

BEXAR COUNTY COMMUNITY VENUE PROJECTS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 2, 2010

**Contact: Laura Jesse
210.787.9038/m**

Latest Community Venue project will raise Bexar County's profile in youth soccer

With the kick of soccer balls Wednesday morning, County Judge Nelson Wolff, Commissioner Paul Elizondo and Councilman Ray Lopez officially started the construction of Culebra Creek Soccer Park, a Visitor Tax-funded project managed by Alamo City Youth Soccer Organization (ACYSO). The \$5.23 million in Visitor Tax funds, along with the City of San Antonio's donation of land and contribution of more than \$1 million will provide the organization an opportunity to host tournaments and grow the ranks of young children playing soccer in Northwest Bexar County.

"The Alamo City Youth Soccer Organization is excited to be involved in this wonderful community project," said Frank Olvera, president of ACYSO. "Our membership and board is committed to managing this premier soccer venue for youth soccer and regional tournaments which will appeal to Bexar County residents and visitors for generations to come."

With approximately 1,500 players, the Alamo City Youth Soccer Organization operates a nonprofit entity with the purpose of developing, governing and administering a youth soccer program within Northwest San Antonio. The ACYSO teaches good sportsmanship, good citizenship and leadership; educates youth participants and adult sponsors in the fundamentals of soccer, and promotes soccer through the conduct of regularly scheduled competitions. The ACYSO's objectives are to provide quality coaching, officiating and playing fields; to stimulate competition through the competitive league and to maintain a recreational and developmental program.

The Culebra Creek Soccer Complex, adjacent to the existing fields on FM 1560, will add 5 large fields to the 7 fields located on the complex. This not only will enable more practice space for the organization's growing membership, it will provide many opportunities for the growth of tournaments attracting players from all of San Antonio, the entire state and the rest of the country. The addition of Culebra Creek Soccer Park will provide more green space for youth soccer players in one of the most rapidly growing areas of San Antonio. This soccer venue also will enable the potential to bring both select college showcase tournaments and U.S. Youth Regional Soccer games to San Antonio, a region not currently viewed as offering ideal soccer venues.

“Athletics and competitive sports are vital to a child’s development into a healthy, well-rounded adult,” Commissioner Elizondo said. “Soccer is a great sport and one that is growing by the day in popularity, so I’m happy to have this park in a fast growing part of my precinct and even more so to be partnering with a wonderful organization to complete it.”

Bexar County’s \$5.23 million contribution to the project will come from the voter-approved Visitor Tax, a mix of levies on hotel occupancy and motor vehicle rentals. Bexar County voters approved extending the tax, which was initially used to pay for construction of the AT&T Center, in May 2008 to fund \$415 million in community venues. The Community Venues Program includes 13 amateur sports fields, cultural arts facilities, the San Antonio River Improvements Project and improvements to the County’s Community Arenas, including the AT&T Center.

“The 13 amateur sports facilities Bexar County is contributing to will help grow our tourism even more by attracting families from across the country to play here in tournaments,” Judge Wolff said. “But even more critical to our local economy now, our \$415 million investment in the community will leverage another \$300 million from our partners in these projects.”

- CVP -