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GARCETTI**
President, Los Angeles City Council
COUNCIL DISTRICT 13



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Photos available

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SUMMER FUN: PADDLE BOATS OPEN! GARCETTI, REC AND PARKS FIND FUNDS TO KEEP CRAFT AFLOAT

Before fastening on a life vest and climbing into a blue paddle boat co-piloted by his Echo Park Field Deputy, Councilmember Eric Garcetti announced that Echo Park Lake's storied paddle-boat operation would continue service on weekends through the summer.

"After all this city and this community have invested in Echo Park, it would be a shame to let one single summer weekend go by without boats on the lake," said Garcetti. "Echo Park is a cleaner park than it was ten years ago. It's a safer park than it was ten years ago. That's because people have many different reasons to come here and make it their own park, and we don't want that to slip."

An announcement appeared at the end of June stating that the boats would conclude service at the end of that month. The council office worked closely with the Department of Recreation and Parks, which operates the boats, to find funds from within the current budget to keep the boats in operation. The paddle-boat operation began at Echo Park Lake in the mid-1970s, though different watercraft were used on the waters for long before that. Rental revenues only fund a small part of the boats' operation.

The boats are available for rentals on Saturdays and Sundays through Labor Day (they will also be open on Labor Day), from 12-6. They rent for \$10 per hour or \$7 per ½-hr.

Echo Park Lake has recently been the site of sustained improvement. The historic boathouse was renovated to the tune of \$500,000, with assistance from the federal government through Congressman Xavier Becerra's office. Floating islands were installed to help filter the lake's water and attract wildlife, and a major project funded by the voter-approved Proposition O water bond will improve the lake substantially.

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