

City of Piedmont
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: June 29, 2020

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Sara Lillevand, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Provide Direction to Staff Regarding the Continued Operation of the Piedmont Community Pool

RECOMMENDATION

Provide direction to staff regarding the continued operation of the Piedmont Community Pool.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Piedmont Community Pool (PCP) is now 56 years old. Due to the diligence of City staff and the Piedmont Swim Club (PSC) before them, the PCP has managed to exceed the normal lifespan for an outdoor pool of its vintage, but it is coming to the end of its useful life. The pool is becoming more expensive to operate every year and simultaneously becoming less able to serve the needs of the community. In addition, the pool has been fully closed since March 16, 2020 due to the COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. Aquatics facilities in Alameda County remain closed, but are listed in the next round of potential facilities to be allowed to open in the [Alameda County Reopening Plan](#).

When issued, the County's regulations for reopening will surely require pools to operate very differently than pre-COVID-19. Recreation staff have developed a model for re-opening based on likely safety requirements. Severe restrictions on the number of people allowed in the facility at a given time without any associated decrease in staffing requirements results in a model high in cost and low in breadth of service.

The City understands that residents rely upon the Piedmont Community Pool as a resource to learn to swim, exercise, compete, play, and socialize. It has also been a steady source of employment for our local youth. However, pools do not last forever, and this facility is already operating on borrowed time. The question for the Council to consider is what operating loss is acceptable, and whether it might make fiscal sense to close this 56-year-old facility.

BACKGROUND

The existing Piedmont aquatics facility opened in 1964 and was operated by the private, not-for-profit Piedmont Swim Club until 2011. At that time, the City assumed responsibility for the operation of the facility and renamed it the Piedmont Community Pool.

It has long been recognized that the current size and configuration of the facility is inadequate to meet the aquatic needs of the community. Recreation swim, lap swim, learn-to-swim, therapeutic swim, and competitive swim/water polo have all been vying for limited and suboptimal space for decades. The Council and community have launched many efforts over the years to chart a course to a new aquatics center including, but not limited to:

- Piedmont Community Recreation Center (PCRC) 2002
- Recreation and Aquatics Cooperative (RAC) 2002-2005
- Sports Management Group Aquatic Study 2006
- Civic Center Master Plan 2006-2007
- Aquatics Master Plan Conceptual Design, November 2016

These efforts and studies, each of which involved a great deal of work by the community, all drew similar conclusions regarding the inadequacy of the present facility and potential for a new, more appropriate facility. However, for various reasons, including the projected cost of a new facility, no actions have been taken to renovate or replace this community resource. Instead, the focus has been on yearly maintenance and repairs to keep the present facility safe and operational. Due to the diligence of City staff and the PSC before them, the PCP has managed to exceed the normal lifespan for an outdoor pool of its vintage.

After acceptance by City Council of the Aquatics Master Plan Conceptual Design in November 2016, and subsequent favorable Operational Analysis of the conceptual design in June 2017, Council authorized the opinion research firm Fairbanks, Maslin, Maulin, Metz and Associates (FM3) to evaluate community interest and support for a new aquatics facility through polling. On December 18, 2017, Council received a presentation from FM3's David Metz regarding these polling results. Relative to aquatics, depending on phrasing of the survey question, up to 53% indicated support for a bond measure for a new facility, well short of the two-thirds majority required for passage of a municipal bond. A resident question that came up over and over again during the polling process was how much longer the current facility would last.

Given the FM3 polling results, the Aquatics Subcommittee, which was comprised of Mayor McBain and Councilmember Andersen, determined that the City should develop a deep and thorough understanding of the current condition of the pool before moving forward with developing strategies for public outreach and communication about a new facility.

Staff was charged with answering the question of PCP's life expectancy. How much life do we likely have left in our current facility and/or how much will it cost to keep the facility safe and operational in its current form?

MAINTENANCE COSTS OF PRESENT FACILITY

During the summer of 2018, Richard Young of Aquatic Commercial Consulting performed an in depth assessment of the pool decks and vessels; mechanical and chemical systems; and equipment efficiency with respect to codes, regulations, conditions and repairs [and presented findings to the Council on October 15, 2018](#).

Aquatic Commercial Consulting identified a host of problems with the existing facility, including the pools, decks, mechanical and chemical systems, and equipment efficiency with respect to codes, regulations, conditions, and repairs. Relatively small issues, such as the depth and the narrowness of the six lanes of the main pool, are outweighed by more critical leakage, maintenance and health and safety concerns. These deficiencies have a direct and ongoing impact on the City of Piedmont budget by requiring ongoing operational subsidies which are growing year over year just to maintain status quo. The operational deficit for 2019-20 will be roughly \$314,000. Assuming no catastrophic failure of the pool vessel structures themselves, the City over the next ten years would spend more than \$4 million in repairs and equipment to keep the current pool marginally functional and continue to be faced with large annual operational shortfalls.

