Live Oak reviews plan for swimming pool

By DENISE FRANKLIN
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LIVE OAK — Residents here will be apprised of the scaled-down plans for a community swimming pool during a meeting at 7:30 tonight at Live Oak Elementary School.

County supervisors last month approved plans for the pool that were much less than what the community wanted, but which fit into the county's budget of $4.5 million for the complex.

After many meetings with community groups, aquatics clubs and staff of the county Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services Department, a plan was drawn up for a facility at the 17th Avenue site that included an indoor swimming pool, indoor therapy pool, pool-side lockers and rest rooms, weight rooms, multipurpose rooms for community use, offices, child-care facility, parking, a drop-off driveway and other outdoor recreation space.

But the tab for all of this came to between $12.7 and $14.5 million, way beyond the county's budget of redevelopment funds and park dedication fees.

So supervisors selected a plan that will cost between $5 million and $6 million. It includes an outdoor swimming pool and an indoor therapy pool. It will include some landscaping and decks around the pool. The plan postpones the building of a community center until a later date.

"We need to look at how much building we can put down," said Live Oak Supervisor Jan Beautz, who will be at tonight's meeting. "Some of those things (in the original plans) are money makers. The pool needs to bring some money in. The weight room could be a money maker. And a child care center could be, also."

Beautz added that she would like to see a bubble considered to enclose the pool during bad weather so it could be used year round.

The county has turned over the scaled-down plans to a consultant for a financial analysis, Beautz said.

Beautz said she will be interested in hearing community members' reactions to the scaled-down plan, but added, "We have to realize that we do have budget constraints ...!Whatever we do, it has to be with the money that we have."