



City Council Meeting Staff Report

Meeting Date: February 10, 2026

SUBJECT: Update on Wheatland Aquatic Center Funding

PREPARED BY: Bill Zenoni, City Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Wheatland City Council review the information presented and provide direction to staff on next steps.

DISCUSSION:

The Wheatland City Council, on July 9, 2019, adopted Resolution No. 25-19 accepting a gift of \$1.0 million from David Creps to be used for maintaining and operating a community swimming pool within the City of Wheatland. The City executed an agreement with Mr. Creps which provided that the donated funds would be deposited into a separate interest-bearing fund and would be used to maintain and operate a community swimming pool and to operate an aquatic program at the swimming pool which was to be constructed within the City of Wheatland. The agreement further stipulated that the swimming pool would be constructed and begin operation within seven years of the July 2019 agreement (by July 2026), or the \$1 million gift plus any earned interest would be returned to the David Creps Revocable Trust.

On October 27, 2020, the City Council approved an agreement with the Melton Design Group for architectural and grant support services for the City's recreation facility projects. At that time, it was anticipated that the swimming pool project could be eligible for State Proposition 68 grant funding. The Melton Design Group completed the *Wheatland Aquatic Center Feasibility Report* (copy attached), which was accepted by the City Council on September 28, 2021. That report recommended that the City pursue a phased project that would start with the construction of a single pool designed to allow for recreational use, competitive swimming, diving and water polo to be constructed on a 2.8 acre parcel of land provided by the Wheatland School District under a long-term \$1 per year lease agreement. The estimated 2021 cost of that phase of the project was \$4.4 million. Subsequent potential phases of the project identified in the Melton Design Group Report included the addition of a shallow childrens and warm-up pool and a beach-entry recreational pool with play equipment and a recreational slide at an additional cost of approximately \$6.7 million, for a long-term total project cost of \$11.1 million (in 2021 dollars).

For the initial \$4.4 million phase of the project, the anticipated sources of funding included:

- \$3 million Proposition 68 Rural Recreation and Tourism Program Grant.
- \$1 million Creps donation (assuming an amendment to the original agreement was approved to allow the use of the donated funds for pool construction rather than pool operations).
- \$350,000 long-term deferred loan from Yuba Water Agency.

The City submitted an application to the State Department of Parks and Recreation for the Prop 68 grant, and was notified in 2022 that the City was not awarded grant funding. The reason provided was that the number of applications exceeded the grant funding available.

Since that time, staff has been exploring potential funding opportunities for this project. However, there have been no federal or state grant programs offered for an aquatic center which haven't required a significant (50%) matching contribution.

In addition to the significant cost of constructing a municipal swimming pool, there are ongoing costs to operate and maintain the facility. The Wheatland Aquatic Center Feasibility Report also identified the annual cost of operating and maintaining the pool at \$310,000 (operational 4 months per year) to \$650,000 (operating 12 months per year). It was estimated that approximately 40 percent of the annual operating costs might be recovered from user fees, with the remaining costs to be funded from other sources. These cost estimates have not been updated since 2021.

The City Council last received an update on the status of the aquatic center funding in January 2024. At that time, staff identified no available grant funding. There was discussion about a possible capital funding campaign to generate donations from local and business donors. However, the chance of generating the large amount of capital required for this project is questionable.

With the July 2026 deadline fast approaching, the Pool Ad Hoc Committee (Mayor Coe and Councilmember Teter) met on January 14, 2026 to discuss the next steps related to the donated funding. As it does not appear that the City will be able to generate the necessary funding to construct and operate an aquatic center, direction from the City Council is requested. Specifically, in accordance with the terms of Mr. Creps donation agreement, the \$1 million donation along with interest earned on those funds (\$155,953 as of December 31, 2025) would be returned to the David Creps Revocable Trust.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information item only. There is no fiscal impact at this time

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. 25-19
2. Agreement Between City of Wheatland and David Creps
3. Wheatland Aquatic Center Feasibility Report