The conclusion of the October 2018 staff report reads,

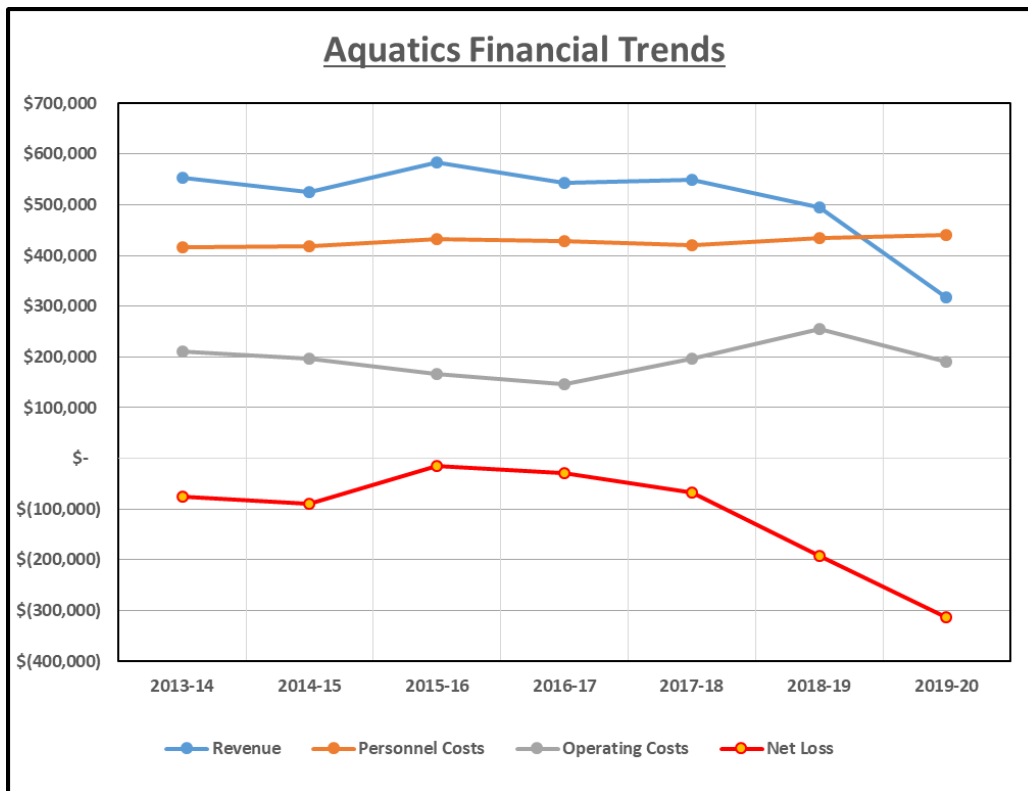
“This level of investment in a facility that has surpassed its expected life and falls well short of meeting the needs of the Piedmont community may not be a prudent or practical allocation of the City’s limited funds. Instead, we have reached the point in the life of the pool where strong consideration should be given to constructing a new facility that would better serve the community needs and require little to no annual subsidy. Alternatively, consideration should be given to transitioning out of aquatics programming as a City service.”

FINANCIAL TRENDS

Since 2018, the City has addressed many of the immediate health and safety issues identified in the Aquatic Commercial Consulting report with short term, relatively inexpensive solutions. The larger issues, however, remain. One major unresolved issue is the significant daily water leakage. Fixing this issue would require demolition and replacement of the pool deck at great expense.

Below are summaries of revenues, expenses, and operational shortfall for the past three fiscal years. As you can see, the trend even prior to COVID-19 is not favorable. These numbers do not take into account the major repairs necessary to continue safe operation of the facility.

PIEDMONT COMMUNITY POOL			
	2017-18	2018-19	Projected 2019-20
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 549,493	\$ 495,807	\$ 316,602
EXPENDITURS			
Personnel - Mgmt.	111,383	122,627	174,494
Personnel - Part time	308,834	312,277	265,926
Operating	125,236	140,198	87,413
Utilities	59,990	63,049	55,329
Maintenance	11,486	50,992	47,167
FMF Expenditures	39,977		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	656,906	689,143	630,328
NET LOSS	\$ (107,413)	\$ (193,336)	\$ (313,726)



Unexpected closure days for repairs have also been on the rise. In 2018-19 the PCP had 10 unplanned closure days which rose to 25 days in 2019-20 including some of the warmest, most desirable swim days of the year. The baby pool has been fraught with issues and was closed three different times for a total of 33 days in the past year. With a facility this old, it is likely that the trend of unplanned closures will continue to increase.

POTENTIAL RE-OPENING SCENARIO

The PCP has been closed since March 16 due to the Alameda County Public Health Shelter in Place orders related to COVID-19. In anticipation of eventual loosening of shelter-in place orders to include reopening of pools, PCP Aquatics Coordinator Zoe Clancy-Clavere, along with Recreation Supervisor Jackson Stearns, and Recreation Director Chelle Putzer, have developed a re-opening model to meet the requirements which we believe are likely from the Alameda County Public Health Department.

A reopened Piedmont Community Pool would look and feel very different than it did before COVID-19. Based on county, state, and federal regulations and guidelines, reopening any programs will require significant adjustments to the pool schedule, reductions in pool capacity as well as the development and implementation of new cleaning policies/procedures. Despite reduced pool occupancy to ensure social distancing, aquatic programming will actually require more staff to meet COVID-19 regulations and guidelines.

The re-opening model proposed includes a gradual reintroduction of programs that can be delivered safely including lap swimming, Piedmont Swim Team (PST) training, water aerobics and swim lessons. Recreational swimming, as we have known it, will not exist in the foreseeable future. There is simply not enough pool space to maintain social distancing during recreational swimming. Therefore, pool passes have been eliminated from the model fee structure. No seasonal passes were sold for 2020 and all annual pool passes have been or are in the process of being refunded. As a frame of reference, average pass sale revenue for the past six years has been \$295,000 accounting for more than half of aquatics revenue each year.

All PCP use would be by reservation or rental only. Lap swim and PST rental for team training would be the first to open, followed by water aerobics and swim lessons. Lap swim would be accommodated by reservation only for an hourly fee, and would allow for one person per lane. PST practices would be required to meet yet to be released Alameda County guidelines, which would likely be limited to small, stable groups. The medium pool would be opened only for highly-regulated swim lessons and the baby pool would not open at all in this model. The potential re-opening model schedule can be seen in Attachment A to this report.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Despite attempts to mitigate negative fiscal impacts by significantly reducing operating hours and proposing fees that are at or above what is emerging as a COVID-19 market rate, the financial picture for re-opening the PCP is grim.

In addition to \$43,000 in expenditures identified to safely open the facility, the month over month operational shortfall can be seen in Attachment B to this report. Assuming the Recreation Department spent the month of July in preparation and then opened under this proposed model in August and assuming the pool was able to reach maximum capacity with every lane hour rented and every swim lesson filled, the City would face an estimated \$203,000 deficit at the end of December. At 70% capacity, the mid-year shortfall is estimated at \$260,000. Fiscal Year 20-21

year end projections are difficult to estimate given the level of uncertainty relative to COVID-19 but the absolute best case scenario of a “COVID Fall” meeting 100% capacity without mechanical failures followed by full re-opening in January and a quick pivot to full programming and pass revenues would result in a \$360,000 shortfall. It is entirely possible however that we could see costs exceeding revenues by \$500,000 or more.

