Richmond Sailfish

2015 fall grant report

To the Pacific Swimming Diversity and Inclusion committee,

This is a follow up report for the Richmond Sailfish use of the 2015 Fall Diversity grant.  Our grant program aims to certify our high school aged swimmers as Lifeguards and Water Safety Instructors (WSI).  This program addresses two major issues in our local community.  First, is the lack of certified lifeguards and swim lesson instructors in the local area. Second, expanding our team’s ability to offer swimming to children who are at risk for drowning and obesity and come from low-income neighborhoods.

Our grant will cover the cost to certify 7 of our high school scholarship swimmers.  Once certified our scholarship swimmers will train with Head coach John Schonder to be our swim lesson instructors for our annual "Take the Plunge" free swim lesson program.  Each year our team offers 100-150 kids, ages 8-10 years old free swim lessons.  This allows our team to give back to the local community that supports us, while teaching the next generation of kids how to swim and be water safe.  By having our older team swimmers teach swim lessons they serve as valuable role models, and are our teams best recruitment and retention tools.

This grant allows us to enrich the lives of our scholarship swimmers, and grow our free swim lesson program.  Additionally, it helps us teach the next generation to swim and join our swim team.  Since receiving this grant we have certified 1 swimmer as a lifeguard, and have 2 other registered for classes this summer. Our goal is by the end of the year to then certify our lifeguards as WSI instructors and to help them develop professionally.

Our team would like to thank Pacific Swimming and the Diversity and Inclusion grant program for allowing our team to grow and offer the highest level of support to our swimmers and our incredible local community. We have included a few photos from last years “Take the Plunge” free swim lesson program.



