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Contact:

Madeleine Baudoin, 619-510-6871, MBaudoin@sandiego.gov
Mónica Muñoz, 619-533-3780, MunozM@sandiego.gov

**San Diego Fire-Rescue and Councilmember LaCava Unveil AquaEye: New
Cutting-Edge Underwater Technology**

Important new tool is expected to reduce search times for Lifeguards

SAN DIEGO – Councilmember Joe LaCava and San Diego Fire-Rescue Chief Colin Stowell unveiled AquaEye, a pioneering technology used to assist in underwater searches. The new equipment is expected to decrease underwater search times for San Diego lifeguards.

“Councilmember LaCava spearheaded the provision of cutting-edge AquaEye equipment for San Diego Lifeguards,” said Fire-Rescue Chief Colin Stowell. “Upon learning about a generous community member willing to match city funds, Councilmember LaCava proactively directed D1 CPPS funds toward the purchase. We now have acquired two AquaEyes, which will save personnel time and fatigue during underwater searches, particularly when compared to conventional search methods in certain incidents.”

At Councilmember LaCava’s request, the City’s Department of Finance allocated \$7,639.48 of District 1 Community Projects, Programs, and Services (CPPS) funding for an AquaEye underwater scanner. “Funding the acquisition of the AquaEye is just one part of my commitment to ensuring our lifeguards have the equipment and facilities they need for the safety of everyone who uses our beaches and bay for recreation and exercise,” said Councilmember LaCava. “Whether through the budget process, direct funding, or generous donors, I am proud to fight for our lifeguards.”

In 2022, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Lifeguards responded to 8,041 water rescues in the coastal waters, Mission Bay, and city lakes. So far this year, lifeguards have carried out, 2,579 water rescues. In a recent incident at Mission Bay's South Shores area, lifeguards relied on the crucial

tool, AquaEye, to enhance their underwater search capabilities. The situation unfolded when a vehicle entered the water, raising concerns about potential occupants being thrown from the vehicle. Lifeguards promptly utilized AquaEye to scour the submerged area for any bodies. Fortunately, the search yielded a positive outcome, as no individuals were found in the water.

AquaEye is an important new tool that is expected to save personnel time by decreasing underwater search times for lifeguards in San Diego.

Learn more about AquaEye: [AquaEye® | A handheld sonar for water rescue and recovery - YouTube](#)

Learn more about City of San Diego CPPS Funds: [Community Projects, Programs, and Services \(CPPS\) Funding Program | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

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