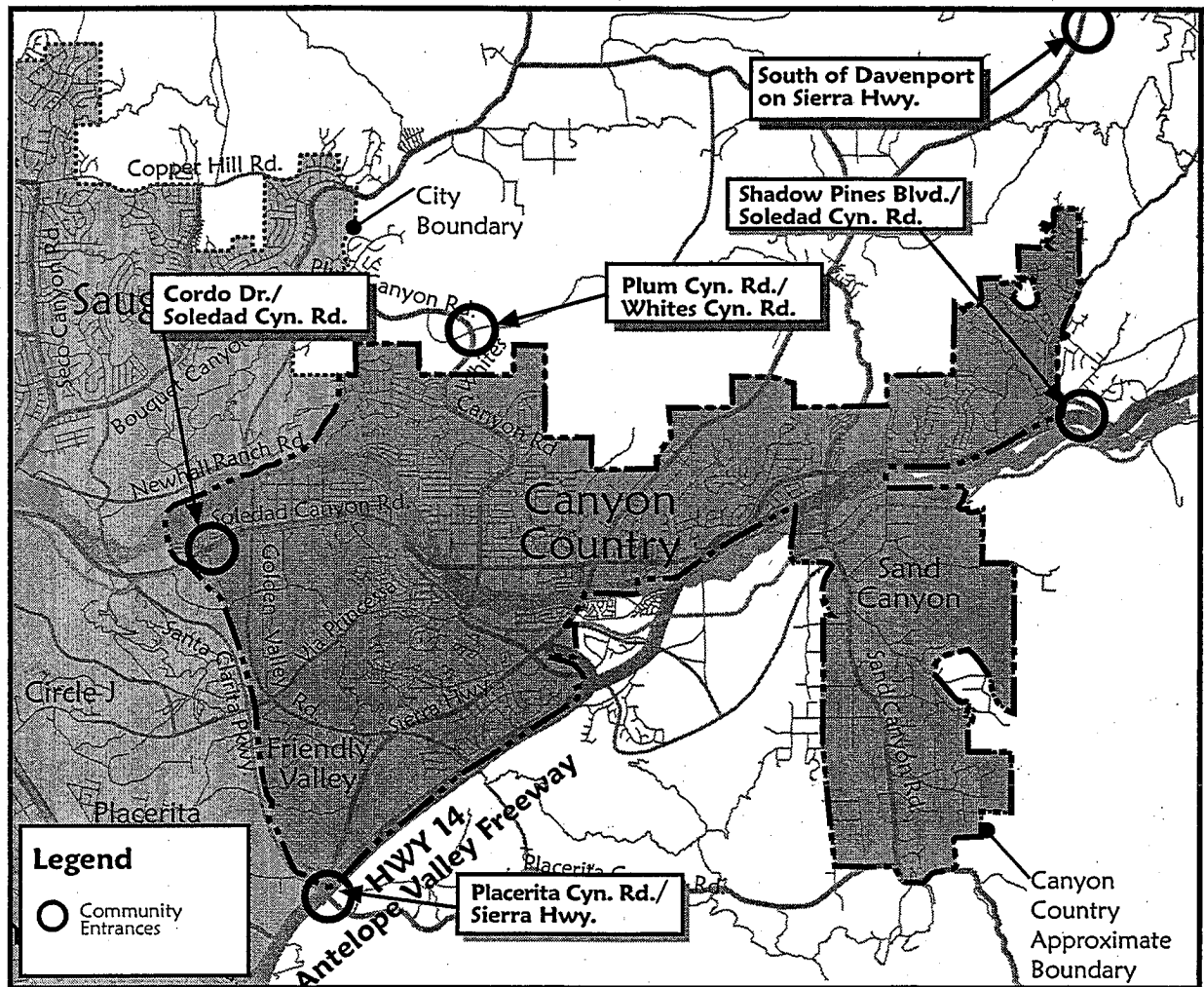


The natural lodge pole fence selected for Canyon Country blends nicely with the landscaping and reflects the rural character of the community. The following materials should be used for the lodge pole fence. Four inch diameter dowelled and treated pine or concrete should be used for rails and the diameter of the rail should be reduced at each end to match pre-drilled post holes.

