

## RESOLUTION NO. 51-2022

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFICA IN SUPPORT OF REOPENING THE MACK E. MICKELSON ARTHRITIS AND REHABILITATION CENTER THERAPY POOL LOCATED AT THE MILLS HEALTH CENTER IN SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA

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**WHEREAS**, the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center 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; and

**WHEREAS**, Mickelson was constructed over 25 years ago using charitable contributions from residents of San Mateo County; and

**WHEREAS**, for over 25 years, thousands of San Mateo County residents who suffer from health issues, including permanent disabilities, debilitating injuries, autoimmune disorders, and mobility impairments have used Mickelson to rehabilitate and mitigate physical decline; and

**WHEREAS**, both intervention and prevention are equally critical components of an equitable and effective healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS**, Mickelson's ability to provide both preventative and interventionist therapies to residents of San Mateo County 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; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sutter Health ceased operating Mickelson; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2021, Sutter Health publicly announced its intent to permanently close Mickelson; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, over 4,800 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; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no comparable warm water therapy pools able to adequately accommodate the residents of San Mateo County who previously relied upon Mickelson; and

**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; and

**WHEREAS**, estimates provided by Sutter Health suggest that reopening Mickelson with any required repairs or upgrades would cost approximately \$250,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, warm water therapy pools in the region can and do operate profitably and safely under relevant COVID-19 regulations.

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Pacifica, California that considering the foregoing, the prompt reopening the Mack E. Mickelson Arthritis and Rehabilitation Center Therapy Pool for community use 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. The City Council urges 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

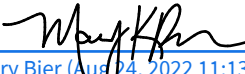
**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Pacifica, California, held on the 22nd day of August 2022, by the following vote:

**AYES**, Councilmembers: Beckmeyer, Bier, Bigstycck, O'Neill, Vaterlaus.

**NOES**, Councilmembers: n/a.

**ABSENT**, Councilmembers: n/a.

**ABSTAIN**, Councilmembers: n/a.

  
Mary Bier (Aug 24, 2022 11:13 PDT)

Mary Bier, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sarah Coffey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Michelle Kenyon, City Attorney










# For Signature: ResolutionNo51-2022\_SupportOf MickelsonTherapyPool

Final Audit Report

2022-08-24

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