

County of Santa Clara  
Board of Supervisors  
Supervisory District 5  
Supervisor S. Joseph Simitian



110704

**DATE:** May 18, 2022

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** S. Joseph Simitian, Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Budget Inventory Item No. 08: ADA Improvements to Los Gatos-Saratoga Adult Recreation Center

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Inventory Item No. 8 to provide a grant to the Town of Los Gatos in the amount of \$250,000 relating to Americans with Disabilities Act-related improvements to the Los Gatos-Saratoga Adult Recreation Center to address accessibility issues for older adults, and refer item for final consideration and approval on June 16, 2022. (Simitian)

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is a one-time cost of \$250,000.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Adult Recreation Center (Center) was constructed in the late 1970s by the Town of Los Gatos. The two-story building is approximately 12,000 sq. ft. and once housed Los Gatos Town operations as well as Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation (LGS Recreation). In 2009, the Town of Los Gatos entered into a long-term lease agreement with LGS Recreation to lease the entire facility to them. Since then, the Center has played a central role in the Town's efforts to provide increased services and activities for older adults through LGS Recreation's 55 Plus Program.

The 55 Plus Program provides a wide-ranging suite of services to provide Los Gatos older adults continuing education opportunities, health services and nutrition referrals, counseling, and volunteer and socialization opportunities. Programming is divided into weekly and monthly activities, as well as annual events.

As the population of Los Gatos and greater Santa Clara County continues to age, it is important the facilities that serve older adults be ADA-compliant and built to meet the needs and challenges of that aging population. Information from the U.S. Census Bureau from 2020 shows adults 55 years and older comprise approximately 35% of Los Gatos' population, with

older adults aged 65-74 being nearly a third of that segment. When compared to census information from 2010, the population of Los Gatos older adults increased by 5%. This aging population will only increase and the facilities and programs to serve them must keep pace.

A recent ADA audit of the Center showed that it comes up short on several fronts, including with regard to accessibility—particularly the restrooms within the building. Due to complications with plumbing, HVAC, and the elevators, it is impossible to retrofit all four restrooms to meet ADA requirements. In order to be ADA-compliant, a brand-new, gender-neutral restroom will have to be built in the space where the break room currently exists.

In addition, the flooring of the Center has reached the end of its useful life. According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 30 million falls are reported by older adults, of which 32,000 result in deaths. Replacing the flooring of the multi-purpose room in the Center to remove most irregularities in the surface that may cause tripping will help minimize the instances of falls.

The total budget for LGS Adult Recreation Center infrastructure improvements is approximately \$523,000. The town of Los Gatos applied for, and received, a federal Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$140,000. The remainder of the cost will be absorbed by the Town's budget.

The Town of Los Gatos has successfully pursued its World Health Organization Age-Friendly status with the development of a vibrant pedestrian-oriented downtown and access to parks and greenbelts. Ensuring the public has adequate access to ADA-compliant age-friendly public facilities is a fundamental responsibility, especially where older adult mobility issues are of strong concern.

### **CHILD IMPACT**

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children and youth.

### **SENIOR IMPACT**

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

### **BACKGROUND**

Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation was formed in 1956 by the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District. Abbreviated to "LGS Recreation", the department was re-organized by the Los Gatos Union School District, Saratoga Union School District, and Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District as a separate joint powers agency to ensure the effective and delivery of community education and recreational services to the communities of Los Gatos, Saratoga, Monte Sereno, and other mountain communities.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Remit funds to the Town of Los Gatos in the form of a one-time grant of \$250,000 for the above-described capital improvements.