It is important to note that this proposed model does not include any time or space in the fall for Piedmont Unified School District programs, including physical education and special education. Nor does it include high school water polo which typically practices and competes in the PCP in the fall. If the California Interscholastic Federation were to allow water polo to resume in the fall, this proposed model would change accordingly and would become more costly, as the City does not charge PUSD for its use of this community resource.

CONCLUSION

Two years have passed since it was acknowledged that the city had “reached the point in the life of the pool where strong consideration should be given to constructing a new facility that would better serve the community needs and require little to no annual subsidy. Alternatively, consideration should be given to transitioning out of aquatics programming as a City service.” In the intervening time, the facility, as well as its ability to recover costs, have further deteriorated. Given the hard financial realities both of the City’s aged aquatics facility and for overall Recreation Department revenues, it falls on this Council to determine whether it has become cost-prohibitive to continue to operate this aquatics facility.

By: Chelle Putzer, Recreation Director
Michael Szczech, Finance Director

Attachments

- A: Piedmont Community Pool Reopening Plan
- B: Best Case Financial Scenario for Piedmont Community Pool Reopening

Main Pool		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday							
August	6:00 AM	Lap Swim 6-11 am (5)	Swim Team 6-7 am (1)	Lap Swim 6-11 am (5)	Swim Team 6-7 am (1)	Lap Swim 6-11 am (5)									
	7:00 AM						Swim Team 7-9 am (2)	Lap Swim 7-9 am (2)							
	8:00 AM		Lap Swim 7-10 am (3)		Lap Swim 7-10 am (3)		Lap Swim 7-10 am (3)	Water Aerobics 9-10 am (1)	Swim Lessons 9 am-1 pm (4)						
	9:00 AM		Water Aerobics 10-11 am (1)		Water Aerobics 10-11 am (1)		Water Aerobics 10-11 am (1)	Swim Lessons 9 am-1 pm (4)							
10:00 AM															
Sept, Oct	11:00 AM	Closed: 11 am-3 pm	Closed: 11 am-3 pm	Closed: 11 am-3 pm	Closed: 11 am-3 pm	Closed: 11 am-3 pm	Closed: 1-3 pm	Closed: 1-3 pm							
	12:00 PM														
	1:00 PM														
	2:00 PM														
	3:00 PM														
	3:00 PM								Swim Team 3-5 pm (2)	Swim Team 3-5 pm (2)	Swim Team 3-5 pm (2)	Swim Team 3-5 pm (2)	Swim Team 3-5 pm (2)	Lap Swim 3-7 pm (4)	Lap Swim 3-7 pm (4)
	4:00 PM														
	5:00 PM								Lap Swim 5-7 (2)	Lap Swim 5-7 (2)	Lap Swim 5-7 (2)	Lap Swim 5-7 (2)	Lap Swim 5-7 (2)		
6:00 PM															

Medium Pool		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday			
Sept, Oct	6:00 AM										
	7:00 AM										
	8:00 AM										
	9:00 AM								Swim Lessons 9:00-1:00pm (4)	Swim Lessons 9:00-1:00pm (4)	
	10:00 AM										
	11:00 AM										
	12:00 PM										
	1:00 PM										
	2:00 PM										
	3:00 PM								Swim Lessons 3:00-6:00pm (3)	Swim Lessons 3:00-6:00pm (3)	Swim Lessons 3:00-6:00pm (3)
	3:00 PM										
	4:00 PM										
5:00 PM											
6:00 PM											

Piedmont Community Pool
Best Case Reopening Plan Financials

FULL CAPACITY

	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Total</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ -	\$ 34,346	\$ 34,346	\$ 17,568	\$ 17,568	\$ 17,568	\$ 17,568	\$ 17,568	\$ 34,346	\$ 34,346	\$ 34,346	\$ 34,346	\$ 293,916
Expenditures													
Personnel - Mgmt.	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 15,950	\$ 191,403
Personnel - Part time	-	18,286	18,286	14,106	14,106	14,106	14,106	14,106	18,286	18,286	18,286	18,286	180,249
Opening Costs	43,400												43,400
Operating		9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	9,167	100,833
Utilities	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,500	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,000	5,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	66,000
Maintenance		5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	5,455	60,000
FMF Expenditures													-
Total Expenditures	\$ 64,350	\$ 53,858	\$ 53,858	\$ 50,178	\$ 50,678	\$ 51,178	\$ 51,178	\$ 50,678	\$ 54,358	\$ 53,858	\$ 53,858	\$ 53,858	\$ 641,886
Net Loss	\$ (64,350)	\$ (19,512)	\$ (19,512)	\$ (32,610)	\$ (33,110)	\$ (33,610)	\$ (33,610)	\$ (33,110)	\$ (20,012)	\$ (19,512)	\$ (19,512)	\$ (19,512)	\$ (347,970)

**Item #1 – Direction to Staff on Continued Operation of the Piedmont Community Pool
Correspondence Received before 12 Noon on Monday, June 29, 2020**

Hello,

I was troubled to read the potential fate of the pool. As a family, we extensively use the pool for lap swim exercise and for the kids to have some fun in the water and learn to swim. When we moved here, we had visions of our children practicing as members of the swim team in our community pool. Please count us in for major support for keeping and/or rebuilding the facility. Our life in Piedmont will not be the same as we envisioned when we bought the house or not what we've enjoyed for the past few years. Please don't close the pool.

Mark and Carrice McKenna

Dear City Council,

I am writing to support the Piedmont Pool. The Piedmont pool is a treasured community resource. It is so very important to have a pool centrally located in our community which is affordable. It matters that we offer this so that all children and adults in our community can learn to swim & enjoy water activities. The pool brings people together.

All of 3 of my children learned to swim at the Piedmont pool. We have missed the pool so much since COVID-19 shut down. I use the pool regularly for exercise as does my father who is 80 years old. Swimming builds endurance, muscle strength and cardiovascular fitness. Swimming provides an all-over body workout, as nearly all of your muscles are used during swimming. Many people who cannot do other sports, can swim. Kids who may not love ball sports find their place swimming, playing water polo or enjoying the water.

