

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
KATHRYN BARGER

August 31, 2021

Extending the Recreation Summer Swim Program at LA County Pools

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) provides a variety of aquatics programs throughout the County. From swimming pools, and swim to lake beaches, to splash pads there is something for everyone and every skill level. Having community recreational swim programs provide many benefits to communities. Our pools are much more than places to cool off on a hot day – they’re places for people of all different ages, races, and abilities to learn swimming skills, socialize with their peers, and get in some quality exercise. DPR manages 30 public swimming pool facilities countywide. Only 3 aquatic centers and 2 indoor pools operate year-round and the other 25 provide seasonal programming for a 10-week summer season. Each location provides standardized programming including CORE programs such as Learn-to-Swim (swimming lessons), aqua aerobics, and the EveryBody Swims program (free recreational swimming).

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MOTION

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Throughout Los Angeles County, and the world, we are seeing the impacts of climate change, one of which is temperature extremes. In LA County, hotter, longer heat waves caused by climate change are one of the major threats to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Recent studies have found that summers in the Northern Hemisphere may last nearly half of the year by 2100. We are experiencing more very hot days and heat waves later in the summer, starting in May and going through the month of October.

As our summers continue to get longer it is important that we extend our 10-week summer pool programs for our residents to enjoy. This year, the summer season pools were open to the public from June 15, 2021 through August 21, 2021. While these have been the traditional summer months, we must recognize the change in our climate. The extended summer season for Los Angeles County is a new normal so we must adjust our programming to offer the needed benefits that our pools provide. By expanding our summer swim program DPR will need to hire more lifeguards and adjust the department operations to ensure the safety of the public. DPR has already developed and prioritized a lifeguard training camp to hire more lifeguards, especially in our vulnerable communities. We know that the upcoming months of September and October will bring us warmer days so we should start now and bring back our summer swim programs this year at all our county pools.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to report back in 7 days on the feasibility of extending our summer swim program through October of this year at all County seasonal pools;
2. Direct DPR to work with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to identify ongoing funding

and resources needed, including staffing, services, and supplies, to extend the summer swim season for seasonal pools from a ten-week season to a six-month season from May 1st through October 30th commencing this fiscal year and moving forward and report back in advance of the FY 21-22 Supplemental Budget and FY 22-23 Recommended Budget. Direct the CEO to consider identifying and allocating ongoing funding for this proposal as a priority; and

3. Direct the Director of DPR with support from CEO and the Department of Human Resources to develop a Department Aquatic Operational Plan, including, but not limited to hiring, recruitment, training, staffing and any capital improvements needed to operationalize a six-month aquatic program for the 25 seasonal Department pools and report back in 90 days.

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