



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 22, 2009

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Recognition of the Santa Barbara County American Red Cross Safety and Preparedness Division

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission recognize the staff of the Santa Barbara County American Red Cross Safety and Preparedness Division for their support of the Aquatic Section in providing safety training and aquatic programs for youth and teens.

DISCUSSION: The Santa Barbara County American Red Cross Safety and Preparedness Division (ARC) and their professional staff provide many resources and support to the Aquatic Section in order to deliver a wide variety of safety programs and services to residents of this community and Parks and Recreation Department staff. With this support, the Aquatic Section annually provides swimming lessons to 700 youth between the ages of six months and 15 years, vocational training in lifeguarding and swim instruction to 40 teenagers and young adults, and CPR and First Aid training to 300 Parks, Recreation, and Golf staff.

During spring-break 2009, the Aquatic Section offered a second annual "free" lifeguard academy to help recruit lifeguards for summer positions and provide participants with the skills and certifications to seek out future aquatic jobs. This year the ARC supplied 14 participants with books and essential training materials at no charge which resulted in participation numbers doubling from last year. Furthermore, the local chapter staff took time out of their schedules to stop in on the final day to congratulate those who completed the academy.

It is with great gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Department recognizes these individuals for their ongoing support of the many safety training and aquatic programs offered to Recreation staff and the community.

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