My daughter participated in the Piedmont swim team at the pool. She was able to walk herself from elementary school to swim team. This is what Piedmont is about: small town facilities and activities that create the community we love. I love that swimming can happen right here, near our schools, our houses and our parks.

I see a future for Piedmont with water sports, water polo, water play and swimming. I do not think we can give this up. The Piedmont pool is a vital resource in our community.

I would love to see a pool with a small snack shop in summer. I think this could be a wonderful healthy gathering place for youth and adults.

Thank you,
Megan Lavin

Dear Council Members:

Thank you for the thoughtful analysis of the situation with the community pool facilities in the Agenda Report. Given the limitations on pool use due to COVID-19, my husband and I support exploration of constructing new pool facilities now, rather than trying to open the aged existing facility on a limited basis.

We have experienced how the facility has reached the end of its life. Last summer, we could only use our pool pass a handful of times because the baby pool was closed much of the time and use of the medium pool was restricted.

Thank you,

-Amber and Chris Brumfiel

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I've been a regular lap swimmer at the community pool since 2004 when I first moved to Piedmont. Walking to school and to recreation were features that attracted me to Piedmont, an urban village. My son played water polo and my daughter swam on the PHS swim team.

Swimming is of critical importance as a form of exercise to many age groups in our community, especially seniors because it is the only gentle form of exercise they can do. If there were plentiful pool options in the east bay, we wouldn't need a local pool; however, there is a great scarcity of public and private pools in the east bay. There are waiting lists for memberships to private clubs, for those who can afford them. Now with the social distancing protocols, even fewer people will be able to use the small number of pools in the entire east bay.

I support repair of the entire pool facility and total reconstruction if necessary. Closure during construction can be endured! I would be surprised that less than a majority of Piedmonters support a new facility. I believe the survey instrument may be faulty. Perhaps not a good response rate?

In the meantime, I would appreciate reopening of the pool for lap swimming and other activities that can be conducted with social distancing. I disagree that social distancing will require more staff. I suggest the locker room and bathrooms be closed and instead 2 porta-potty toilets be installed (as before when the locker rooms were being repaired) which would not require monitoring — only regular cleaning & refilling soap. All users would have to change clothes at home.

The proposed reopening schedule in the staff report shows the pool closed extensively mid-day. I don't see why the pool should be closed at that prime time. Given social distancing, it would be important to extend rather than decrease the number of hours the pool is open in order to accommodate as many users as possible.

Thank you for considering my comments and request.

Mary E. Prisco

Hi City Council -

We have been season family members of the pool since moving to Piedmont 7 years ago and we have a son on the swim team. We love it! But it's time for an upgrade. My husband and I both support closing and renovating the pool ASAP and will vote Yes for a ballot measure to fund it. We doubt very many people will want to use a public pool for the next year so it might be a small silver lining of these terrible circumstances. Thanks for considering this perspective and for your service to the City.

Best,
Shannon and Angel Fierro

Dear Members of the City Council:

As a long time Piedmont resident and avid lap swimmer, I am writing to urge that the Piedmont pool be reopened, consistent with applicable governmental guidance and requirements, as soon as feasible.

I am aware of private clubs reopening their swimming pools (in addition to tennis courts), utilizing strictly enforced limits on the number of lap swimmers permitted at any given time and prohibiting the use of locker rooms, toilets and other indoor facilities. Perhaps such an approach might be used in reopening the Piedmont pool.

Thank you for your consideration.

--

Jordan Rose

Hello

I am a Piedmont resident and a member of the Piedmont pool. I use it regularly and it would greatly reduce my exercise options if the pool is discontinued.

In addition the pool provides important recreation and sports opportunities for our kids. Both of my sons played high school water polo last year and the pool plays an irreplaceable role in that team's viability and success. Girl's water polo and of course swim teams also rely on the pool.

Finally the pool is a great source of teen jobs, which are otherwise very hard to find.

In short the pool is important for a variety of reasons to piedmont residents of all ages. Please maintain the pool as it is, or better yet, find a way to support its expansion or replacement with a more modern pool.

Thanks for listening.

Matthew Hinsch

Dear City Council Members,

We urge you to keep the Piedmont Community Pool open, and submit a capital improvement bond this Fall, in order to fund the realization of the 2018 Aquatic Master Plan.

Many in the Piedmont community – of all ages – have relied on the pool for health & well-being, sport, and recreation, including

- Lap swimmers – of all ages
- Piedmont Swim Team,
- PUSD, including the PHS Swim Team and PHS Water Polo
- Birthday pool parties,
- Families with young kids
- Kids learning how to swim for health, fun and safety, and
- The leadership and responsibility that comes from your first summer job as a lifeguard

Much like Witter Field and our tennis courts, the Piedmont Community Pool is an integral part of the appeal of our vibrant, verdant, dynamic, and increasingly diverse city.

Despite many attempts over the years to proactively avoid the situation we find ourselves in, we can no longer avoid the long-overdue call to action. The voters of our city have risen to the call before (PHS capital improvements, etc.), and the Council owes it to our Community to put this matter to a vote.

Today, The New York Times published a thoughtful piece, entitled “[Who Will Get to Swim This Summer? History is repeating itself as pools, beaches and clubs open — but mostly for the privileged few.](#)”, which speaks to the importance of **public recreation facilities which facilitates access for all**, not just the wealthy and the private club members. In part:

“But exclusionary measures that predominantly white and wealthier communities have eagerly adopted, combined with the fact that many cities and towns are keeping public swimming pools closed to help narrow budget gaps, mean many Americans who rely on public facilities for outdoor recreation — disproportionately lower income families and people of color — will step outside this summer only to find that there are [few places left](#) for them to go.

This has happened before. Throughout American history, in times of heightened racial tension and rising inequality, the socially advantaged tend to retreat into private spaces, withdraw taxpayer support for public recreation, and work to restrict access to public space within their communities, often using concerns about public health and safety as justification.”

Public outdoor recreation facilities, when used in a safe, social-distanced manner, are needed more than ever in the face of uncertainty and during this pandemic.

Now is the time to act for the public good, and we urge you to keep this vital facility open, and put this matter to ballot in the Fall 2020.

Respectfully,

Amy & Aaron Aubrecht

City Council:

Based on the survey results and the limitations to public participation brought on by the pandemic, November 2020 does not seem like an appropriate time to put these two initiatives on the ballot, especially the facilities matter. Every indication suggests a second wave of the pandemic will occur in the fall and these questions should not be put before Piedmonters under constraint. “Robust resident education will be needed” – that will be a very difficult undertaking during the pandemic and should not be rushed or forced. The typical forums available for voter education like LWV, house parties, clubs – won’t be available or will see reduced participation. And, if put on the ballot, can the public outreach activities staff had planned before the pandemic go forward – it gives the appearance of city staff campaigning for the ballot. Council should do as it did with the public safety contracts – postpone these ballot questions until more normal conditions return. Two years from now has the added advantage that three council seats – a majority - will be up for election, allowing for the community to send a clear signal of whether it supports these initiatives.

The polling results indicate that well over 60% of Piedmonters consider facilities as excellent, good or average. The City Administrator concluded that Piedmonters do not clearly understand their facility needs but is that true? Piedmonters are familiar with the facilities they use and see – recreation and park facilities – and not with the ones they don’t – the police and fire buildings. The polling results indicate that most Piedmonters like what they see and it’s really up to the city to explain the need why these facilities need replacement. Piedmonters understand the maintenance issue with the pool – it has been studied and discussed for years. The proposals for the pool, Linda Beach and Coaches are for replacement, not maintenance, and looked at this way, the results could indicate that residents do not want these replacements. To determine if that is the case, it would be better to have the public safety facilities and recreation facilities presented as separate ballot initiatives.

Finally, at a BAFPC meeting I attended, the Assistant City Manager/City Clerk indicated that General Obligation bonds might require two votes under the city charter. The BAFPC suggested a way to avoid two votes would be to establish a Community Facilities District (CFD). I think the staff report is inaccurate when it states the BAFPC “favored” CFD bonds, though it did support a parcel-based tax assessment compared to an ad valorem one: “The Committee recommends pursuing a parcel-based tax assessment. This is preferable to an ad valorem tax given that the facilities to be funded include primarily (or potentially exclusively) essential public services buildings benefiting all Piedmont residents.” I think it is inaccurate to conclude that the facilities to be funded are primarily “essential public services”. While I’ve enjoyed the recreation facilities in Piedmont, it’s clear that not all residents utilize these facilities, especially so over the next 30 years as Piedmont “ages in place”. Police and Fire are of course essential so again, consider placing the public safety facilities and recreation facilities on separate ballot initiatives.

Garrett Keating

Dear City Council Members,

Public access to swimming pools is not just about recreation and leisure, but about the safety of our children. In California children need to be able to learn to swim so that they do not drown.

Cities contribute to public safety by allowing all children to learn to swim by underwriting swimming pools. Without a city pool only the privileged few who can join a country club have access to swim facilities and swim instruction.

Of course we want a public swimming pool open for sports, recreation, elderly lap swimmers, a community meeting place, increased property values, and youth employment too. However, public safety and not having a pool where our youngest residents can learn to swim is really our overriding concern for future Piedmont children. Please submit a capital improvement bond for this Fall to maintain a city sponsored swim facility for Piedmont!

Thank you.

Christine Schooley & Walter Stokes

Council Members,

I am a resident of Piedmont and love using the pool and support pursuing financial tax revenue to upgrade the pool. I believe if it was redesigned it would draw people from not just Piedmont but also from neighboring areas. My family loves the pool and we know lots of other families that use the pool as well. It is a great feature of Piedmont.

Cheers,

Malinda Walters

De.ar City Council members,

I and my family are long time members of the Piedmont Swim Club/ Piedmont Community Pool. We are regular yearly pass holders

It has been very difficult during this pandemic time to have the pool closed, but we have all eagerly anticipated the day the pool could safely re open. I know safe re opening with scheduled lap lane times has been accomplished in many communities in California.

Access to the pool for safe exercise and relaxation has never been more important. I don't want my membership fees returned. I want to encourage and participate in a plan to re open the pool as soon as possible. I know I and other members would accepts a higher yearly rate for a swim pass if that would help us to reach this goal. Funds have been spent to upgrade soccer fields and tennis courts. Surely the community of Piedmont can support a modest community pool.

Sincerely yours,

Kelly C. O'Neal, MD

Good morning,

I just read on your website that the city council is considering whether to close the Piedmont Community Pool. I only recently discovered the pool and am planning to begin using it for exercise when it reopens. I will be very disappointed if it closes and I hope the city council decides to keep it open.

Thank you,
Jennifer Barnes

I am a 10 year resident of Piedmont . The Piedmont pool is a very important part of our lives here. I swim regularly there and my son is a member of swim team . Please do not close the pool.

Charlie

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

First, I would like to thank Sara Lillevand for the detailed Agenda Report.
As the report describes, the pool has been serving the community for over half the century.

I have been an annual pass holder, and all my children grew up taking swim lessons there, as well as organizing summer birthday and class parties, and hosted countless high school meets there.

The pool that's located in the center of the town literally has been a hub of the community, not to mention the importance of aquatics for special education.

I would like to express my wish for the city of Piedmont, to continue to have the community pool, the one that meets all the needs of the different parts of people in Piedmont. I am ready to help the city raise the funds required, and spread the words.
Please consider the new pool option in a positive manner. I'm looking forward to the council meeting tomorrow evening.

Sincerely,
Kyoko Roseborough

Dear Piedmont Council Member,

The lockdown without swimming was some of the toughest 3 months of my son's life. As a pre-teen boy living on the autism spectrum, the Piedmont Swim Team has provided an incredible outlet for my son to build friends, good physical health and confidence that he sorely lacked before. During the lockdown, that all went away and my son's mental state suffered. Since Piedmont Swim Team started back up three weeks ago, leveraging agreements with pools in adjacent counties, we have seen a rebound close to where our boy was the past year. I have appreciated how the Piedmont Swim Team has gone to great lengths to find pools in adjacent counties, but that is just not sustainable; with 6:30am practices for the kids and a shift to an even lower priority as other county camps and activities begin at those other county pools. Despite it all, I have been extremely impressed how seriously and diligently Piedmont Swim Team has implemented the strict distancing and other COVID-19 reopening rules at these out of area pools. They have the kids' and the community best interests in mind.

