



City of Brisbane
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005-1310
(415) 508-2100
(415) 467-4989 Fax

October 31, 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,

On October 6, 2022, the Brisbane City Council adopted a resolution in support of the reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use. The City Councilmembers sympathize with those community members who relied upon the pool before its closing in March 2020. Lack of access has led previous users to suffer diminished physical, emotional, and mental health. Closing the Mickelson pool removed an essential healthcare resource for San Mateo County residents.

The Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only facility of its kind in San Mateo County. Residents who 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 their physical decline. Sadly, there are no comparable warm water, ADA-accessible, therapy pools on the Peninsula able to adequately accommodate these residents.

The pool was entirely financed by community donations more than 25 years ago. Ongoing community support for reopening the pool is evidenced by the more than 4,800 patients, caregivers, and community members signing a petition to reopen the pool. City and County governments across the Peninsula, along with local civic leaders, state legislators and various organizations, also support its reopening and encourage Sutter Health to reverse its decision to permanently close this important facility.

The City of Brisbane Council encourages Sutter Health to reverse its decision to close the Mickelson Therapy Pool and to engage with the Peninsula Health Care District, the Sequoia Healthcare District,

and the County of San Mateo who have expressed willingness to assist with the cost of restoring and operating the Mickelson Pool for the benefit of their residents.

Sincerely,



Clay Holstine
City Manager

Enclosure

cc: Brisbane City Council
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
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 NO. 2022-76
A RESOLUTION OF THE BRISBANE CITY COUNCIL
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 community 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 4,700 patients, caregivers, and community members have signed a petition to reopen Mickelson to increase the health, independence, and dignity of those residents who rely upon it.

WHEREAS, there is also an apparent and growing need for the Mickelson therapy pool 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. We urge Sutter Health to take advantage of the Peninsula Health Care District's generous offer to fully fund any necessary repairs, remodeling and operational costs of the Mickelson therapy pool until a new facility becomes available in the area.


COLEEN MACKIN / Mayor

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2022-76 was duly and regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Brisbane City Council on October 6, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Cunningham, Davis, O'Connell, and Mayor Mackin

NOES: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Lentz

ABSTAIN: None



INGRID PADILLA, City Clerk