



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



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GARCETTI ANNOUNCES \$700,000 GRANT AWARDED TO BUILD ATHLETIC FIELD FOR CAMINO NUEVO HIGH SCHOOL**

Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti today announced that the City of Los Angeles has awarded \$700,000 to help build an athletic field at Camino Nuevo High School in the Virgil Village neighborhood.

"We want our young people to have access to public schools that help them learn and grow academically and as people. The new athletic field will give students at Camino Nuevo the opportunity to get some exercise, play team sports, and learn good sportsmanship," said Council President Garcetti.

"Can you imagine if we could build soccer fields all over this part of the city? We could prevent a lot of social problems, including gang problems, if our children and youth had more opportunities to participate in community sports and recreation programs. Not to mention the intangible value of the joy and excitement kids get from chasing soccer balls on an open field," said Philip Lance, Camino Nuevo Co-founder and President of the Board.

The \$700,000 allocation from the City of Los Angeles comes from the city's Community Development Block Grant, federal funds that are allocated to support community development projects in qualifying low-income neighborhoods across the nation. Total cost of the field, including the land acquisition, is approximately \$7.9 million. The school has already raised \$5 million in private funds for the project.

When it is completed, the new athletic field will serve Camino Nuevo's ninth through twelfth graders. The field will be built on a formerly blighted property across the street from the school, which is located at the corner of Virgil Avenue and Temple Street. It will also be open to community organizations for use on weekends and evenings.

Camino Nuevo High School, located in a low-income, densely populated Los Angeles neighborhood, opened in 2004 to break the cycle of academic underperformance in the area. By holding its students to higher standards, the public charter school now has the highest possible rank on the State Academic Performance Index (API) when compared to schools with similar demographics. It also ranks in the top 10 performing high schools among all 103 Los Angeles Unified School District high schools, and 60 percent of its graduating class has been accepted to a four-year university.

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