Natural Lodge Pole Fence Example



Lodge Pole Fence Detail



Canyon Country Entrances Map

## C. Community Entrances and Intersections

### 1. Community Entrance Treatment and Locations

The entrance to Canyon Country should have a unique and easily identifiable scene that includes specific landscaping, fence /wall and a unique community-oriented sign. The entrances should give visitors and residents a feeling of what to expect within the community and be welcoming without being overstated. The following locations have been selected for community entrance treatments.

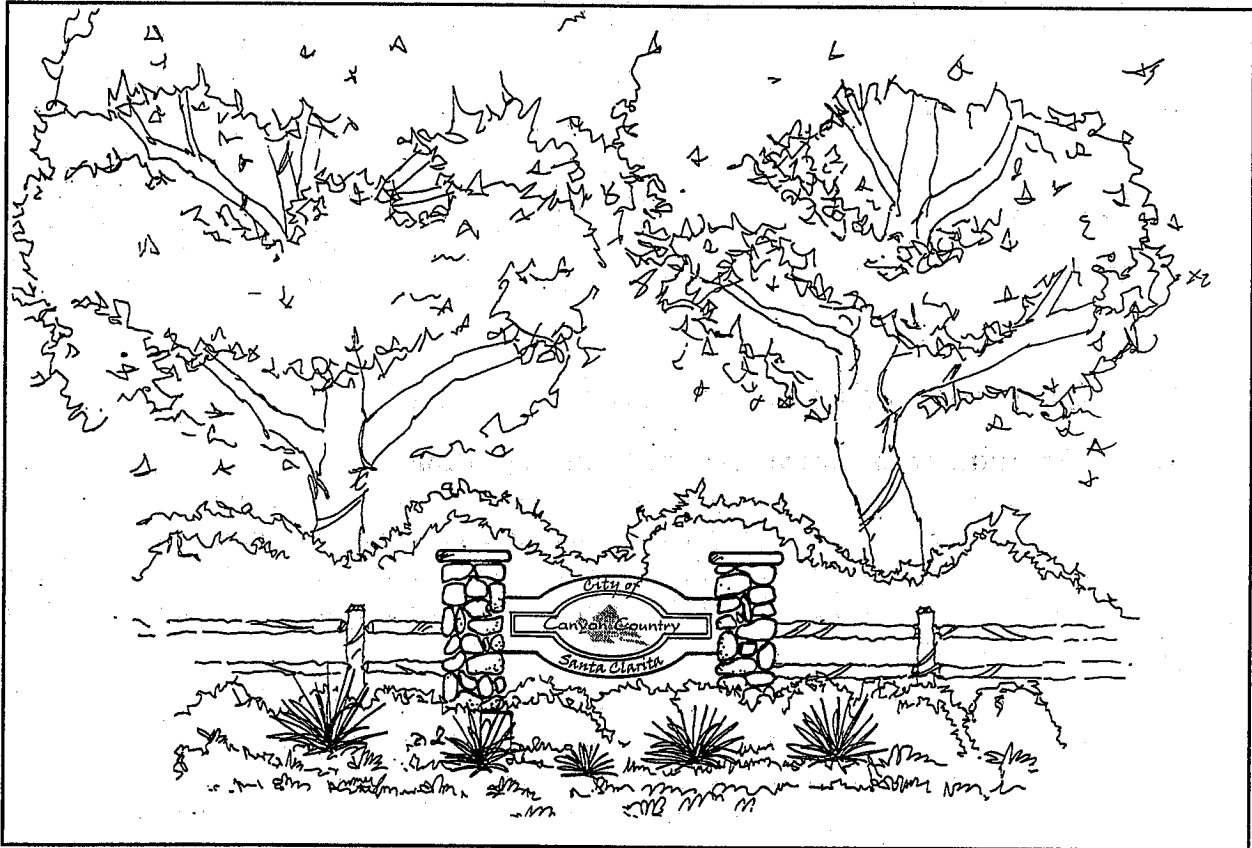
- North to south: Plum Canyon Road to Whites Canyon Road
- North to south (Hwy. 14): Shadow Pines exit onto Soledad Canyon Road
- South to north: Placerita Canyon Road / Sierra Highway
- North to south: Sierra Highway south of Davenport Road and north of Canyon Country little league
- West to east: Soledad Canyon Road / Cordo Drive

## 2. Community Entrance Design

### Community Entrance Character:

The community entrance is one of the best opportunities to reflect its individuality. The character and materials used should uniquely represent the community. The following materials and design styles were identified to describe Canyon Country during a public workshop.

