



THE CITY OF  
**HALF MOON BAY**  
CALIFORNIA

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July 22, 2022

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

**Re: Reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool**

Dear Mr. Conforti:

On behalf of the City of Half Moon Bay, I am writing at the request of the Half Moon Bay City Council to share with you the resolution we adopted last week in support of the reopening of the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use. This wheelchair-accessible, warm water pool is the only fully accessible facility on the Peninsula. The Council have heard from many of their constituents about the benefits of the pool, which serves as an invaluable resource for chronic pain management and rehabilitation for seniors, disabled individuals, patients recovering from surgeries, children with special needs, and pregnant women. Lack of access to the pool since it was closed in March 2020 due to the pandemic has led former pool users to suffer from diminished physical, emotional, and mental health.

We understand that the pool was entirely financed by \$4 million in community donations (equivalent to over \$7 million in today's dollars) more than 25 years ago. Ongoing community support for reopening the pool is evidenced by the City Councils in Burlingame, Millbrae, and San Mateo; the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors; and the Sequoia Healthcare District Board all passing resolutions of support. State Senator Josh Becker, Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, various San Mateo County Commissions, and local physicians have also sent letters encouraging Sutter Health to reverse its decision to permanently close this important facility.

The Peninsula Health Care District has offered to pay for any necessary upgrades and operating costs to reopen the Mickelson pool until a new therapy pool becomes available, but this offer has been declined. The Half Moon Bay City Council strongly encourages you to take advantage of the Peninsula Health Care District's generous offer. Please reverse this decision and reopen the pool as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Debbie Ruddock  
Mayor of Half Moon Bay



Enclosure

CC: Sutter Health Board of Directors  
Janet Wagner, CEO, Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula Medical Center  
Melissa White, Director of Government Affairs, Sutter Health Bay Area  
Leah Cowen, Government Relations Manager, Sutter Health Bay Area  
Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors  
Lindsay Raike, CEO, Warm Water Wellness  
Joseph W. Cotchett, Esq.

**RESOLUTION NO. C-2022-75**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY, CALIFORNIA, CALLING ON SUTTER HEALTH TO REOPEN THE MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION CENTER THERAPY POOL FOR COMMUNITY USE AT THE MILLS HEALTH CENTER IN SAN MATEO, WITH THE SAME OPEN ACCESS HOURS THAT WERE IN PLACE PRIOR TO JANUARY 2020**

**WHEREAS**, the maintenance of numerous records is expensive, slows document retrieval, and is not necessary after a certain period for the effective and efficient operation of the government of the City of Half Moon Bay; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool is an Americans with Disabilities Act- -accessible warm water therapy pool operated by Sutter Health and located at the Mills Health Center, in San Mateo, California; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Mickelson Therapy Pool has been used for over 25 years by thousands of residents of San Mateo County, including those from Half Moon Bay, who suffer from a broad range of health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments, to rehabilitate those health issues and mitigate physical decline; and

**WHEREAS**, Mickelson Therapy Pool has historically provided 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 the services provided by the Mickelson Therapy Pool, 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**, Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only pool of its kind in San Mateo County, and there are no comparable warm water therapy pools that can adequately accommodate the residents of Half Moon Bay and San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson Therapy Pool and who are now suffering from acute and chronic physical pain and mental anguish without it; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the critical need for the facility, in June 2021, Sutter Health announced that it would permanently close the Mickelson Therapy Pool to independent use by patrons and 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 the Mickelson Therapy Pool in order to increase the health, independence, and dignity of residents who rely upon it; and

**WEHREAS**, the City Council recognizes that 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 of 2020 would preserve and improve the health of residents in Half Moon Bay who have historically relied upon it or who could benefit from warm water therapy to maintain their health, independence, and dignity/

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HALF MOON BAY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE** the urging of Sutter Health to reopen the Mickelson Therapy Pool and to maintain the same open access hours that were in place prior to January 2020.

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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the forgoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022 by the City Council of Half Moon Bay by the following vote:

Ayes, Councilmembers:           Brownstone, Jimenez, Rarback, Penrose, Ruddock

Noes, Councilmembers:           \_\_\_\_\_

Absent, Councilmembers:       \_\_\_\_\_

Abstain, Councilmembers:      \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

*Jessica Blair*

*Debbie Ruddock*

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Jessica Blair, City Clerk

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Debbie Ruddock, Mayor