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Today's Good News: Crowds support renovation of North Shore Yacht Club

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The Desert Sun*

Nearly 100 people gathered near the edge of the Salton Sea on Monday to celebrate the groundbreaking for the renovation of the historic North Shore Yacht Club Community Center.

The 50-year-old Albert Frey- designed building, considered an architectural treasure, will undergo a \$3.5 million renovation. When completed, it will feature a senior center, museum, visitors center, juice bar and multipurpose rooms.

The ceremony was dedicated to former Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson, who died last month.

"This is a historic day for the North Shore community and for the late supervisor," Riverside County 5th District Supervisor Marion Ashley said during his remarks. "Roy Wilson's fingerprints are all over it."

Ashley asked for a moment of silence for Wilson before the start of the ceremony.

The 6,500-square-foot building has been in disrepair since the late 1970s.

Ashley said the renovation of the building will address a longtime community need in providing a permanent space for groups, including the North Shore Community Council to meet, as well as a place for the community to gather for special events.

The Riverside County Economic Development Agency recently purchased the building from the Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment. The county will pick up the tab for the renovations, and DACE will operate the facility.

DACE executive director Jeffrey A. Hays said the renovations will help stimulate North Shore's economy through other planned projects, including the dredging of the sea in front of the community center to create a harbor.

When completed, the club will be able to host boat and personal watercraft races, time trials and endurance runs, he said.

Robert Field, assistant county executive officer for the economic development agency, called the renovation a "catalyst" in the county's plans to revitalize the area.

Residents, city and county officials, including Indio Mayor Melanie Fesmire, law enforcement officers and Ms. Salton Sea 2009 Crystal Mercado were in attendance at the event.