



## MEMORANDUM

**FROM:** Diego Martinez Garcia, Engineer

**TO:** City of Palo Alto Planning Department  
Architectural Review Board Members  
Cc – Tom Kapushinski, Senior Engineer

**PROJECT:** Local Advanced Water Purification System

**DATE:** February 5, 2024

**SUBJECT:** AWPS Canopy Cover

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A study session with the City's Architectural Review Board (ARB) was scheduled for November 2, 2023 for Action on 2501 Embarcadero Way (22PLN-00367) for Consideration of a Site and Design Application to Allow Construction of a Local Advanced Water Purification System at the RWQCP as Agenda Item #2. After a brief introduction by Planning Staff, WQCP Engineering Staff presented a few slides that covered the project background, costs, location, and architectural items. Board members asked a few clarifying questions and proceeded to provide their feedback.

One item for discussion was the possibility of adding screening to the open canopy around the entire building or at least on the side that faces Embarcadero Road (northwest). The City and design team evaluated the feasibility of installing screening on each side of the canopy. For the northeast and southwest faces of the canopy (Figure 1), access is needed to maintain, repair and replace reverse osmosis (RO) and microfiltration (MF) skids. Figure 2 shows sections of the RO skids (green) and MF skids (orange). Full height access will be required during operations; therefore, it is not possible to add screening in these faces. The southeast face of the canopy, shown in green (Figure 1), is located towards the interior of the Regional Water Quality Control Plant (RWQCP), therefore no screening will be provided. Additionally, open access is needed to allow crews remove and replace equipment.





Figure 3. Views from Embarcadero Road. Partial covering is provided by noise wall, electrical building and landscaping.

The City and design team evaluated a few options to provide screening to the northwest face of the AWPS canopy. Canopy coverings cannot be installed from the floor to the bottom because access is needed. Canopy screening could be installed from the canopy line down to the top of the electrical building. One proposal is to use functional metal art screen panels. These panels are perforated screen metal sheets and can be used to secure or obscure mechanical or electrical equipment. These panels come in various sizes and are made of steel, cor-ten steel or aluminum. Colors available are white, black, bronze, dark blue, beige, green, orange, red and silver. From the available patterns, the proposed ones are shown below (Figure 4). A few examples are provided below (Figure 5, 6 and 7).



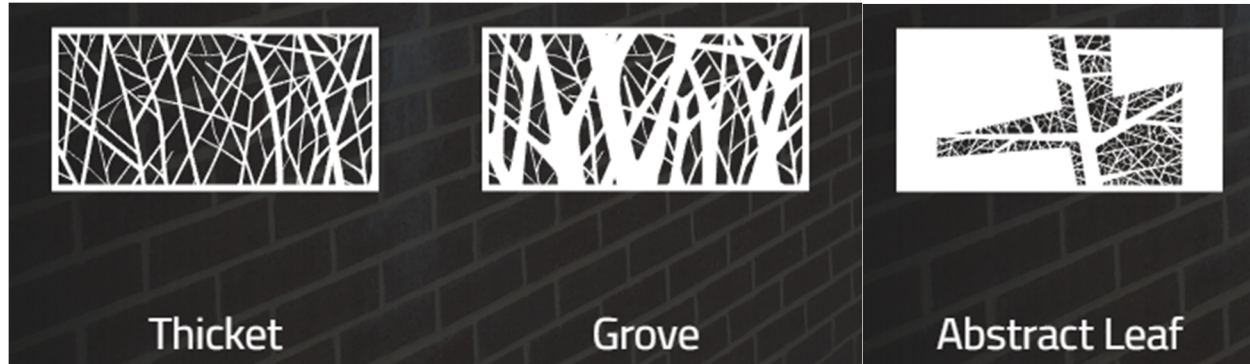


Figure 4. Proposed patterns for AWPS Project



Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7





Figure 8