



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: September 28, 2011

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Recognition of Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission recognize the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise for their support of aquatic programming for youth at West Beach Wading Pool.

DISCUSSION: For the past two years, the Parks and Recreation Department has had to make significant but strategic cuts to programs and services to meet annual budget challenges. To help meet these budget reductions, the Department proposed closing the West Beach Wading Pool while continuing to operate Oak Park Wading Pool in an effort to meet an important community need.

The Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise realized the community and geographical need to have a free aquatic facility open during the busy summer months and approved a grant of \$2,500 toward the West Beach Wading Pool recreation swim for the second straight year. This generous support provided an opportunity for staff to work with the Santa Barbara School District Early Education Program to match these funds, so they could send participants from their school based programs to West Beach Wading Pool twice a week for the entire month of July.

Santa Barbara is surrounded by popular and frequently visited beaches, rivers, and lakes. Drowning is the third leading cause of accidental death in the United States and the second most frequent for children under the age of 12, so the significance of having a facility like the West Beach Wading Pool open for youth six months to seven years of age is vital to children learning how to be safe in an aquatic environment. Wading pools provide a perfect venue for youth to be able to cool off on a hot summer day, while they begin to learn the basic fundamentals of aquatic safety in a fun environment.

This year due to the generous donation received from the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise, a total of 1,700 youth had an opportunity to use the West Beach Wading Pool for free while having fun in a safe environment.

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It is with great gratitude that the Parks and Recreation Department recognizes the Rotary Club of Santa Barbara Sunrise for their incredible support of important youth aquatic programming in the community.

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