



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

John Wicker, Director

Norma E. Garcia, Chief Deputy Director

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Contact: Terry Kanakri
Public Information Officer
(626) 588-5372 or (213) 304-9863
tkanakri@parks.lacounty.gov

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVES PLANS FOR
WHITTIER AREA AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT**

WHITTIER – Recognizing the need for pools and recreational swimming, plans are underway to build a regional Aquatic Center in the unincorporated Whittier community following approval of initial funding by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

This signature project of Fourth District County Supervisor Janice Hahn will feature swimming pools offering recreational swimming, swim lessons, junior lifeguard training, synchronized swimming, water polo and diving. An Olympic-size competition pool will also provide a venue for master swim teams, and will be certified for hosting official swimming competitions and water polo events.

County supervisors on Tuesday, Aug. 14, unanimously approved nearly \$5.5 million in Proposition A excess funds available through Supervisor Hahn's Fourth District Supervisorial Office to begin project planning and development.

During the fiscal year 2018-19 supplemental changes budget phase, an additional \$19 million of Utility User Tax revenue allocated for use in Supervisor Hahn's Fourth District in the Provisional Finance Use budget will be transferred to this capital project.

This Aquatic Center will include a pool building with offices, a competitive swimming pool, a practice pool and related improvements, as well as classrooms and restrooms. The Department will enter a lease agreement with the Whittier Union High School District to build the Aquatic Center on District-owned property at Pioneer High School, 10800 Ben Avon St.

"For many of the residents in this community, even the closest county public pool is still too far away," said Supervisor Hahn. "That's about to change. We're building a new state-of-the-art swimming pool on the grounds of Pioneer High School. Swimming is really a life-long activity, and I cannot wait for residents of all ages to have the opportunity to enjoy their new public pool.

John Wicker, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, said the planned Aquatic Center will be an important and much needed recreational facility for the unincorporated Whittier community.

“We’re very grateful to the support of Supervisor Hahn, and are excited about our partnership with the Whittier Union High School District to bring this much needed Aquatic Center,” he said. “We’re glad we’re able to provide children and families with much needed opportunities for recreational swimming in their community.”

According to the Department of Parks and Recreation’s 2016 Needs Assessment Report, the unincorporated Whittier, South Whittier, and West Whittier-Los Nietos communities, coupled with unincorporated East La Mirada, Avocado Heights and Hacienda Heights, list a population of 154,571 residents with zero Aquatic Centers. The national average is more than five pools per 100,000 residents.

Currently, the nearest county operated year-round multi-purpose aquatic facility for the unincorporated Whittier community is located 7.4 miles away at Belvedere Community Regional Park.