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City Of National City Redevelopment/Special Projects

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National City to Break Ground Saturday on \$3.8 million Aquatic Center *Kayaking, Rowing, Classes to be Offered at Center*

National City – City leaders and community residents will celebrate the groundbreaking for a new Aquatic Center that will give the public more access to the city's thriving waterfront.

The groundbreaking will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, November 19, at Pepper Park. It will be followed with a family-friendly community fair featuring games, displays and kayaking at the Pepper Park boat launch. The fair will run from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

"We hope everyone will join us," said Mayor Ron Morrison. "The Aquatic Center is the long-awaited opportunity for the young people of National City to have access to their Bay."

The Aquatic Center has been in the planning stages for nearly a decade and will complement the recent improvements to the Pier 32 Marina and Marina Gateway. The project was designed by Safdie Rabines Architects of San Diego, and features public art by San Diego artist Lisa Schirmer. The Aquatic Center is expected to be completed by spring of 2013.

The South Bay Family YMCA will manage programming at the Center, which will include kayaking, rowing and environmental education courses. The Center will also be available for public events.

The \$3.8 million Aquatic Center is being built with funding from National City, the Unified Port of San Diego and the County of San Diego. Design and construction are being funded by \$3 million from the City's redevelopment agency, \$830,000 from the Port's Capital Improvement Budget and a \$150,000 grant from the County's Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.

"This Aquatic Center will provide healthy recreational opportunities for families in National City and give area residents and tourists more reasons to visit South County," said County Supervisor Greg Cox, who recommended County funding for the project.

Pepper Park is located off Interstate 5. Take the Bay Marina Drive exit and turn left (south) on Marina Way. Continue on Marina Way past the Pier 32 Marina to Goesno Place (turn left).