- River rock
- Equestrian elements
- Lodge post fence (long, darker/natural color)
- Oak, Pepper and Cottonwood trees
- Aged metal
- Heavy timber
- Ahwanee (style)
- Greene & Greene and Old Pasadena
- Earth tones
- Natural stone features



Proposed: Canyon Country Community Entry Scene - Pepper and Oak trees, natural lodge pole fence, special plant palette, and a monument sign with river rock, community logo, and City name.

**Community Entry Signs:**

In the *Citywide Design Guidelines* section, “Entry Monuments” will help meet the goal to unify the City as a whole while the “Community Entry Signs” will help meet the other half of the goal, to embrace the different characters of individual communities. The Canyon Country entry sign reflects the unique natural setting and materials of the area. Community entry signs should have the following characteristics:

- Community entry signs should be located at each of the previously mentioned community entrance locations and should be coordinated with Caltrans or private landowners as appropriate. Specific locations should be determined based on visibility, right-of-way availability, sight distance criteria and minimum square footage requirements.
- Community entry signs should be lighted and landscaped.
- Community entry signs should be an integral part of the gateway scene which includes an entry sign, a fence and plants and trees approved by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services.
- Community entry signs should be well proportioned and accented with landscaping. The scale of the signs should be easily legible from the road. Planting at maturity should not obscure safe vehicular sight lines.
- Community entry signs should incorporate complementary colors, materials and lettering fonts. More than one material should be used in the construction of the sign and should reflect the character of the community. The sign should be constructed for long-term durability and easy maintenance.
- All community entry signs should use the same materials, color scheme and graphic theme in order to make it very clear to visitors and residents alike that they are placed as an effort to unify Canyon Country.
- The community logo should appear on each sign and a community-specific font should be replicated exactly on each Canyon Country entry sign.
- “City of Santa Clarita” should appear on each community entry sign. The same font should be used for the citywide entry monuments.

The following landscaping palette has been created using and enhancing existing plant palettes applied throughout the Canyon Country area. Future planting should utilize this list or plants that are similar and compliment the desired theme.

**Community Entry Landscaping:**

**Trees**

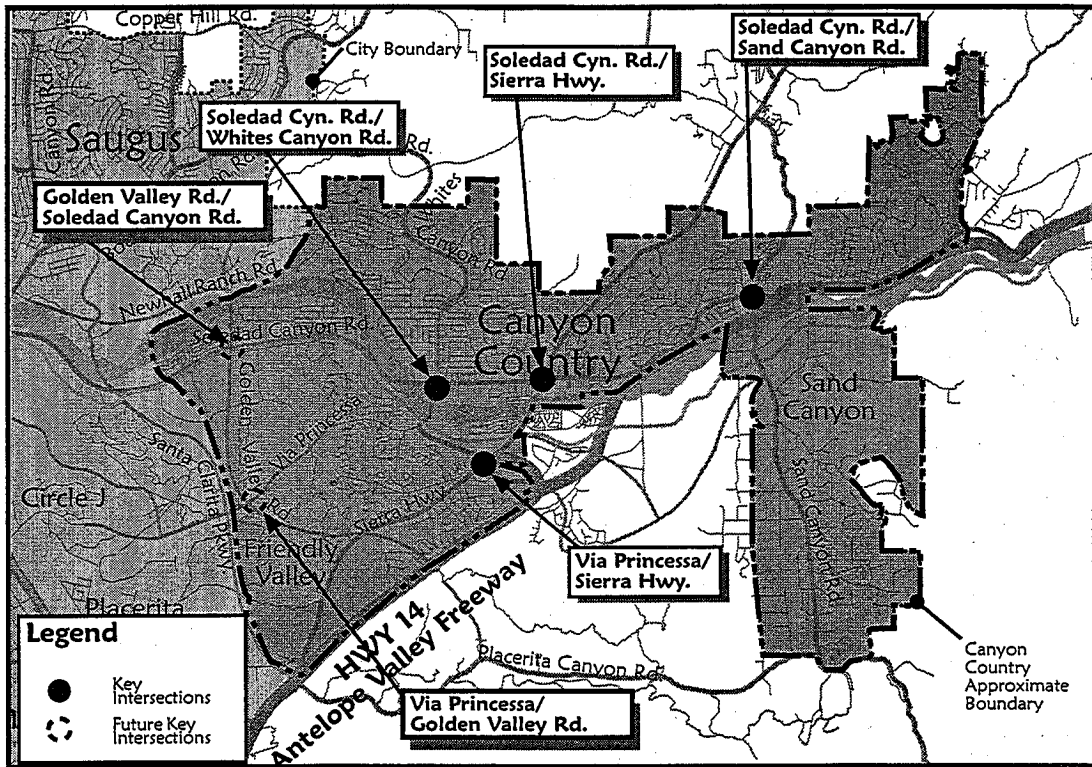
Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California Sycamore
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak

