

Quake-damaged swimming pool in Calexico slated for demolition

Silvio J. Panta, Imperial Valley Press, 7-22-10

CALEXICO — No date has been set for the demolition of the Calexico public swimming pool that sustained heavy damage during the Easter Sunday earthquake, officials said.

The city of Calexico and the Calexico High School District jointly operated the pool during the summer.

In an effort to seek reimbursement for the costs tied to the pool's slated demolition, the school district made a request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency that releases the city from any liability.

The 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck the Mexicali and Imperial valleys April 4 severely damaged the swimming pool, cracking the decking and the adjacent building that housed restroom and changing facilities.

The pool and one-story building are slated for eventual demolition, City Manager Victor Carrillo said. The pool, which is located at Calexico High School, was discussed Tuesday during a special meeting of the City Council.

The earthquake also caused the pool to leak 1.5 inches of water every day, which had to be replenished, CUSD Superintendent Christina Luna has said.

Luna did not return repeated calls for comment on the demolition.

In June, school district officials announced the closure of the pool that was built in 1956.

Mayor John Moreno, who grew up using the swimming pool, said it will be missed as it was a major venue of recreation for many kids and their families.

Damages to the pool could make it into a potential "sinkhole," which led to a recommendation that it be destroyed, Moreno said.

In his youth the entrance fee to use the pool was only 10 cents, Moreno said.

"I spent many a day there as a boy growing up," Moreno said. "It's sad to see it go."