PHOTO BY JIM KNOWLES

Construction of the new swimming pool at San Leandro High is underway as ground is broken by school district Assistant Superintendent Song Chin-Bendib, Superintendent Cindy Cathey, Mayor Stephen Cassidy, and City Council members Jim Prola and Ursula Reed.

By Jim Knowles

San Leandro Times

The days of patching up the swimming pool at San Leandro High are over.

A brand new pool is now under construction at the high school, as school and city officials broke ground in a ceremony last Thursday afternoon.

The construction is paid for by Measure M, the $51 million bond passed by voters in 2010. The bond is also paying for building a new football field (Burrell Field on Teagarten Street) and for a new football field at the high school, as well as a new track.

The district heard that the public doesn’t support athletic bonds but the voters of San Leandro came through, said San Leandro High principal Linda Granger. She added that the bond is an investment in San Leandro’s future.

“I’m super excited,” said Janielyn Gloria, a San Leandro High sophomore who is on the Pirates swim team. “It was a really old pool and the new one will be bigger, too.”

Gloria also swims for the San Leandro Swim Team (The Drowning Darryls) of the East Bay Swim League, a summer competitive swim league that uses the high school pool.

Eric Lanier, a SLHS junior, is looking forward to the new track.

“It’s a gravel track now, it’s really just running on rocks,” Lanier said. “But this will be a all-weather track and we will be able to host meets.”

Superintendent Cindy Cathey and Mayor Stephen Cassidy both thanked everyone who worked on the project. Council members Michael Gregory and Jim Prola were on hand, along with school officials and Martin Capron, one of the driving forces behind the effort to support San Leandro school sports.