

Construction of the Olympic-size swimming pool on schedule for completion in spring

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Construction of the Olympic-size swimming pool at the University of California, San Diego is on schedule with completion of the badly needed pool and auxiliary facilities in the student recreation project scheduled for next spring.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$1.8 million aquatics center were held last June on a five-acre site off Old Miramar Road east of Pryatel Field. The weather during the initial stage of construction - grading and digging of the swimming pool has been ideal allowing the work to proceed on the original construction schedule.

The recreation complex will include, in addition to the 50-meter swimming pool, a 10,500 square-foot recreation building housing four racquetball/handball courts, spectator seating for the pool, an outdoor whirlpool bath, sheltered spaces for small-group gatherings, and men's and women's locker facilities.

The facilities will supplement the single swimming pool currently in use at UCSD which is inadequate to meet the recreation and athletic needs of the 12,500 student body. The cost of constructing the complex is being funded by non-state funds, coming initially through a loan from a commercial lending institution. The cost will eventually be repaid by present and future UCSD students who will pay \$12 per quarter (\$36 per academic year) for the development for the next 30 years. UCSD students approved this means of funding in a referendum in the spring of 1981.

Additional funds for the complex are currently being sought by the San Diego Aquatics Association, a community association representing all San Diego swimming interests which was formed to help develop the UCSD facility into an Olympic standard training site.

According to David Dunbar, a UCSD alumnus and president of the San Diego Aquatics Association, the association has already raised \$140,000 toward a \$200,000 goal through a major corporate gift, private foundations and individual donors.

"At present, there is no public 50-meter pool in San Diego and many of the area's talented swimmers are forced to leave the area to find national caliber programs," Dunbar said. "The UCSD aquatics center represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by providing an Olympic standard training facility for San Diego swimmers. Community use of the facility will be assured when our \$200,000 goal is reached," he said.

Dunbar said a second fund raising effort by the association will be aimed at the future construction of an additional 50-meter pool designed as a diving, water polo and training tank.

The aquatics center complex was designed by Sillman/Wyman & Associates, of San Diego. Harper Development Co., of San Diego is general contractor for the project.

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