



CITY OF SAN MATEO  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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July 19, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Conforti:

I am writing on behalf of the San Mateo City Council to share with you the resolution they adopted recently 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.

Our City Councilmembers have heard from many of their constituents about the benefits of this pool, which serves as a critical 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.

The Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center therapeutic pool was entirely financed by \$4 million in community donations over 25 years ago, which equates to over \$7 million in today's dollars. Reopening the pool has widespread community support. In addition to the resolution of support adopted by the San Mateo City Council, similar resolutions have been passed by the County of San Mateo, the San Mateo County Central Labor Council, the cities of Burlingame, Millbrae, and Foster City, and the Sequoia Healthcare District. In addition, 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 critical 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; however, that offer has been declined. On behalf of the San Mateo City Council, I urge you to reverse this decision and reopen the pool as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Drew Corbett  
City Manager, City of San Mateo

cc: Sutter Health Corporate Board of Directors  
Janet Wagner, CEO of Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula Medical Center  
Lindsay Raike, CEO of Warm Water Wellness  
Joseph W. Cotchett, Esq.  
Stephanie Arevalo, Peninsula Healthcare District  
San Mateo City Council

**CITY OF SAN MATEO  
RESOLUTION NO. 49 (2022)**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION CENTER  
THERAPY POOL FOR COMMUNITY USE AT THE MILLS HEALTH CENTER IN SAN MATEO**

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 years ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County to serve as the centerpiece of an arthritis and rehabilitation center by Mills Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, for the past 25 years the Mickelson Therapy Pool has been used by thousands of children and adults of San Mateo County who suffer from a broad range of health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders and as well as those requiring rehabilitation from surgeries, strokes and other mobility impairments, such as arthritis; and

WHEREAS, the Mickelson Therapy Pool is the only pool of its kind in San Mateo County, providing full access for the disabled and maintaining a water temperature that can adequately support the needs of those suffering from acute and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, the City of San Mateo has been designated an Age Friendly City by AARP and the World Health Organization and strives to provide the resources and services necessary to allow older adults to remain vibrant and independent in the community; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the critical need for the facility, Sutter Health announced in June 2021 that it was permanently closing the Mickelson Therapy Pool to independent use, removing a valuable healthcare facility for people needing this resource; and

WHEREAS, the community has shared with Sutter Health its overwhelming support to re-open the Mickelson Therapy Pool and restore the services this facility provides to those suffering from a broad range of health issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA, HEREBY RESOLVES to call upon Sutter Health to promptly reopen the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for those community members who have historically relied upon and benefited from the warm water therapy it provided so that they may continue to live healthy, vibrant and independent lives.

RESOLUTION NO. 49 (2022) adopted by the City Council of the City of San Mateo, California, at a regular meeting held on April 18, 2022, by the following vote of the City Council:

Support of Reopening the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool

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AYES: Council Members Bonilla, Papan, Goethals, Lee and Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

The image shows a blue ink signature of Patrice M. Olds next to the official seal of the City of San Mateo. The seal is circular and features a landscape with a tree and a building, surrounded by the text "CITY OF SAN MATEO" and "CALIFORNIA".

Patrice M. Olds, City Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Bonilla".

Rick Bonilla, Mayor