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**\* \* \* PRESS RELEASE \* \* \***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Councilmember Huizar Celebrates with Community First of its Kind \$2.2 million Synthetic Soccer Field in Boyle Heights**

*Ribbon cutting celebrates new soccer and baseball fields, scoreboards and lighting improvements  
Councilmember helped bring to Boyle Heights Sports Center*

**LOS ANGELES (Sept. 8, 2009)** – Councilmember José Huizar gathered with community leaders today, along with officials from the City’s Department of Recreation and Parks and Bureau of Engineering, to celebrate the first synthetic City soccer field built on the Eastside.

The \$2.2 million project includes the state-of-the-art synthetic soccer field, a new synthetic baseball/softball field, new remote control scoreboards at each field, new sports field lighting, as well as 22 new security lights along trail, basketball and playing areas.

“In a dense urban environment like Boyle Heights, these types of facilities are crucial to keep our children healthy and active,” said Councilmember Huizar. “I want to thank Rec and Parks and BOE for their commitment to work with me to renovate the Boyle Heights Sports Center. This is another in a growing list of Eastside facilities that we can all be proud of.”

Joining the Councilmember Tuesday were Jon Mukri, General Manager of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer, BOE, as well as representatives from Chivas U.S.A., a professional soccer team based in Los Angeles.

The project, which also includes improved irrigation and a water-runoff system to avoid flooding on the synthetic surface, was financed through voter-approved Prop K funds (a little less than \$2 million), and Prop 12 funds (\$300,000). The recent state budget crisis threatened the renovation when it was about 25 percent finished when the state of California froze all state bond funds. Councilmember Huizar worked with Rec and Parks and BOE to identify City funds that could be used as a loan to complete project.

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