



Item No. 6 Town of Atherton

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – CONSENT AGENDA

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

FROM: ANTHONY SUBER, CITY CLERK

DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2022

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE
MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION
CENTER WARM WATER THERAPY POOL**

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in Support of Reopening the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Warm Water Therapy Pool Located at the Mills Health Center in San Mateo, California.

BACKGROUND

In June of 2021, Sutter Health announced that it would permanently close the Therapy Pool located in the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center, which has operated for over 25 years and has been used over the years by thousands of residents of San Mateo County who suffer from a broad range of health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments.

During the City Council meeting on November 16, 2022, a member of the public requested that the Council consider adopting a resolution in support of reopening the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Warm Water Therapy Pool.

ANALYSIS

As discussed, the Mickelson Therapy Pool has historically provided both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo County suffering from health issues and it is an asset to the community at large and even more so to residents who are elderly or who live with mobility impairments and health conditions.

Sutter Health and its subsidiaries and affiliated entities receive significant financial benefits from their operations in San Mateo County, including from both public and private contracts. 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 those residents who rely

upon it. Warm water therapy pools in the region can and do operate profitably and safely under relevant COVID-19 regulations. Additionally, 16 jurisdictions in San Mateo County and the County have adopted a resolution calling on Sutter Health to reopen the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Warm Water Therapy Pool with the same open access hours, for community use, that it had prior to January of 2020.

No additional actions are being asked of the Town beyond adopting a resolution in support of reopening the Mickelson Warm Water Therapy Pool. If the Town were to adopt a resolution, the Town's resolution would be added to Warm Water Wellness' website on the Community Support page.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

GOAL ALIGNMENT

This Report and its contents are in alignment with the following Council Policy Goals:

- Goal F – Be Forward-Thinking, Well-Managed and Well-Planned

POLICY FOCUS

The recommendation presented in this report are consistent with Town policies.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in print and electronically. Information about the project is also disseminated via the Town's electronic News Flash and Atherton Online. There are approximately 1,200 subscribers to the Town's electronic News Flash publications. Subscribers include residents as well as stakeholders –to include, but be not limited to, media outlets, school districts, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, service providers (water, power, and sewer), and regional elected officials.

COMMISSION/COMMITTEE FEEDBACK/REFERRAL

This item has not been before a Town Committee or Commission

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 2022 – 26 Mickelson Warm Water Therapy Pool
2. Warm Water Wellness Community Support Weblink –
<https://warmwaterwellness.org/community-support>