**Shrubs**

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Arctostaphylos d. 'Howard McMinn'</i>	Manzanita
<i>Ceanothus concha</i>	California Lilac
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	Coast Silktassel
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Grape
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar Bush
<i>Ribes viburnifolium</i>	Evergreen Currant
<i>Yucca whipplei</i>	Our Lord's Candle

**Ground Cover**

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i>	Monterey Manzanita
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Dwarf Coyote Brush
<i>Cistus salviifolius</i>	Rock Rose
<i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Mahonia
<i>Rosmarinus o. 'Prostratus'</i>	Dwarf Rosemary



Key Intersections Map

### 3. Key Intersection Treatment and Locations

There are several intersections within the community of Canyon Country that stand out as opportunities to beautify and claim as unique places for Canyon Country. These intersections are large with multiple lane thoroughfares requiring motorists and pedestrians alike to wait for several minutes and soak in the surrounding environment. Pedestrians have to cross over several lanes of traffic in order to get from place to place. It is the intent of these guidelines to beautify these intersections to the extent possible and create a more safe pedestrian-friendly environment. The following key intersections have been identified as areas that need priority improvement.

#### Key Intersections

- Soledad Canyon Road / Whites Canyon Road
- Soledad Canyon Road / Sierra Highway
- Soledad Canyon Road / Sand Canyon Road
- Via Princessa / Sierra Hwy.

#### Future Key Intersections

- Via Princessa / Golden Valley Road
- Golden Valley Road / Soledad Canyon Road

Beautification of the intersections should include:

- Accent paving
- Landscaping and street trees
- Directional signage / reduction of visual clutter
- Lighting and signal pole treatment
- Underground utility poles and wires

The Sierra Highway and Soledad Canyon Road intersection illustrated on the following pages depicts the advantages of implementing some of these beautification concepts.

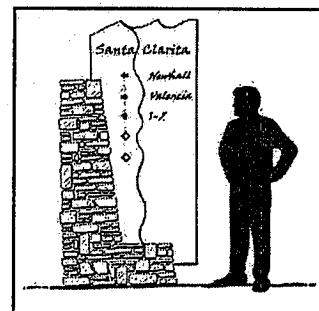
**Accent Paving:**

The use of accent paving provides an opportunity to both dress up the intersection and incorporate traffic calming measures for pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The change in texture is a visual and intuitive signal to both the motorist and pedestrian of the appropriate boundaries for each. Accent paving contributes greatly to the overall visual appeal of the intersection and is typically located in one or more of the following areas: at corners; on sidewalks; at pedestrian crossings; and in the middle of intersections.

At key intersections, the pedestrian crosswalks should be treated with a durable colored concrete pattern so as to visually cue the oncoming motorist to slow down because of possible pedestrian traffic. Special paving also enhances the pedestrian experience, both in visual appeal and safety. The texture should be smooth enough so that an older person, cyclist and persons with disabilities are not deterred. In addition, a surface that limits noise should be utilized. The paver selected for Canyon Country should match the stamped concrete pattern used in the median. The concrete is colored river rock grey with obsidian and burnt orange speckles, finished with a lithochrome color hardener and shaped like river rock laid in a four-to-six inch pattern.

