



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA JOINS COMMUNITY
TO CELEBRATE OPENING OF BELVEDERE AQUATIC CENTER**

Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina and the Department of Parks and Recreation will celebrate the grand opening of Belvedere Park Aquatic Center on Saturday, July 12.

To be held at 10 a.m., the ceremony at 5035 E. First St. in Los Angeles will mark the debut of a \$14.8 million facility providing families with an array of exciting options for healthy, safe aquatic recreation and the opportunity to take swimming lessons that have the potential to save lives. Synchronized swimming and diving demonstrations will be part of the celebration — where Department of Parks and Recreation staff will be available to discuss programs, and representatives from the American Red Cross will be on hand to provide important information on water safety. Two-time World Class Diving Championships record-holder Sam Hernandez will also be in attendance.

"East L.A. is now home to the only outdoor Olympic-size pool open to the public on Los Angeles County's Eastside," said Supervisor Molina, who provided funding to make the facility possible. "Hopefully, this \$14 million investment will help level the playing field so Eastside kids can have a fair shot at Olympic gold."

The previous pool at Belvedere Community Regional Park was built in 1950, welcoming hundreds of thousands of swimmers over more than 60 years before it was demolished in 2013 to make way for a new, state-of-the-art facility. Belvedere Aquatic Center will feature a 12,750-square-foot Olympic-size competition pool; 2,550-square-foot lap/instructional pool; 1,100-square-foot children's splash pool and a 1,100-square-foot leisure pool. To the delight of competitive swimmers, the competition pool will be listed by USA Swimming as certified for both short (25 meters) and long (50 meters) course competition. As part of the new construction, Belvedere Park Aquatic Center will also include an 11,500-square-foot pool building with restrooms, showers, changing rooms, exercise room, classroom and staff offices.

"Aquatic recreation is so important to young people in particular — not only because swimming is fun, but also because it is essential to teach and reinforce skills that are potentially life-saving," said Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney. "Belvedere Aquatic Center is a place where people of all ages, and their families, can feel welcome to have fun, learn and grow in their community for many years to come."

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