

PROJECT NARRATIVE and LETTER OF JUSTIFICATION

ADDISON-PENZAK JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

AQUATIC CENTER EXPANSION

The nine-acre Addison-Penzak Jewish Community Center (APJCC) was built in 2005 and is a beloved destination for all ages. Its aquatic center is used for a wide arrange of programming opportunities, from children's swim lessons through senior programming. With pool space operating at or above capacity, there is a need for increased water area and new facilities to support APJCC Members and its Los Gatos neighborhood.

While the APJCC is a heavy-feeling concrete building, the new, pavilion-style aquatic center establishes its own light presence while clearly belonging to the JCC. Users are connected to the surrounding area and can enjoy the beauty of swimming outdoors. With upgraded facilities, a renovated Mikvah, new locker rooms, and a new six-lane lap swimming pool, the APJCC can expand programming while increasing lane space for current activities.

During the workshops and meetings with APJCC leadership, members, and staff, ELS learned the needs of the APJCC community, their input influenced the design of the proposed new Aquatic Center. ELS worked with key stakeholders to generate design options that are ideal for multi-generational aquatics programming. Through leadership input, the existing pool will become dedicated to warm-water and kid-friendly programming, while the new six-lane swimming pool, with a six-foot maximum depth, will offer additional programming such as lap swim, starting blocks for teams, lifeguard training, and more.

The entrance to the aquatic facility is at the rear of the main APJCC building. When exiting the main building, the user is greeted by pairs of palm trees that flank the walkway up to the main gates of the new aquatic center. The sparkling blue water of the new six-lane swimming pool comes into view; as users continue their approach, the existing pool becomes visible to the right. This existing pool, which was recently renovated, will remain intact. The new locker room building consists of women's and men's spaces, pool equipment space shielded from view, storage space, and an office.

The locker room building, at 1900 sf, is located on the site's left side. A shaded lounge area is created between the two pools, with landscaping and three additional palm trees ideal for hanging out by the pool, picnics, play space, or sunbathing. The design creates a unified aquatic center with open visibility and access to both pools.

The existing locker room, pool office, and Mikvah building has a Phase I and Final Buildout version.

Phase I: The Mikvah component will have a dedicated entry and waiting area constructed, requiring only minor interior modifications. The exterior of the building will be “refreshed” with paint, while the remainder of the interior will remain as is, with the existing men’s and women’s locker rooms repurposed as family changing rooms.

Final Buildout: An additional interior renovation option includes new construction of the family changing rooms with accessible showers and two staff offices. All work described in the Final Buildout will be in addition to the work described under Phase I.

The new APJCC Aquatic Center will bring additional programming opportunities for members. The increased water area and deck space enables JCC Staff to run efficient swim lessons, camps, swim team, youth activities, and adult and senior programs.

The existing JCC facility has an existing conditional use permit in place. It was confirmed by the Town of Los Gatos Community Development Department that an environmental review is not needed for the aquatics center expansion.