

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Bree Osborne

Marketing Manager

bosborne@cityofsanteeca.gov

(619) 258-4100 x218

Building Community Together: Santee Community Center Groundbreaking

SANTEE, CA – The City of Santee will break ground on the long-awaited Santee Community Center on Friday, January 30 at 2:00 p.m. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at the future Community Center site, located at 10129 Riverwalk Drive, adjacent to the Cameron Family YMCA/Santee Aquatics Center at Town Center Community Park. Parking for the groundbreaking will be at 10123 Riverwalk Drive, Santee, CA 92071.

The new two-story, 12,500-square-foot Community Center will feature an event center and multipurpose rooms, a commercial warming kitchen, four-tier amphitheater seating, and additional amenities. Designed as a modern, state-of-the-art facility, the Community Center will serve a wide range of users, including youth, teens, and seniors, and will accommodate recreation programs, weddings, conventions, and corporate events.

The need for a Community Center in Santee was first identified in the City's 1990 Park and Recreation Long Range Master Plan and was added to the City's Fiscal Year 2018 – 2022 Capital Improvement Program budget. Project design began in October 2021 and was completed in August 2025.

The total projected cost of the project is \$26.8 million. The majority of funding will come from restricted funding sources designated specifically for park and recreation capital projects. These funding sources consist of development impact fees including public facilities and park-in-lieu fees, and a state grant.

Barnhart-Reese Construction, Inc. (BRC), a locally owned San Diego construction management company, was awarded the contract to build the new Community Center by the Santee City Council on December 10, 2025, following a multi-month competitive bidding process. BRC has completed projects throughout the region, including the Pine Avenue Park Community Center and Gardens in Carlsbad and the AGC East County Training Facility in Lakeside, and submitted the lowest responsive bid of \$20,598,311.

Construction will occur in two phases. Phase One, the new parking lot construction in front of the Cameron Family YMCA / Santee Aquatics Center, will take place from February through June 2026. Phase Two, construction of the Community Center building, is scheduled from June 2026 through September 2027. The Community Center is anticipated to open to the public in November 2027.

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