

**From:** Jane Stahl <jane.stahl@warmwaterwellness.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 9, 2022 12:43 PM  
**To:** Council Members <CouncilMembers@ci.brisbane.ca.us>  
**Cc:** Lindsay Raike <lindsay.raike@warmwaterwellness.org>  
**Subject:** Resolution Request - Mickelson Therapy Pool

Dear Mayor Makin, Mayor Pro Tempore Lentz and Councilmembers Cunningham, Davis, and O'Connell,

Would it be possible to add this request to your meeting agenda for September 15<sup>th</sup>? Thank you for your consideration.

Jane Stahl  
Secretary

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**Warm Water Wellness Inc**

*Promoting aquatic therapy resources on the Peninsula*  
[warmwaterwellness.org](http://warmwaterwellness.org)



**From:** Jane Stahl <jane.stahl@warmwaterwellness.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2022 2:03 PM  
**To:** Council Members <CouncilMembers@ci.brisbane.ca.us>  
**Cc:** Lindsay Raike <lindsay.raike@warmwaterwellness.org>  
**Subject:** Resolution - Mickelson Therapy Pool

**Dear Mayor Makin, Mayor Pro Tempore Lentz and Councilmembers Cunningham, Davis, and O'Connell,**

In June 2021, Sutter Health permanently closed the Mickelson Therapy Pool in San Mateo. This facility was built with \$4M in community donations 25 years ago and provided pain relief for seniors, pregnant women, adults and children with disabilities, and anyone recovering from surgery. The Mickelson pool was the only warm water therapy pool on the Peninsula and served citizens of all ages and from all communities. My husband was a pool user for almost 20 years and it contributed immensely to his health and quality of life through two hip replacements, open heart surgery, and more.

We are asking that the City of Brisbane pass a resolution recognizing the plight of those seeking relief from pain and demanding the pool's reopening. Alternatively, Sutter Health should return the amount originally donated — \$7.2 million in today's money — to build a new facility.

Speaker Pro Tempore Kevin Mullin and Senator Josh Becker have written to Sutter Health advocating for the pool to be reopened. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, the San Mateo Labor Council and the Sequoia Healthcare District have passed resolutions calling for the pool's reopening as well as the cities of Burlingame, Half Moon Bay, Colma, Foster City, Hillsborough, Millbrae and San Mateo. There have been many letters from pool users and doctors calling on Sutter to re-open the pool. We are grateful for all the support received to date but still need your support to put more pressure on Sutter Health to meet with us and resolve this issue.

I am enclosing a draft resolution that could serve as a template.

This has become a crisis. The community has lost a very valuable resource and many users are suffering deteriorating health conditions and hope.

I would be happy to talk to you further about this request.

Sincerely,

Jane Stahl  
Secretary  
(650) 455-5793

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## *SAMPLE RESOLUTION TEMPLATE*

The below template is based on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors' resolution

A RESOLUTION OF \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by \_\_\_\_\_, this  
\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN: