



TOWN OF COLMA

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Mr. James Conforti
Interim President & CEO
Sutter Health
2200 River Plaza Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Mr. Conforti,

I am writing to inform you that the Town of Colma City Council unanimously passed the enclosed resolution on July 27, 2022 urging Sutter Health to reopen the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center therapy pool in San Mateo.

The pool is vital to the health of hundreds, if not thousands of people in our community. By deciding to permanently close the only warm water rehabilitation pool in the Peninsula area, Sutter Health has added to the pain and suffering of its patients and placed people's lives in jeopardy.

Mr. Conforti, I am urging you to please take advantage of the Peninsula Health Care District's generous offer to pay for all necessary repairs and remodeling plus operational costs to reopen the Mickelson therapy pool.

Sutter's reputation and integrity are at stake. Please reverse this decision and reopen the Mickelson therapy pool for the well-being of the people who built it, have long depended upon it, and all those who will depend upon it in the future, including those with severe disabilities.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact our City Manager, Brian Dossey, at (650) 997-8318 or bdossey@colma.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Helen Fisicaro
Mayor

Cc: Sutter Health Board of Directors
Janet Wagner, CEO, Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula Medical Center
Melissa White, Director of Government Affairs, Sutter Health Bay Area
Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors
Joseph W. Cotchett, Esq.
Lindsay Raike, Warm Water Wellness

Helen Fisicaro, Mayor
Raquel P. Gonzalez, Vice Mayor
Joanne F. del Rosario, Council Member • John Irish Goodwin, Council Member • Diana Colvin, Council Member
Brian Dossey, City Manager

**RESOLUTION NO. 2022-24
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COLMA**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON SUTTER HEALTH TO REOPEN THE MACK
E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION CENTER
THERAPY POOL FOR COMMUNITY USE AT THE MILLS HEALTH
CENTER IN SAN MATEO, WITH THE SAME OPEN ACCESS HOURS
THAT WERE IN PLACE PRIOR TO JANUARY 2020**

The City Council of the Town of Colma does hereby resolve as follows:

1. Background

- (a) The Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool is an Americans With Disabilities Act-accessible warm water therapy pool operated by Sutter Health and located at the Mills Health Center, in San Mateo, California; and
- (b) the Mickelson Therapy Pool was constructed over 25 years ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County to serve as a centerpiece of an arthritis center created by Mills Peninsula; and
- (c) the Mickelson Therapy Pool has been used for over 25 years by thousands of residents of San Mateo County who suffer from a broad range of health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments, to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate physical decline; and
- (d) Mickelson Therapy Pool has historically provided both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo County suffering from health issues; and
- (e) there is also an apparent and growing need for the services provided by the Mickelson Therapy Pool, due to San Mateo County's rapidly increasing number of elderly residents who are highly likely to suffer from health issues requiring a warm water therapy pool; and
- (f) Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only pool of its kind in San Mateo County, and there are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson Therapy Pool and who are now suffering from acute and chronic physical pain and mental anguish without it; and
- (g) in spite of the critical need for the facility, in June 2021, Sutter Health announced that it would permanently close the Mickelson Therapy Pool to independent use by patrons and closing Mickelson removes a valuable healthcare resource for people to assist them in daily activities; and
- (h) 4,300 patients, caregivers, and community members have signed a petition to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool in order to increase the health, independence, and dignity of residents who rely upon it; and
- (i) Sutter Health, its subsidiaries and affiliated entities receive significant financial benefits from their operations in San Mateo County and warm water therapy pools in the

region are able to operate profitably and safely, including under COVID-19 protocols; and

2. Order

(a) In light of the foregoing, the City Council believes that Sutter Health should be called upon to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool and to maintain the same open access hours that were in place prior to January 2020.

(b) The City Council does hereby resolve that promptly reopening the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use with the same open access hours that it had prior to January of 2020 would preserve and improve the health of residents in San Mateo County who have historically relied upon it or who could benefit from warm water therapy to maintain their health, independence, and dignity.

Certification of Adoption

I certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2022-24 was duly adopted at a regular meeting of said City Council held on July 27, 2022 by the following vote:

Name	Voting		Present, Not Voting		Absent
	Aye	No	Abstain	Not Participating	
Helen Fisicaro, Mayor	X				
Raquel "Rae" Gonzalez					X
Joanne F. del Rosario	X				
John Irish Goodwin	X				
Diana Colvin	X				
<i>Voting Tally</i>	4	0			

Dated 8/11/2022

Helen Fisicaro
Helen Fisicaro, Mayor

Attest: Caitlin Corley
Caitlin Corley, City Clerk