

GINA PAPAN Vice Mayor

August 15, 2022

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

Re: Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool

Dear Mr. Conforti,

The Millbrae City Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 22-24 to encourage the reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson Therapy Pool in San Mateo on April 12, 2022.

The Mickelson pool is the only facility of its kind on the Peninsula. There are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of our community who previously relied upon Mickelson and are now suffering from acute and chronic physical pain and mental anguish without it. Bay Area residents who suffered, and many who continue to suffer, from health issues including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments – among others – used the Mickelson pool to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate the physical decline.

Over 4,800 patients, caregivers, and community members have signed a petition to reopen Mickelson to increase the health, independence, and dignity of residents who rely upon it. 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 the operational costs to reopen the Mickelson therapy pool until another facility becomes available.

Sutter Health'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.

Sincerely

Gina Papan Vice Mayor

CC:

Sutter Health Board of Directors

Grace Davis, Vice President and Chief Public Affairs Officer/Chief of Staff, Sutter Health

Janet Wagner, CEO, Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula Medical Center

**Building Division/Permits** 

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> Melissa White, Director, Government Affairs, Sutter Health Bay Area Rob Bonta, Esq., California Attorney General Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors Joseph W. Cotchett, Esq. Lindsay Raike, CEO, Warm Water Wellness

## **RESOLUTION 22-24**

## CITY OF MILLBRAE, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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## RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE REOPENING OF THE MACK E. MICKELSON THERAPY POOL IN SAN MATEO

WHEREAS, the Mack E. Mickelson Therapy Pool ("Mickelson") is an ADA-accessible warm water therapy pool located in San Mateo, California at Mills Health Center, which is operated by Sutter Health; and

WHEREAS, Mickelson was constructed over 25 year ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County as a centerpiece of an arthritis center created by Mills Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, for over 25 years, thousands of residents of San Mateo County who suffered, and many who continue to suffer, from health issues including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments – among others – used Mickelson to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate physical decline; and

WHEREAS, Mickelson is able to provide both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo County suffering from health issues; and

WHEREAS, there is also an apparent and growing need for Mickelson and the services it provides 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

WHEREAS, as the only pool of its kind in San Mateo County, there are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson and are now suffering from acute and chronic physical pain and mental anguish without it; and

WHEREAS, closing Mickelson removes a valuable healthcare resource for people to assist them in daily activities; and

**WHEREAS,** over 4,300 patients, caregivers, and community members have signed a petition to reopen Mickelson in order to increase the health, independence, and dignity of residents who rely upon it,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MILLBRAE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

I do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Millbrae this 12th day of April 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

COUNCILMEMBERS:

Oliva, Papan, Fung, Holober, Schneider

NOES:

COUNCILMEMBERS:

None

ABSENT:

COUNCILMEMBERS:

None

ABSTAIN:

COUNCILMEMBERS:

None

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBERS:

None