



County of Santa Cruz

PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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BARRY C. SAMUEL, DIRECTOR

February 12, 1999

AGENDA: February 23, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: AQUATICS STAFF - SIMPKINS FAMILY SWIM CENTER

Dear Members of the Board:

As your Board is aware, we have recently opened the Simpkins Family Swim Center. Our staff is currently spending a tremendous amount of time on: operational issues, planning new aquatic programs, community programs, and activities that will be offered beginning in the spring and establishing new departmental policies for the safe operation of the pool complex. In addition, we continue to recruit, hire and train the staff required to operate the aquatics programs year-round for up to 16 hours per day. We are currently managing all pool operations utilizing annual staff and extra-help lifeguards and head lifeguards.

Swim Center Staffing

This facility requires staff who not only pass the County's qualifications for hire but will be specially trained for the swim center. A high level of competence, training and experience is critical to our providing the best pool supervision and life guarding services possible for the safety of the public.

During the upcoming spring, summer and fall months, the swim center's peak season, we will be evaluating staffing patterns and the use of the facility in order to better define an appropriate level of permanent staffing for the swim center. In the interim, however, we believe the addition of limited term positions is needed to maintain the County's current aquatic programs as well as adequately support new programs, activities and special events, many of which are outlined in more detail below.

Therefore, we are recommending that your Board approve the addition of two FTE Recreation Program Specialist positions on a limited-term basis through June 30, 2000. The Recreation Program Specialist classification most closely reflects the job requirements, duties and compensation appropriate for this position. The two limited term positions will be financed through the conversion of existing extra-help appropriations with the incremental cost of employee benefits funded from salary savings this fiscal year.

These limited term positions are needed at this time, during this transition period, to enable us to retain head lifeguards with the necessary levels of knowledge, certification and experience, valuable skills that would be lost when an extra-help employee reaches 999 hours in a fiscal year. In addition to general life guarding duties, head lifeguards plan lifeguard schedules, supervise guards, conduct staff training, teach classes, help organize special events, plan for future programs and must also have the emergency medical experience to handle the types of accidents and life threatening incidents which may occur at community and aquatic centers. These positions are critical to the success of the swim center.

The continuation of these limited term positions will be requested as part of the fiscal year 1999/2000 budget process. We will return to your Board with recommendations to establish permanent life guard staff as needed during FY 2000/2001 budget discussions.

Planned Activities at the Swim Center

While we have not completed our summer program activities guide, we plan to offer the following aquatic programs/events at the Simpkins Family Swim Center over the next 12 months:

- Swim Lessons - 11 levels from 6 months to senior
- Private Lessons - all levels for any age
- Lap Swim - beginning January 25th, available from 6:00 a.m. through 7:30 p.m.
- Adult Fitness Swim (Masters Swim) - at specific times from 6:00 a.m. through 7:30 p.m.
- Water Exercise (Aerobics) - adult
- Recreation Swim - All ages
- Boys and Girls Water Polo
- Adult Water Polo
- Junior Lifeguards
- Family Swim Nights
- Lifeguard Training Classes
- Private Swim Party Rental
- Santa Cruz County Aquatics and Cabrillo Threshers Swim Team Practices
- Santa Cruz County Athletic League Swim Finals
- United States Swimming (U.S.S.) Regional Swim Meet
- Santa Cruz County Athletic League Water Polo Meets and Championships
- Central Coast Section (CCS) Water Polo Divisional Championships

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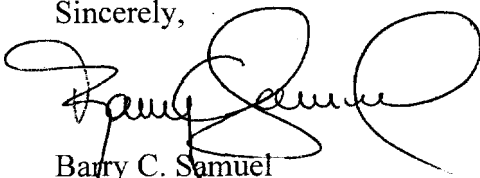
Conclusion

This facility is in constant demand by this community for many different programs and events. It is vital to the success of the programs that we have an appropriate level of staffing and evaluate the actual use of the facility before we come to your Board with ongoing staffing proposals. Until that time we are recommending that your Board approve the addition of limited term staff as outlined above.

Therefore, it is Recommended that your Board:


Approve the addition of two FTE Recreation Program Specialist positions for the Simpkins Family Swim Center as limited term appointments through June 30, 2000, with funding for fiscal year 1999/2000 contingent upon Board approval during budget hearings.

Sincerely,



Barry C. Samuel
Director

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office
Personnel
County Counsel
Auditor/Controller
Parks