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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ANNOUNCES 2013 FREE SUMMER LUNCH AND SNACK PROGRAM**

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture and the California Department of Education, will provide approximately 285,500 free lunches and snacks this summer to children at 48 county parks and 11 non-agency sites.

The 2013 free summer lunch and snack program begins on Monday, July 1, and concludes Friday, August 16. Lunches will be served between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and snacks between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Exact times vary depending on location.

Created to help reduce the growing percentage of young people in the United States challenged by obesity or lack of consistent access to wholesome meals, the program aims to provide a healthy alternative for children when school is out for the summer.

Monday through Friday during each week of the program, children 18 years of age and under are invited to receive a nutritious lunch and snack, with fare that include such offerings as sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and healthy dairy products like milk, string cheese and yogurt.

In order for participating parks to qualify for the program, they must service areas within the geographical boundaries of elementary, middle or high school attendance area with at least 50% of its students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

“Healthy eating is essential to healthy recreation, so we are very proud to participate in this program,” said Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney. “It is always wonderful to welcome young people to our parks, and we hope they will come for a healthy meal, and stay for all of the great programs, facilities and other amenities that our parks offer to their communities.”

No pre-registration is required to participate in the free summer lunch and snack program. For more information, please call the Los Angeles County Summer Lunch Program Office at (310) 965-8630, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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