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Gensler

October 24, 2025

City of Menlo Park Attn: Planning Division 701 Laurel Street Menlo Park, CA 94025

Subject: Proposed Citibank, 1215 El Camino Real

Project Description

Project Number: 33.4388.001

File Code: 3PD

Dear Planning Reviewer:

This project proposes the development of a new Citibank bank location in an existing building that was previously occupied by First Republic Bank. The existing building had the exterior remodeled in the late 1990s to the current look with cement plaster pilasters and a low tower element all consistent with the brand look and feel for First Republic Bank. Even the saw-toothed exterior storefront along the parking lot also reflects this brand.

The proposed exterior redesign is to remove these elements associated with the previous brand and to introduce elements consistent with the Citibank brand, while also modernizing the look of the exterior and introducing additional materials. Other than replacing the existing storefronts with new, the structure of the exterior walls will remain as existing. The storefront along the parking lot will be replaced with new, straight storefront and will be full height – from the ground plane to the interior ceiling height of 10'-0". The new storefront along El Camino Real will also extend from the floor to 9'-8" A.F.F. just below the interior ceiling height due to existing structure in the wall.

The building will retain a recessed entry but this will be squared-off, allowing for a larger covered area at the main entry doors facing Oak Grove Avenue. A single door facing El Camino Real allows access to a 24-hour ATM Lobby. The ceiling over this recessed area will have metal panels with a faux wood finish and will extend into the building in the ATM Lobby.

On the exterior of the building, white glazed brick will cover the two ends of the building and wrap up and over a band of blue metal panels that will be the backdrop for the two signs on the building. The two storefronts on the two sides of the building will be recessed from the face of the brick and the solid wall portions will be clad in the same faux wood metal panels as the ceiling over the recessed entry. Finally, just below the blue band will be a brushed, formed metal eyebrow that will provide accent illumination to the above blue panels. The 3 columns at the storefront will be clad in a similar brushed metal panel.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Schmierer, AIA Senior Associate | Studio Director

