

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The County of Kern is excited to announce the grand opening of La Colonia Park on **Friday, November 7, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.** Located at 30714 Martinez Street in Shafter, La Colonia Park represents a significant investment in neighborhood revitalization and community wellness.

La Colonia Park is the County's second pocket park and was made possible with over \$1.1 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Planning for the project began in 2020 and involved extensive community engagement, where residents helped shape the park's design and amenities based on what mattered most to local families.

What began as a vacant lot has been transformed into a welcoming gathering place for the entire community. The new park features a variety of amenities, including:

- Full high school-size basketball court
- Nautical-themed play structures with safety surfacing
- Shaded picnic area and benches
- Solar lighting
- ADA-compliant walkway paths and accessibility features
- Concrete Masonry Unit (CMU) wall and perimeter fencing
- New landscaping and a water-efficient drip irrigation system
- Air pollution monitoring station installed in partnership with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

The ribbon-cutting event will include remarks from County officials, La C.O.L.O.N.I.A., and other community partners who played a vital role in bringing this project to life.

La Colonia Park reflects Kern County's ongoing commitment to creating safe, healthy, and inclusive spaces that enhance the lives of residents.

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