



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 19, 2008

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Los Baños Deep End Wall Replacement and Re-Plastering Project

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Los Baños Deep End Wall Repair and Re-Plastering Project.

DISCUSSION:

The primary purpose for the Los Baños Deep End Wall Repair and Re-Plastering project was to remove and replace the deep end wall which had been leaking for ten years. Over the years, five different methods applied to seal the area had all failed. In 2006, the City contracted with Rowley International Inc. (Rowley) to provide a design to address the leaking wall. Rowley determined that in order to resolve the leaking issue and provide structural integrity to the pool, the entire pool wall needed to be replaced. This work required the pool be emptied of water for eight to ten weeks, which provided the opportunity to re-plaster the pool shell.

During the closure other facility maintenance items and repairs such as renovation of the pool ladders, painting, and re-grouting of tiles in the locker rooms were also completed.

The pool contractor, Condor, Inc., began work June 16, 2008. The facility was re-opened one week early on Monday, August 25th, which coincided with the return of High School programs and allowed for City, Santa Barbara Swim Club, and Santa Barbara City College participants to return to Los Baños with no schedule interruptions.

Pool Programming

Despite some early concern expressed by program participants regarding the scheduled closure of Los Baños during the summer months, the vast majority of swimmers understood that the repairs needed to happen. The Department relocated youth recreation and swim lesson programs to Ortega Park and Oak Park swimming pools, and lap swim, advanced swim lessons, and Santa Barbara Swim Club youth and adult programming was offered at the three Santa Barbara School District pools.

There were many factors that contributed to the success of relocating Los Baños aquatic programming during the summer closure:

- The weather was outstanding, which when combined with the higher than average ocean water temperatures, provided an opportunity for lap swimmers to distance swim, and youth to recreate on City beaches.
- The advanced planning by Aquatic staff and some timely and positive press ensured that information was consistent and swimmers knew when and where they were scheduled to swim.
- The Department worked collaboratively with the Santa Barbara School District which increased pool access from 14 to 24 hours a week and resulted in 100% of aquatic programs scheduled at Los Baños pool to be offered at Santa Barbara High School. The Department also secured 31 of the 33 hours a week the Santa Barbara Swim Club offered programs during the summer months at Los Baños. The Swim Club programming, and the Semana Nautica Age Group swim meet were all conducted at San Marcos and Dos Pueblos High School pools.

Participation Numbers

Following the actual closure of Los Baños pool on June 14th, it took almost a week for swimmers to learn about parking, restrooms, changing locations, and other nuances associated with using an unfamiliar facility. However, after the first week of change, attendance for all programs began to increase. A total of 2,457 City program participants were served at Santa Barbara High School, and Santa Barbara Swim Club participation declined by 20% for Masters and Novice swimmers due to additional travel times and scheduling complications at San Marcos and Dos Pueblos High Schools. A comparison between 1st quarter Los Baños attendance in FY 08 and FY 09 reflects a minimal decrease of 1,312 participants, which represents lower participation in recreation swim and walk-in traffic by swimmers visiting Santa Barbara.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of the project was \$511,000. The project was funded by the General Fund, through both the Parks and Recreation Capital Program (\$261,000) and the Aquatics Program equipment replacement account (\$10,000) as well as the Public Works Facilities Maintenance Program (\$240,000).

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