



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Susana Villegas

619-947-5742, svprcommunications@gmail.com

EUSD Launches First After-School Swim Lessons in Renovated Pool at Escondido YMCA

\$1.2 Million District Investment Supports Student Safety, Access, and Equity

Escondido, CA - The Escondido Union School District (EUSD) today launched its first after-school swim and water safety lessons in a newly refurbished pool located at the Escondido YMCA – A Campus for Community Well-Being. The pool reopening will allow EUSD elementary aged children, beginning with third grade, to participate in swimming and water safety lessons, many for the first time.

Closed since the COVID-19 pandemic, the pool was brought back to life through a \$1.2 million renovation funded by EUSD using state resources allocated for expanded learning and after-school programming. While the pool is located on YMCA property, the strategic initiative is district-driven, focused on delivering life-saving water safety education to Escondido students.

The program marks one of the largest school district-led swim safety efforts in the region, starting with elementary-aged students (beginning in third grade) who will participate in swim lessons during after-school hours. The first group of students includes participants from the YMCA's Expanded Learning Program (ELP), reflecting a shared commitment to equity, access, and safety for the district's highest-need youth.

"We are proud to partner with the YMCA as part of the district's broader commitment to providing meaningful and beneficial activities for our students," said Andrew McGuire, incoming superintendent of EUSD. "This initiative supports our long-term vision to increase student safety, expand enrichment opportunities, and invest in community well-being."

During the academic year, EUSD will transport students to the pool site by school, with plans for a full-day enrichment program during summer months. Future phases of the district's partnership with the YMCA will include access to nearby outdoor soccer fields, a farm-to-table instructional garden, a teaching kitchen, and outdoor activity zones - all located on green space between the YMCA's two main buildings on North Broadway.

"The YMCA of San Diego County has been actively engaged in Escondido and the surrounding communities for more than 60 years," said Ron Lelakes, executive director of the Escondido YMCA. "We're honored to partner with EUSD to host this important student-centered swim initiative on our campus. Together, we're creating a safe, supportive space where youth can gain life-saving skills and build confidence in the water."

ABOUT THE ESCONDIDO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Escondido Union School District serves more than 14,000 students in preschool through eighth grade across 23 schools, including 17 elementary schools and five middle schools. The district serves most of Escondido as well as portions of San Diego, Harmony Grove, Elfin Forest, and Hidden Meadows. Learn more at www.EUSD.org.

ABOUT THE YMCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

The YMCA of San Diego County is one of the largest Y associations in the nation, serving over 400,000 San Diego County residents and employing more than 4,500 people. Through a variety of programs and services focused on community well-being and belonging, the Y unites individuals - regardless of age, income, or background - to nurture the potential of children and teens, improve the nation's health and well-being, and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. The YMCA of San Diego County nurtures a healthy spirit, mind, and body so all can thrive while honoring our faith-based heritage. Visit www.ymcasd.org to find your local YMCA or call (858) 292-YMCA (9622).

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