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For Immediate Release

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Carlsbad Water Park Reports Highly Successful First Season

An estimated 26,000 people visited the Carlsbad Water Park throughout the summer of 2016, and city officials say they are busy planning for next year.

The Carlsbad Water Park was paid for through the City of Carlsbad Lodger's Tax and the general fund. It has been a community goal for many years.

"The development of a water park was the top item the mayor's long range planning list when I first became Mayor," said Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway. "It was so exciting to see the park open this year and just as exciting to see such a successful summer. Considering that we didn't open until July 1 this year, 26,000 visitors was very impressive. "

City officials also estimate that between 15-20% of the visitors came from out of town, with large numbers of guests travelling from Roswell, Artesia and West Texas.

The Carlsbad Water Park opened its doors on July 1, 2016, and was open six days a week until the onset of the school year on August 11. The park then remained open on weekends until the end of September.

In 2017, the City of Carlsbad plans to open the Carlsbad Water Park at the start of Memorial Day Weekend (Saturday, May 27) and remain open through Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 4). The park will remain open Tuesday through Sunday when school is out of session for the summer break, but will only be open on weekends during this period when school is in session.

The park's hours will remain from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Next year, the City plans to make the park available for rental from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening during the summer, to accommodate the high level of interest in facility rental expressed this year.

Tickets will remain \$5 per person, with children under 4 and adults over 61 admitted for free. Next year, the City of Carlsbad plans to offer bundles of advance tickets for sale at a discount rate. Please visit the City of Carlsbad web page regularly for updated information. All plans are also subject to final approval.

The City of Carlsbad is working to add additional amenities to the Carlsbad Water Park for 2017, with priorities including adding more tables and shade structures, non-slip walking surfaces, lockers and additional signage. Specific additions will be based on funding.

"We very much appreciated the public's support for the Carlsbad Water Park this summer, and we look forward to an even better year next season," Janway concluded.