



10/2/2018

VIA EMAIL

Danny Abbes, Assistant Planner
City of Sacramento Community Development Department
300 Richards Blvd., 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: North Natomas Aquatics Center (DR18-287)

Dear Mr. Abbes:

WALKSacramento has reviewed the project routing for the North Natomas Aquatic Center (DR18-287). The project proposes an aquatic facilities including a 50-meter pool and bleachers, 25-meter pool, an activity pool, water slide and lawn area, a community center including a 10,700 square foot building with a special events lawn area, and a parking lot for 249 vehicles serving both facilities.

North-south bike path

The north-south bike path between North Park Drive and New Market Drive was originally constructed without the standard 2'-wide decomposed granite shoulders on each side. Subsequently, a shoulder on the west side of the path was constructed, the ball fields on the east side of the path were constructed with landscaping right up to the east edge of the path, and benches were placed on concrete pads against the east side of the path. These two actions effectively precluded construction of the shoulder on the east side of the path.

The North Natomas Aquatic Center project will reconstruct the existing bike path along the east edge of the project site at the standard 12' width without shoulders on either side, and a new driveway between the project parking lot and the ball field complex parking lot. With the increased pedestrian activity from the aquatic center added to that from the ballfield complex, the education complex, other park uses, and bike traffic through the park, we think the bike path design should be reconsidered. Now that high-activity uses will be on both sides of this segment of the bike path, the segment will function less as a bike transportation link and more as a sidewalk.

Bike parking

The project's design narrative states there will be "permanent and temporary bicycle parking," although the plans do not indicate where and how many spaces will be provided. The Revised Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration North Natomas Regional Park Master Plan Amendment and Community Center and Aquatics Complex Project stated there would be 20 bike parking spaces. The project site design has changed since the IS/MND, but the uses and capacities appear to be similar.

The number of proposed bicycle spaces is low for the project scope, and if insufficient short- and long-term parking isn't provided, we may see bikes locked in places that could present

obstructions or hazards to pedestrians. The size of the community center and aquatic facility may support between 50 and 90 spaces. The City code requires approximately 9 long-term and 42 short-term spaces. We estimate a total of 85 spaces would be needed according to *Promoting Sustainable Transportation Through Site Design: A Proposed Recommended Practice of the Institute of Transportation Engineers* and the City of Davis bicycle parking requirements for civic centers and commercial recreation facilities.

New Market crossings at Inoglia

The off-site plans for the New Market crosswalk on the west side of Via Inoglia appears to be within potential turning paths for vehicles turning left from northbound Via Inoglia and U-turns for eastbound vehicles on New Market Drive. We recommend the City consider extending the median to the edge of the crosswalk as was done at the New Market Drive-Inderkum H.S. intersection to the east. We also recommend adding a crosswalk through the median on the east leg of the intersection.

Pedestrian access from northwest of the project

The color site plan included in the project routing shows a grayed out sidewalk that seems to follow the future alignment of Town Center Drive between the northwest corner of the community center secondary entrance and the existing east-west bike path. This access route will be important for much of the Creekside community and neighborhoods northwest of the Aquatic Center. We recommend including the sidewalk connection to the bike path and widening the pathway between the west side of the community center building and Town Center Drive.

Sidewalk along west side of the "parking lot modification area"

There's no direct sidewalk between the west side of the education complex and the center of the ball field complex. Pedestrians must either cross Via Inoglia and New Market Drive or walk about 700' to the east and then about 350' back to the west. We recommend adding a sidewalk on the east side of the parking lot driveway at Via Inoglia to connect to the sidewalk stub at the north end of the modification area.

WALKSacramento is working to support increased physical activity such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. The benefits include improved physical fitness, less motor vehicle traffic congestion, better air quality, and a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in local neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm