



525 Veterans Blvd
Redwood City, CA 94063

650-421-2155 Phone
650-421-2159 Fax

June 27, 2022

James Conforti, CEO
Sutter Health
2200 River Plaza Drive
Sacramento, California 95833

Re: Mack E. Michelson Warm Water Therapy Pool Closure at Mills Hospital, San Mateo

Dear Mr. Conforti,

Sutter Health's closure of the only warm water therapy pool for the Peninsula has adversely affected the health and quality of life of debilitated patients within our community. In many cases, this was the only movement and pain relief available to severely incapacitated patients and those with chronic illness and pain. I am appealing to the Sutter Health Board of Directors to re-open the rehabilitation pool soon and restore the high standard of care/therapy once readily available to our most vulnerable patients, many of whom have Sutter as a medical home.

Please find attached a copy of the Sequoia Health Care District's resolution in support of re-opening the Michelson Pool.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Griffin".

Kim Griffin, RN
Director
Sequoia Health Care District Board
pedihearts@sbcglobal.net
Phone Number: 650-558-8280

Copy: Sutter Health Corporate Board of Directors, Janet Wagner CEO Mills Peninsula Medical Center, Lindsay Raike CEO Warm Water Wellness Inc, Joseph W. Cotchett, Esq

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SEQUOIA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION
CENTER THERAPY POOL LOCATED AT THE MILLS HEALTH CENTER IN SAN MATEO
CALIFORNIA

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.

WHEREAS, Mickelson was constructed over 25 years ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County.

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, used Mickelson to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate physical decline.

WHEREAS, both intervention and prevention are equally critical components of an equitable and effective healthcare system.

WHEREAS, Mickelson’s ability to provide both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo County suffering from health issues makes it an asset to the community at large and even more so to elderly residents and residents with mobility impairments.

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic, Sutter Health, its subsidiaries, and its employees receive significant financial benefits for providing healthcare services in San Mateo County from both public and private contracts.

WHEREAS, in January 2020, Sutter Health substantially decreased the hours during which Mickelson was accessible to community members who relied upon its availability to maintain their health.

WHEREAS, in March 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sutter Health ceased operating Mickelson.

WHEREAS, in June 2021, Sutter Health publicly announced its intent to permanently close Mickelson.

WHEREAS, as a direct result of Sutter Health’s decision to close Mickelson, residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson to treat and prevent significant health issues are now suffering from acute and chronic physical pain and mental anguish which, in turn, decreases the independence of those residents and impacts their ability to live with dignity.

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 those residents who rely upon it.

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 the health issues noted above, among others.

WHEREAS, there are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson.

WHEREAS, any temporary plan to route former Mickelson users to another warm water therapy pool will not benefit a significant number of former users with significant mobility impairments that limit those users' abilities to travel.

WHEREAS, there is currently no plan to construct an adequate and accessible replacement warm water therapy pool in San Mateo County, and any plan to do so would require significant financing as well as several years of design, planning, permitting, and construction.

WHEREAS, estimates provided by Sutter Health suggest that reopening Mickelson with any required repairs or upgrades would cost approximately \$250,000.00.

WHEREAS, warm water therapy pools in the region can and do operate profitably and safely under relevant COVID-19 regulations.

BE IT RESOLVED, that in light of the foregoing, 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 2020, is the most prudent option to preserve and improve the health of residents in San Mateo County who now rely upon, or who will rely upon, warm water therapy to maintain their health, independence, and dignity.

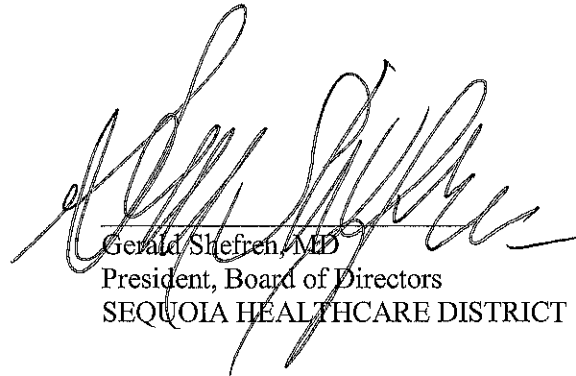
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Sequoia Healthcare District, this 2nd day of February, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: *Faro, Griffin, Martinez, Nayfack, Shetren*


NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:


Gerald Shetren, MD
President, Board of Directors
SEQUOIA HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

Attest:


Aaron Nayfack, MD
Secretary of Said Board