

Mayor Jeff Gee
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February 22, 2023

Dr. Warner Thomas, President & CEO
Sutter Health
2200 River Plaza Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95833-4134

Re: Michelson Pool

Dear Dr. Thomas:

As you may be well aware, there are a number of voices asking that the Redwood City Council take a position on Sutter's closure of Michelson pool and demand that it be reopened to the public that needs or wants a warm water therapy pool.

It is unusual for the City Council to lean in on the business of another city or organization. Sutter is a non-profit organization that provides healthcare to a number of residents in San Mateo County. As a non-profit organization, I recognize that long-term financial sustainability is critical, along with on-going and intentional efforts to reduce the cost of healthcare.

In reviewing the Michelson Pool situation, I note that the pool is part of the hospital campus. In addition, my experience is that if Sutter does re-open the pool, it is required that the pool meet all current HCAI/OSHPD codes. Further, as a part of the acute-care campus, the pool must be run in compliance with all applicable OSHPD and Department of Health requirements- in other words, the pool is not allowed to be operated as a community pool as it would be in Redwood City.

While there are on-going needs for a warm water therapy pool in the County, alternative solutions may be to divest the Michelson Pool from the hospital campus, find a community partner to run the pool and create a physical separation from the hospital, or create a new warm water therapy pool in another location. I have no doubt that there are other alternatives that are being considered.

In closing, those that are want/need a warm water therapy pool in the County have raised their voices at Redwood City Council meetings. The Council believes that the voices are sincere in their request. It is my hope that the leadership at Sutter can find a solution that helps all parties involved for the short-term and long-term needs of the community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Gee', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jeff Gee
Mayor, City of Redwood City

C: City Council
Warm Water Wellness Inc. warmwaterwellness.org