**Signage:**

The directional sign described in the *Citywide Signage Program* section of the *Citywide Design Guidelines* should be placed at key intersections in order to help motorists determine the direction of the adjacent communities. It is important that existing directional signage be removed to reduce the amount of visual clutter. In addition to directional signage, the removal or replacement of commercial/business signage and billboard/advertisement signs should be given first priority at key intersections.



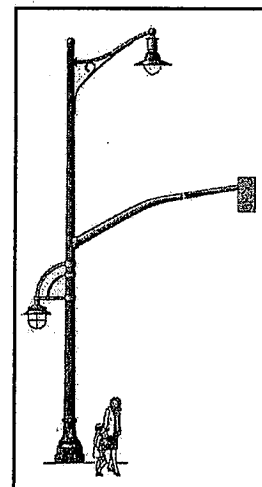
Example of Directional Signage

**Landscaping Treatments:**

Additional vegetation located at key intersections will enhance the experience of the motorist and pedestrian. Landscaping, low walls and berms should be used to screen large expanses of paving (parking lots, service station lots, etc.) on private property. Medians should be widened to a minimum of six feet where feasible to allow for high branching trees to be planted. Trees with four-foot tree grates should be planted along the sidewalk near the intersection. The trees planted in the medians and in the parkways should correspond to those selected for a given community and primary corridor, respectively.

