

September 7, 2021

Ms. Janet Wagner  
CEO Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula  
1501 Trousdale Drive  
Burlingame, CA 94010

**Subject: Proposed permanent closure of Mack E. Mickelson therapeutic pool**

Dear Ms. Wagner:

The ongoing pandemic has reinforced to all of us in leadership positions that our best, most productive decisions are made when many viewpoints and perspectives are invited into the conversation. When faced with a controversial decision that will affect countless individuals, ensuring that all possible options are reasonably considered is of paramount importance to an optimum outcome.

The proposed permanent closure of the Mack E. Mickelson therapeutic pool certainly falls into the category of a decision that will affect a great number of people. Thousands of Peninsula residents who are recovering from injuries, mobility issues, and chronic pain and suffering have found help, recovery, and relief from the use of that facility. In fact, these are the very people who have been disproportionately affected by the lack of access to the pool during the pandemic.

I urge you to meet with representatives of the Save the Mickelson Therapy Pool advocacy group and hear their ideas for how a compromise might be achieved which would allow continued use of this vital medical service. This issue is of substantial, county-wide importance, and leaving that group out of the discussion would be doing a disservice to the people served by Sutter Health Mills-Peninsula.

It's my understanding that this group has identified potential private donors to assist in meeting any costs associated with reopening the pool (when pandemic safety concerns permit) and has other ideas for realistic alternatives to permanent closure. I would expect that you – as a local leader in the community – would welcome the opportunity to bring new options to the table, listen to those alternatives, and perhaps discover that there may be other ways and means to achieve your goals while providing for the continued use of the pool.

One of Sutter Health's own stated core values is, *"We work to understand and best serve the diverse needs of our communities."* Please do what's right to fulfill that value, and gain understanding by meeting with the Save the Mickelson Therapy Pool advocacy group. You have little to lose by letting that group help inform your decision-making.



THE CITY OF  
**HALF MOON BAY**  
CALIFORNIA

---

Sincerely,

*Robert Brownstone*

Robert Brownstone

Mayor of Half Moon Bay