

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sonoma Splash & City of Sonoma to Host Series of Free Community Swim Days *Three-Year Recreation Partnership Aims to Increase Access and Engage Broader Community*

Sonoma, Calif. (February 15, 2023) – <u>Sonoma Splash</u> announced today that it would host a series of free community swim days beginning President's Day - Monday, February 20th - at the new aquatics center at Sonoma Valley High School. The series, funded by a portion of the grant awarded to Sonoma Splash by the City of Sonoma in 2022, will allow residents to experience the pools first-hand, learn more about the robust and affordable community programming offered and enjoy a day at the state-of-the-art facility.

"We're grateful the City of Sonoma has brought us on as a recreation partner and look forward to the positive impact their funding will have on Sonoma Splash and the community at large," said Paul Favaro, Board President of Sonoma Splash. "Their support enables our mission to increase access to the aquatic facility through scholarships, affordable programming, and free community days like the ones we have lined up from now through the summer. This is the first of what we hope are many offerings that the entire community can come out and enjoy."

The Free Community Days series kicks off Monday, February 20th, at the <u>Sonoma Valley High</u> <u>School Aquatics Center</u>, where families and community members can tour the multi-use facility and enjoy both pools first-hand. The pool will be open from 6 am - 8 pm, with locker rooms and showers available for guests. Lifeguards will be on duty, and adults must accompany children under 14 to participate; no RSVP is required.

"Swimming is such an important life skill and an excellent form of low-impact exercise that people of all ages should have the opportunity to enjoy," says Sonoma Mayor Sandra Lowe. "The City of Sonoma is proud to support Sonoma Splash and to help make this amazing community resource more affordable and accessible to the public. I encourage everyone to take the plunge and check out the aquatic center at one of the upcoming Free Community Days."

The three-year partnership between the City of Sonoma and Sonoma Splash was solidified in 2022 and will serve the City's efforts to support parks and recreation-type programming to City and County residents alike. The grant - which awards Sonoma Splash a total of \$25,000 a year - is designed to increase access to more affordable and accessible aquatic recreation through inclusive programming.

Free Community Swim Dates:

- February 20: Presidents Day
- April 16: Sonoma Splash Half Birthday
- May 20: National Learn to Swim Day
- June 24: Swim-a-Lap Day
- July 11: National Swimming Pool Day

For more information on the event and how to participate, please contact Hannah Martin at <u>hannahm@sonomasplash.com</u>. For more information on Sonoma Splash programs and pool hours, please visit <u>https://sonomasplash.com/.</u>

About Sonoma Splash

The Sonoma Valley Health and Recreation Association (Sonoma Splash) is a 501(c)3 dedicated to providing a sustainable, state-of-the-art, multi-use aquatic and recreation facility accessible to all Sonoma Valley residents for everything from water safety and education to family fun. Driven by increasing access and affordability, Sonoma Splash is committed to a wide variety of aquatic programming to ensure the community's diverse needs are acknowledged and represented in its offerings. In partnership with Sonoma Valley Unified School District, Sonoma Splash will operate the new aquatic center at Sonoma Valley High School to ensure meaningful access to water is available to students and Sonoma Valley residents of all ages. For more information, visit https://sonomasplash.com/.

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