



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 27, 2007

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Aquatic Section Program Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receives a presentation on the Aquatic Section Beach Lifeguard Service and the new Lifeguard Towers, Junior Lifeguard program and Junior Lifeguard State Championships, and the summer Learn to Swim program.

DISCUSSION:

The primary purpose of the seasonal Beach Lifeguard Service operated by the Aquatic Section is to prevent incidents, accidents, and respond to emergencies over 4.2 miles of City beach. The Beach Lifeguard Service recently acquired 5 new fiberglass Lifeguard towers to replace the previous wooden structures.

The Junior Lifeguard program provides youth with an opportunity to participate in a disciplined training program that emphasizes fitness, surf lifesaving skills, competition, and team work. On July 20th, the Junior Lifeguard State Championships will return to East Beach for a second year and will bring over 40 agencies from across California to compete. There will be over 1,500 competitors vying for the crown of California State Champion, while an additional 1,000 spectators and family members look on and cheer.

Each year 600 youth are certified in swimming and water safety through the American Red Cross Learn to Swim programs offered at Los Baños and Ortega Park swimming pools. The Aquatic Section provides swim scholarships, and also partners with local non-profit youth organizations to provide free swimming lessons funded through a grant from the Orfalea Foundation.

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