So as you think about the re-opening the Piedmont pool, think about the kids, in particular those with special needs and how mentally and physically damaging further closures will be on them.

A decision to keep everything closed indefinitely is the easy one, but I look to you to make the hard decision, to re-open the Piedmont pool for the sake of the mental and physical health of our kids. I am confident the leaders of the Piedmont Swim Team will implement all of the rules and keep our kids and community safe in the process.

Sincerely,

Rick Judy

Dear City Council,

Thank you for your leadership & commitment to the City of Piedmont.

Our family has enjoyed and benefitted from our community pool — from lessons, to lap swims, to essential cooling off during those hot summer and fall days and getting to bump into friends from all over town. When the kids were little, it was a huge gift to be able to walk to the pool. My son had Assisted PE classes at the pool that literally changed his sense of self, his well-being, his physical and emotional health. He took water polo classes, he joined the swim team, and he just had his first, though truncated, year of PHS swim team. He's looking to 3 more good years & I know he isn't alone.

The pool's value to the entire community is multi-layered. Please pursue options to keep this incredible resource available to many for years to come.

Best,

Ann Dowley

Hi there... We will be at the town meeting tonight but do want to voice our concern over the potential closure of the pool. I can't articulate the concerns more clearly than the below so I will just back them up. It feels like only the most privileged in our community, those who can afford the Claremont or the Hills clubs, will have the ability to swim. I understand the complexity of the issue but I do hope we can work hard to maintain this cherished part of our community... as it's value to ALL in terms of home value, not just those who use it regularly. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION!**

Best, Donna Firedman Meir

I also want to voice my extreme concern in closing the Piedmont pool. For so many it is an absolutely integral part of the community. For example, in the summer months, it is the most wonderful place for the community to get together and share a common space.

The swim teams that are used by the schools and the community is also another example of how central the pool is to kids' well-being.

It is used by hundreds and hundreds of people in the community, and is a vital link what makes Piedmont so special.

I can't imagine the community surviving without this essential service.

Thanks

Gadi Meir

We wholeheartedly agree with Amy and Aaron's call to action below. We would add that the pool and the facilities surrounding it provides two additional benefits 1) a community gathering place for families of all ages whether it be during lap swim, swim lessons, open swim or the many community events the pool hosts including the 4th of July type events and 5th grade pool parties (PUSD beyond the highschool) 2) and an important service that extends beyond Piedmont as many of the season pass holders are from surrounding areas. In this moment of time, community is more important than ever and our community extends beyond our city limits.

We are occasional users of the pool because of the limitations of the old facilities. That said, every time we use the pool we run into someone we know and there is such a nice feeling of community. With the proposed facilities, we envision becoming passholders again and look forward to having another place to gather with our fellow neighbors in Piedmont and beyond.

Dawn and Dan Riordan

Council members,

It is my understanding that the Council will be discussing the future of the Piedmont Pool tonight. I would like to voice support for upgrading the pool! I would eagerly vote for a bond to fund the proposal for a new swim facility.

Having a local pool is such a great resource for the community--we are really feeling its absence this summer. Typically my family goes to the pool at least once a week and always run into friends to swim with while we are there. It is also important for the very popular swim and water polo teams to have a local place to practice. It has been wonderful to have such a close and affordable place for my family to swim.

And now would also be a perfect time to embark on this project. It is likely that the pool will need to remain closed for some time due to COVID-19--what a great time to finish the plans and begin construction on the new facility!!

-Maggie Mittan

Dear City Council of Piedmont,

My name is Brian Wu, a graduated senior of Piedmont High School and current 10 year member of Piedmont Swim Team (PST). I am writing this letter to demonstrate my interest in preserving

the Piedmont Community Pool (PCP) because as a student athlete, having access to a close, home pool is something I take great pride in. The pool has been the location of joy and happiness throughout my swimming career and it will be for many other children like my 10 year old sister. Many exciting and hype high school meets were held at PCP, and I wonder what would be of the PST and the high school swim team if we didn't have somewhere to truly call home.

I understand that PCP is operating under large losses, especially this fiscal year where it is projected to have a net loss of \$313,726. I'm assuming the construction of a new \$15 million dollar aquatic facility will be unpopular as taxes will increase. However, I hope you consider keeping a pool in Piedmont. This price has been worth every penny providing the community with an exciting option for activities and a place for memories to be born in Piedmont. I know I am not the only one out there who supports an aquatic facility in Piedmont. So I hope you know there are many of us out there who strongly benefit from the pool and the space around it, even if they cannot express their interest in the meeting. PCP is one of the few places in Piedmont that I value greatly

Thank you for reading,
Brian Wu

Council members,

Thank you for your service to the City of Piedmont. The staff report before you this evening makes a clear case that the Piedmont Community Pool is due for substantial renovation (and possibly upgrades). I urge you to pursue the financial investment needed for that work. I understand this will require additional tax revenue (to be discussed under your next item) because the City does not currently have a capital replacement fund for the pool or other important infrastructure. Asking the public to approve additional tax revenue is never easy, it is justified in this case. The City has managed its existing facilities admirably, but needs additional revenue to keep them going for the long term. Nowhere is that more clear than at the pool. The City has managed to make the existing pool last a long time. It has served Piedmont well for many generations and now it makes sense to invest in the future.

The City has already commissioned a number of master plans and studies, so you know how exciting things could be at the pool. Now we need to find a way to fund that exciting future.

I see that one of the options presented in the staff report is permanently closing the pool and getting the City out of aquatics. I really hope you are not seriously considering that possibility. The pool is one of the best things about Piedmont. It is not fancy, but it is a place for everyone and all ages. It provides a vital public service. If Piedmont stopped operating its pool, that would mean no place to cool off on hot days, no swim teams, no swim lessons, no aquatic summer camps, no water aerobics, no lap swim, no life guarding jobs for local youth, no floating pumpkins at Halloween, and no birthday parties at the pool. These things simply cannot be replicated elsewhere. Yes, some families might join private swim clubs. And yes, some people might rely of pools operated by other cities (like Oakland and Emeryville). But that

would be a very, very unfortunate outcome. Piedmont would lose forever a big part of its heart and soul: its community pool.

