

City of El Segundo

Aquatics Facilities, Fees & Programs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Where is the new Aquatics Center going to be located?

The new Aquatics Center is located at 300 Duley Road on the Wiseburn High School campus, with a separate entrance just at the end of Grand Avenue heading east.

How much does the new Aquatics Center cost to build?

The new Aquatics Center project budget is estimated to be \$12.5 million.

How much money did Wiseburn Unified School District contribute to the project?

Wiseburn Unified School District contributed \$6,000,000 towards the project, plus the land.

What are the other sources of funds for the Aquatics Center project?

The City of El Segundo contributed \$1,800,000 to the project. The El Segundo Unified School District has agreed to contribute \$400,000 for the direct purchase of facility supplies and equipment to be used by school athletics and other community programs. A non-profit organization called South Bay Sports, Health and Recreation was founded by local businessman and philanthropist Richard Lundquist to lead the corporate and community fundraising campaign and has pledged a goal of \$6,000,000 to be used on this project and the future renovation of The Plunge. Learn more about fundraising opportunities [HERE](#).

What user groups will be using the new Aquatics Center?

The new facility will be home to both the El Segundo High School and Wiseburn High School swim and water polo teams. School use will be capped at six total hours per day and take place primarily in the early afternoon to late afternoon time period. Other uses will include community programming such as swim lessons, lap swim, recreation swim, and private rentals to outside user groups. Outside user groups will be required to apply for usage and be selected based on criteria that best fits the needs of the community, including but not limited to program development goals, usage needs, and ability to host revenue-generating events.

What are the new fees that were approved on June 5, 2018?

The City approved new drop-in program fees and hourly rental fees for both The Plunge and the new Aquatics Center. Drop-in program fees apply to open programs like lap swim, recreation swim, swimnastics, and open water polo. While historically El Segundo residents with a Rec ID Membership received access to these programs for no additional cost, the City is making an effort to begin to recoup some of the operational expenses associated with operations, maintenance, utilities, lifeguards, equipment, and supplies. A per-visit fee of \$4 for adults, and \$2 for youth, seniors, and military members will be charged for El Segundo residents. Discounted multiple-use options will be available in the form of monthly unlimited use memberships as well as multiple-use punch cards. The complete fee schedule can be viewed [HERE](#).

Why do residents of Wiseburn Unified School District get the same discount as El Segundo residents?

The City of El Segundo and Wiseburn Unified entered into a Settlement Agreement in 2013 that stipulated residents of the school district would pay the same rates as El Segundo residents at the new Aquatics Center. Wiseburn residents will be required to obtain an annual Wiseburn ID Membership at fees equal to the El Segundo Resident Rec ID Membership to receive the discounted rates. These rates are only applicable to the new facility because the tax dollars that supported the construction of the pool and high school essentially came from property taxes within the District.

The new fee schedule shows a “Family” to be equal to four individuals with a maximum of two adults. What is the fee for an additional family member or additional children?

There has not yet been an additional family member fee established. A fee will be recommended at a future City Council meeting for approval. The public can provide feedback to the Department Director and/or the City Council as to what a reasonable fee may be.

What if me and/or my family cannot afford to pay these new fees? Is there some financial assistance program available?

There has not yet been a financial assistance policy developed. The Department intends to develop a proposal and make a recommendation to the Recreation and Parks Commission and City Council. The public can provide feedback to the Department Director and/or City Council as to what a reasonable assistance policy would entail.

What is a Spectator Fee and when would that apply?

The details of a policy are still being developed, but likely this fee will only apply during large-scale special events to help defray costs associated with utilities. The fee may be applied to help discourage use of the facilities by those not entering to partake or chaperone those participating in aquatics programs (i.e. to use the shower facilities only).

Will non-residents have a higher fee?

Yes, the rates for non-residents are about 50% higher than the resident rates.

Do the new fees apply to Hilltop and Acacia outdoor pools?

No, the new fees only apply to The Plunge and the new Aquatics Center.

Will there be more lap swim and recreation swim opportunities when the new Aquatics Center opens?

Yes, there will be nearly four times as much time for recreation swim at The Plunge alone. More convenient lap swim times will also be available. Combined, the two facilities will offer a much more diverse set of programming and varied days and times to fit the schedules and needs of the community.

Will more swim lessons be offered when the new Aquatics Center opens?

Yes, there will be enormous growth in the quantity and quality of the group and private swim instruction programs. Group swim lessons will expand 3-4 times at The Plunge and also be offered at the new Aquatics Center. The duration of each class will expand from 25-minute sessions to 30-minute sessions to provide a more optimal learning experience. Additionally, instructors will receive higher training and the curriculum will be further developed to ensure high quality instruction is provided. More adult and adaptive swim lessons will be offered.

Will we still need to apply for swim lessons using a lottery system?

No, swim lessons will be available using the same registration process as all other Department programs. El Segundo Residents will receive priority registration and the resident Rec ID discount. The number of swim lesson classes offered will more appropriately meet the demand, thereby eliminating the need for the lottery system.

Will the fees for swim lessons increase?

Because the quality of the instruction will be enhanced, and the amount of time per session is increased, the program enrollment fee will be increased to cover the additional costs. Currently, the group lesson rate is \$28 for eight 25-minute sessions, breaking down to just \$4.20 per 30 minutes. The new rates are expected to be \$45 for eight 30-minute sessions, breaking down to \$5.63 per 30 minutes.

How much does it cost the City to operate the Plunge currently?

The existing aquatics facilities and programs operate at an approximate annual deficit of \$560,000. The programs are heavily subsidized by the City.

Will the new Aquatics Center make a profit?

The financial projections anticipate the new Aquatics Center to operate at a deficit of nearly \$200,000 in the first year, with the possibility of becoming “break-even” if fully maximized around the fourth year. This takes into consideration market rates being charged for programs and facility rentals.

Where can I watch the City Council meeting from June 5 2018, when the aquatics fees were discussed and approved?

Watch the meeting online at [HERE](#).

How do I submit feedback or ask questions?

Please direct your comments, suggestions and questions to the Director of Recreation and Parks, Meredith Petit, at mpetit@elsegundo.org or (310) 524-2880.