

June 29, 2022 | Community Workshop Meeting Summary

Dear Oxnard Community Members,

Our community outreach for designing the South Oxnard Aquatics Center continues! Since 2021, City staff have engaged more than 1,000 residents, including youth, seniors, and parents, on feedback regarding potential aquatics center features and programming.

To continue community collaboration, **Councilwoman Gabriela Basua, District 5** and **Councilmember Vianey Lopez, District 6** extended an invitation to the community to attend the first of a two-part series of community workshops on Wednesday, June 29th, to discuss the potential design of the new South Oxnard Aquatics Center.

Held at the South Oxnard Center, the community participated in a tabletop design session to narrow down three potential concepts to one preferred concept. Each of the three concepts revealed various pool designs and building layouts in response to factors such as the strong winds that blow through College Park, sun patterns, and the building's proximity to the pools.

At the conclusion of Workshop #1, around 70 community members gave an enthusiastic and unanimous endorsement of **Concept C**, as it provided the best wind protection and a pool layout that met the desires of the community workshop attendees.

The South Oxnard Aquatic Center project is targeting an overall project budget range of \$30-\$40M. It will be built at College Park and is set to include a wide variety of aquatic features including a 50-meter pool, 25yd x 6-lane teaching pool, splash pad, slides, and other fun water options. The facility's state-of-the-art design will meet CAL Green Building Code requirements with a goal of minimizing its carbon footprint and use of water and energy. The design is targeted for completion in the spring of 2023 with construction to follow; a grand opening is targeted for summer 2025.

In all three concepts, the various building designs have locker rooms, family changing rooms, staff offices, entry lobby, concessions, lifeguard office and changing room, training room, mechanical equipment room, and pool storage. Each site includes an entry fountain, northern parking lot, berms with spectator seating, rooftop solar panels, and a picnic BBQ area. As cars approach the new aquatic center, there will be a safe "drop off" zone near the entry as well as additional street parking.

Concept A situates the building in an east-west orientation blocking winds coming from the northeast but does not provide protection from winds from the west. When entering the facility, one is met by the fun water zone of the aquatics center. A splash pad, fun water pool with lazy river and two slides are closest to the building that houses locker rooms, family changing rooms, training room and offices. Users can then head to the lap swimming zone with the 50-meter pool and 25yd x 6 lane teaching pool. A berm with seating separates the center's two areas. The building runs parallel and adjacent to the fun water zone, which facilitates families' easy access to the changing rooms while enabling use of the 50-meter pool. The eastern edge of the site has multiple picnic tables and BBQs. Due to the lack of wind protection from the west, Concept A was considered less ideal by those who attended Community Workshop #1.

Concept B orients the building north-south to block the western winds but does not block northeasterly winds that blow through trees and across the parking lot. The splash pad, fun water pool with lazy river, slides, and 25yd x 6-lane pool are near the building that houses the same features as those listed in Concept A. This concept design enables all fun water features plus the 25yd x 6-lane teaching pool to be in close proximity to the locker rooms and family changing rooms. The 50-meter pool is flanked on both sides with spectator seating built into a berm, which creates an arena-style atmosphere and cuts down on sounds coming from other activities in the aquatic center. The south-eastern corner of the site has several picnic tables and BBQs. Due to the lack of protection from the northeasterly winds, Concept B was considered less ideal by those who attended Community Workshop #1.

Concept C combines the buildings from Concept A and Concept B to create an L-shaped building that protects the aquatic center from winds coming in from the northeast and west. The pools are laid out similarly to those in Concept B, with additional umbrella tables and chairs encircling the fun water pool with lazy river, slides, and splash pad. The building's L-shaped plan enables two sets of locker rooms and family changing rooms, a set of lockers rooms and two family changing rooms adjacent to the 50-meter pool, and a set of locker rooms and four family changing rooms adjacent to the fun water area. Access to the aquatic center is on the northwest corner of the building where visitors will experience an entry fountain. On the south-easterly corner of the site, users will find multiple picnic tables and BBQs. With protection from the northeast and westerly winds, Concept C was unanimously selected as the Preferred Concept for further refinement by those who attended Community Workshop #1.

For this project's next steps, ELS will continue to advance the programming and conceptual design effort based upon Concept C – the Preferred Concept. This work will be ready for presentation, comment, and critique as part of the **South Oxnard Aquatics Center's Workshop #2, on August 1st from 6-7:30pm**. More information on this final South Oxnard Aquatics Center Workshop can be found at <https://www.oxnard.org/aquaticscenter/>.

As the City and ELS work to refine the Preferred Concept, we need your input! If you missed Workshop #1 or if you would like to add additional comments, you can view the three design concepts, type your comments, and vote for your preferred concept in this survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SOAC_Workshop1

We appreciate our community's readiness to attend these important workshops. Your thoughts are invaluable to this process.

Thanks,
The City of Oxnard and ELS Architecture and Urban Design