Everyone in Piedmont benefits from the pool. Please keep it open and support efforts to fund its renovation.

Thank you.
Osa Wolff

City Council:

One issue you must address regarding the pool is its GHG emissions. The figure below is taken from CAP 2.0. It shows that of all municipal building emissions, the pool is the largest GHG source.

Municipal Climate Action Measures

Energy consumption: Buildings and Lights

Municipal building energy use increased from 2005 to 2015. This increase is almost exclusively driven by the addition of the aquatic facilities at 777 Magnolia Avenue into the municipal building portfolio in 2010. However the building portfolio was relatively consistent between 2014 and 2015, and emissions from City buildings decreased despite a cooler winter requiring increased heating. By enhancing the energy efficiency of existing buildings and building highly efficient new buildings, the City can reduce the energy use of its facilities. Streetlight energy use declined by 13% in 2015 as the result of City efforts to convert to LEDs streetlights.

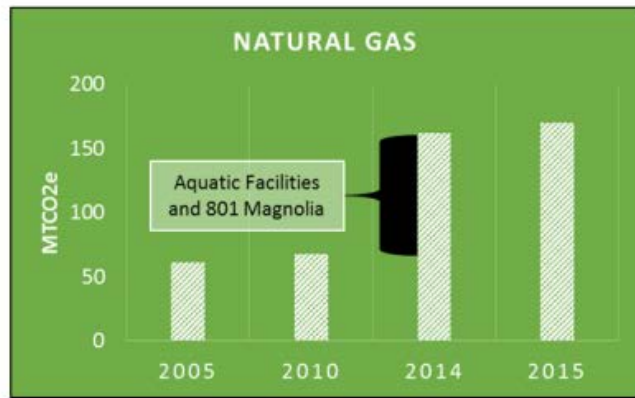


Figure 3.2

The other relevant information from CAP 2.0 is the objective that the pool be zero-carbon by 2050. This goal applies to all new facilities in Piedmont but achieving this goal for the pool may have the greatest influence on getting Piedmonters to switch from natural gas in their residences.

Objective MUN-1: Commit to being a zero-carbon municipal government

MEASURE MUN-1.1: SET A ZERO-CARBON GOAL FOR THE CITY GOVERNMENT

2030 GHG Reduction Potential: Not Quantified

Cost to City: LOW

Action MUN-1.1A: Pass a resolution committing Piedmont's municipal facilities and activities to be **zero-carbon** by 2050 and develop interim milestones.

2030 Goals

- Acquire 100% renewable electricity and install rooftop solar PV and other types of solar energy systems
- Maximize energy efficient building heating and cooling systems
- Reduce employee commute emissions by providing facilities for zero-carbon commute options

2050 Goals

- Switch from natural gas to electricity for heating fuel
- Replace the gasoline and diesel fleet with an electric or zero-emissions vehicle (ZEV) vehicle fleet
- Create near-zero waste from city operations

So as you decide how to continue to operate the pool, you have to determine how to operate it sustainably. Polling data for the current expansion was not sufficient and proceeding with a design that does not meet the GHG goals may well cost it more support.

**Item #1 – Direction to Staff on Continued Operation of the Piedmont Community Pool
Correspondence Received before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020**

Council members,

Thank you for your service to the City of Piedmont. I am writing in support of pursuing financial investment needed for pool repair. I understand that requesting additional tax revenue is difficult, but feel it is justified for this project. The pool has served Piedmont for many generations, and feel it continues to be an important investment for the future.

Everyone in Piedmont benefits from the pool. Please keep it open and support efforts to fund its renovation.

Thank you.
Liz Cha

Hello City Council,

My name is Kate Aubrecht. I am a rising junior at Piedmont High School, 16 years old, and a competitive swimmer on the Piedmont Swim Team as well as the high school team. I'd like to share my opinion on the future of the Piedmont Pool. I should add that I don't know much about financials, I only want the council to understand how important this pool is to myself and my teammates, and to see the pool as more than a means to make money. This pool is such an integral part of Piedmont that although it might not contribute much financially, it more than makes up for it with all the other benefits that it offers the community.

To name one, many of PST's younger athletes spend hours upon hours at this pool. I started swimming for PST when I was eight years old, and since then it's become a second home for me. I've seen more sunrises and sunsets there than any other place in the world. In spring, the sunlight turns the water gold around 7 am. There's a small community of early risers- some of those older ladies are really sweet- we all know each other's routines, lockers and shampoos by now. When I was younger, one of our coaches enjoyed dangling me over the edge of the pool (while I was fully clothed) and pretending to drop me. I had my first mock meet there, met lifelong friends there, played tag there, cried there, got my first job there- from this pool I've made a myriad of memories, all of which I treasure now. I need the younger athletes on PST to experience the same.

That aside, the pool is in such a convenient place for us. In middle school, I'd walk across the street after school to do homework in the locker rooms before practice. In high school, I shower at the pool after morning practice and walk back across the street for school. Thanks to where the pool is, I don't have to drive around all the time- commute to other pools already totals up to three hours a week. Not only does it waste valuable time, but swimmers would also have to get up much earlier for morning practice- meaning we would have to go to bed earlier, with less time to finish homework or study. Essentially, losing the pool would (minimum) result in a huge time sink for high schoolers and middle schoolers. This transportation/time issue would not only apply to PST swimmers, but water polo and high school swim as well. These three teams all use

the pool regularly and the high school swim team relies solely on it. Even children who aren't part of any aquatic sports team have benefited from our pool- many Piedmonters have learned to swim there, including my younger sister.

Though it would be nearly impossible to raise enough money to keep the pool running, I would (and I'm sure some of my teammates would too) be willing to start a fundraiser to help pay for the pool, which would hopefully alleviate some of the financial burden from the pool.

I can't stress this enough, but the Piedmont Community Pool is the core of our team- our home base, if you will. If we can no longer swim there, then we will be the "Piedmont" Swim Team in name only. We hold so many special events there and the pool really ties us together, and makes us more cohesive.