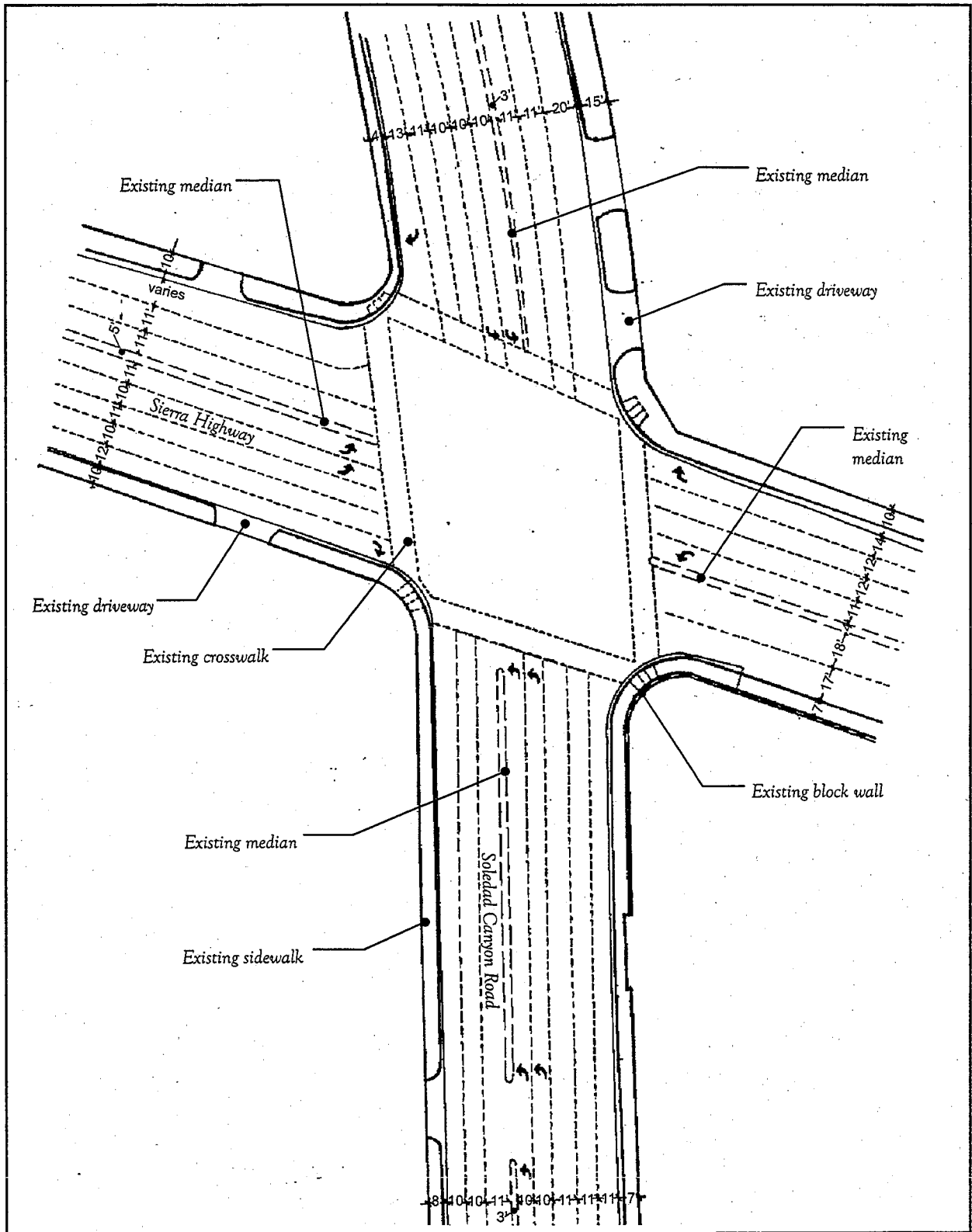
**Lighting:**

The implementation of a uniquely designed street light and signal poles at key intersections can enhance the experience of the pedestrian and motorist. A minor improvement involving the addition of an ornamental base and fixture to the existing pole can greatly improve its aesthetic appeal. All specially designed street lights and signal poles shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate agencies.

