

July 22, 2022
Media advisory

PROTEST RALLY TO CALL FOR THE MICKELSON THERAPY POOL TO BE REOPENED

Please join San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, Warm Water Wellness and the Raging Grannies (in costume!) at a rally in front of the Mickelson therapy pool:

**Sunday, July 24 – 1 PM
Mills Health Center
75 El Camino Real
San Mateo**

Some background on this issue:

- The Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center therapeutic pool was permanently closed by Sutter Health in June 2021.
- The facility was entirely financed by \$4 million in community donations over 25 years ago (\$7.2 million in today's money)
- It is the only fully accessible warm water therapy pool on the Peninsula.
- The therapy pool is an invaluable resource for chronic pain management and rehabilitation for seniors, disabled individuals, patients recovering from surgeries, children with special needs, and pregnant women.
- Those who need a therapy pool are suffering needless declines in physical and mental health.
- Reopening the therapy pool has widespread community support with resolutions passed by the County of San Mateo, San Mateo Central Labor Council, city of San Mateo, city of Millbrae, city of Burlingame, city of Half Moon Bay, Foster City, and the Sequoia Healthcare District.
- Letters encouraging Sutter to reverse its decision of permanent closure have been sent by Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, Senator Josh Becker, Supervisor David Canepa, various San Mateo County commissions, and local physicians.
- The Peninsula Health Care District has offered to pay for any necessary upgrades and operating costs to reopen Mickelson until a new therapy pool becomes available but Mills-Peninsula Medical Center CEO Janet Wagner declined this offer.

This issue is of vital importance to a vulnerable population that needs facilities such as this therapy pool to recover, heal, and stay healthy. Our goal at Sunday's rally is to put pressure on Sutter Health to listen to the community and reopen Mickelson for those who are suffering without access to this medically necessary resource.

To read more about Mickelson Pool and the efforts to save this community resource, please visit warmwaterwellness.org

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