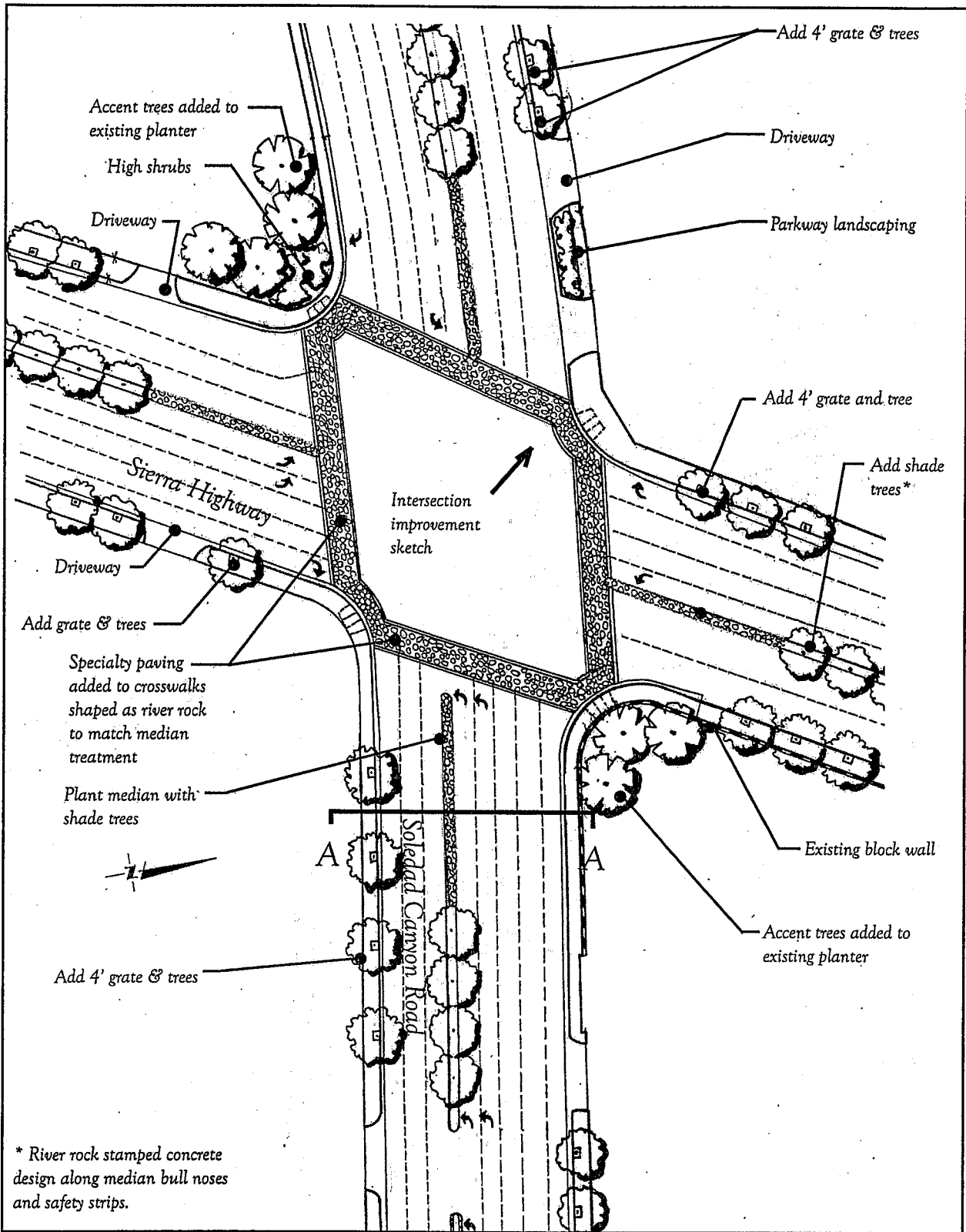


Example of Specially Designed Street Light and Signal Pole Enhancements

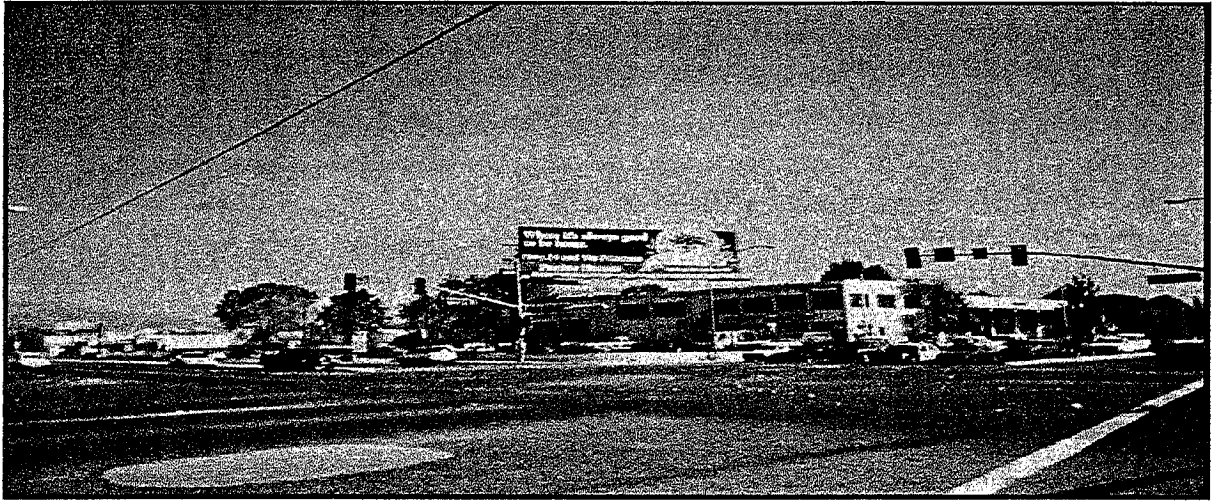




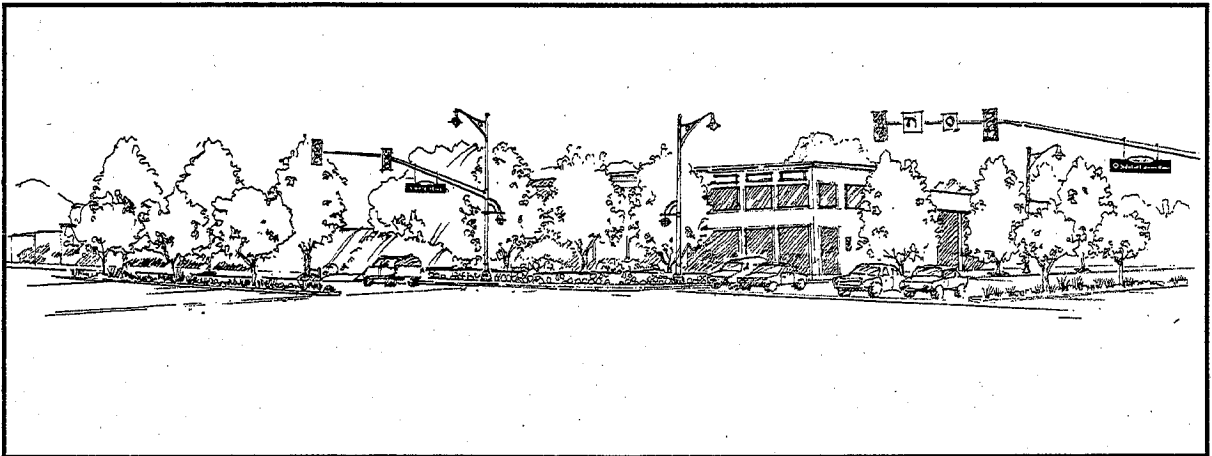
Before: Sierra Highway and Soledad Canyon Road Intersection



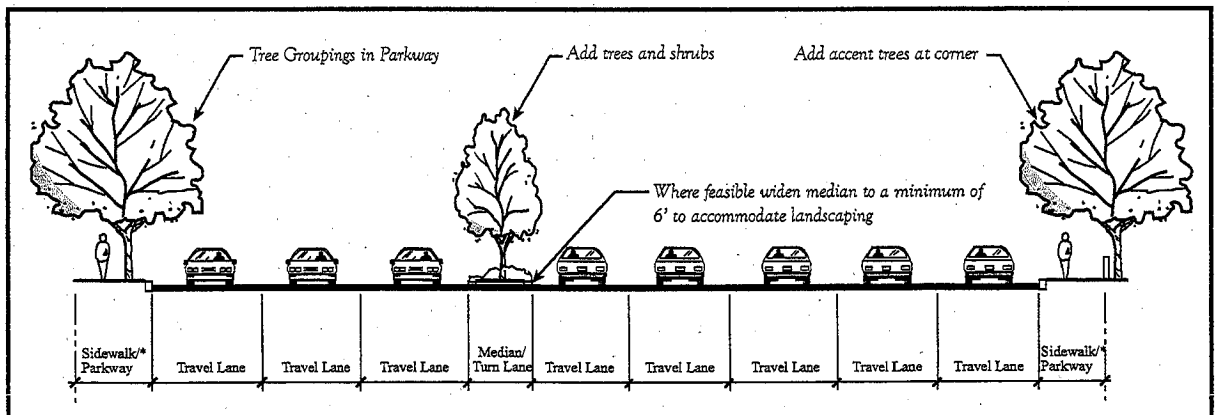
After: Sierra Highway and Soledad Canyon Road Intersection



Before: Sierra Highway and Soledad Canyon Road Intersection



After: Sierra Highway and Soledad Canyon Road Intersection With Improvements



Section A-A: Soledad Canyon Road Intersection With Improvements

## **D. Other Beautification Ideas**

This section addresses the beautification needs identified by participants from various workshops and provides suggestions for additional ways in which a community might encourage beautification efforts.

### **1. Specific Beautification Needs**

The following beautification needs are not directly addressed by the Beautification Master Plan, but are areas that community members have identified as issues needing improvement.

- Vacant lots should be screened with low walls, fences and /or landscaping
- Improve the general commercial corridor appearance along Soledad Canyon Road
- Raise the level of design and quality of new projects

### **2. Private Property Treatment**

To assist city beautification efforts within the street right-of-way, private property owners should strive to accomplish the following:

- Reduce sign clutter
- Landscape parking lots and building frontage
- Screen unsightly storage and trash areas
- Coordinate wall/fence treatment between properties
- Maintain vacant lots free of trash and weeds
- Seek to upgrade building facades consistent with design image
- Plant trees to add shade and soften urban look
- Use Canyon Country fence (post and rail) with planting along roads at vacant parcels

### **3. Getting Involved In The Process**

Community groups should make themselves aware of the City design review and approval process. Likewise, the City should notice a member of the organization of upcoming meetings and proposed projects. This established communication will help to ensure that projects are approved that residents and City staff are proud of. In addition, community groups might take on banner projects such as organizing and encouraging private property owners to improve their building facades or plant vines in front of unsightly walls and fences.