I believe that if we, the Piedmont Community, try really hard, we can make this work. Please don't take our pool away from us.

Thank you for reading,
Kate Aubrecht

Dear Mayor McBain and City Council,

I've been a regular lap swimmer at the community pool since 1993. I was at the pool every weekday morning at 5:30. Unfortunately I lost my job due to the virus, so i am currently flexible as to when I swim, I just want to swim :)

Swimming is of critical importance as a form of exercise to many age groups in our community, especially seniors because it is the only gentle form of exercise they can do. If there were plentiful pool options in the east bay, we wouldn't need a local pool; however, there is a great scarcity of public and private pools in the east bay. There are waiting lists for memberships to private clubs, for those who can afford them. Now with the social distancing protocols, even fewer people will be able to use the small number of pools in the entire east bay.

I support repair of the entire pool facility and total reconstruction if necessary. Closure during construction can be endured.

In the meantime, I would appreciate reopening of the pool for lap swimming and other activities that can be conducted with social distancing. I am happy to change and shower at my home. I do not need access to a locker room.

The proposed reopening schedule in the staff report shows the pool closed extensively mid-day. I don't see why the pool should be closed at that prime time. Given social distancing, it would be important to extend rather than decrease the number of hours the pool is open in order to accommodate as many users as possible.

Thank you for considering my comments and request.
Debbie Pfeiffer

Dear Piedmont City Council,

Hello, my name is Caleb Singer. I am 12 years old and have been swimming on the Piedmont Swim Team for 3 years. I think it is really important for you to keep the Piedmont Community Pool open. This pool means a lot to me and my teammates. Without it, we would not only have a lot fewer practices, but we would be a lot worse at swimming. As a swimmer, I need to practice at least four to five times a week to stay competitive. I think people think that swimmers are just kids who like to swim and goof around in the pool. But, that is not our team. We are extremely dedicated to the sport and always want to progress in every way we can. The older kids put in up to 9 2-hour practices a week and 2 dry-lands and help motivate the younger swimmers. I swim 4 to 5 2-hour practices a week, and one hour of dry-land a week. We often swim 3 miles a practice, which is longer than I usually hike! The pool also means a lot to me because swimming in it means that I can see my friends and coaches. I know you have to think about the cost, but I am asking you to also think about the community we have on the Piedmont Swim Team. In conclusion, shutting down the pool would mean that you are shutting down my interactions with my friends and also making it almost impossible for me to get my four to five practices a week, therefore making my progression in the sport extremely hard. Thank you for considering my email and the needs of the Piedmont Swim Team.

Sincerely,
Caleb Singer

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to voice my support to keep the Piedmont Community Pool open, and submit a capital improvement bond this fall, in order to fund the realization of the 2018 Aquatic Master Plan.

While badly in need of an overhaul, the Piedmont Pool continues to be an important and well-utilized part of the Piedmont community. So many frequent the pool for team sports, exercise and recreation, from lap swimmers of all ages, to kids learning to swim, to club and PHS swim and water polo teams. It's also an invaluable employment opportunity for many teens in town. This summer and fall, pending Alameda County's approval to re-open public pools, the Piedmont Community Pool is the only opportunity many of us will have for socially distanced aquatic recreation. The CDC website states, "Currently, there is no evidence that COVID-19 can spread to people through recreational water." The CDC has also provided guidelines on how to maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of illness and injury due to COVID-19.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/index.html>

I also believe that, given the opportunity (and alternative), a majority of Piedmont residents will likely vote in support of a capital improvement bond. It's certainly not a sure thing, but we owe it to our community to try.

Public outdoor recreation facilities, when used in a safe, social-distanced manner, are needed more than ever in the face of uncertainty and during this pandemic.

Now is the time to act for the public good, and I urge you to keep this vital facility open, and put this matter to ballot in the fall 2020.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Kirsten Merit

Dear City Council Members,

I write to express our strong Kemp family support for both the re-opening of the Piedmont Community Pool and the urgent development and implementation of its re-construction.

We moved to Piedmont over 5 years ago in part because of the community focus which included a centralized, easily accessible public pool. Our children learned to swim in the Piedmont Community Pool, just as I did over 40 years earlier. They now swim for the Piedmont Swim Team, while my wife and I are regular lap swimmers. Between recreational activities (including several of our daughter's birthday parties), organized practices, and fitness opportunities, members of our family use the pool and its facilities almost every day of the week.

Correspondingly, the closure of the pool since March has been a tremendous hardship for us -- both physically and psychologically -- particularly since there have not been any open alternatives. (And for medical reasons, we cannot engage in land-based activities the way we can use the pool.)

We are dismayed the City has waited this long to act on the pool (we spoke against the band aid measures at an earlier City Council meeting), and we urge immediate action now.

Please consider the following:

1. Plan now to open the pool to the greatest extent possible when permitted by County Health Directives. While there may be a short term financial shortfall, a positive re-opening would engender support for reconstruction fundraising or ballot measures.
2. Immediately begin fundraising and pool-related publicity. When the new pool proposals were initially circulated with a \$9.5-\$14M price tag, there was thought that much of the expense could be supported by private donors. By combining with other local, largely less urgent development efforts, the \$54-\$76.5M price tag becomes exorbitant and far beyond what residents are willing to support through yet another property tax increase. Might we be able to start with fundraising and still prepare for a much more limited ballot measure in the fall?
3. Prepare for expedited construction now that allows for continued swimming until absolutely necessary and re-opens pool access as soon as possible post-construction.

The Piedmont Community Pool is aptly named, as it is the center of our community. With its potentially permanent closure, that community-building opportunity will be erased; children will no longer have local, public access to swim lessons; the Piedmont Swim Team will be forced to move elsewhere or dissolve (moving might require dissolution, as many members need their children to be able to walk to practice); Middle and High School swimming and water polo

programs will be eliminated (included related college application and scholarship opportunities); and a financially accessible, local fitness and safety training opportunity will no longer exist.

Through inaction (which includes unaffordable action), Piedmont will lose a community centerpiece that will hurt those who live here while also reducing Piedmont's attractiveness to newcomers. The Piedmont Community Pool needs to re-open as soon as possible, and any pool renovations need to be planned and expedited to limit the time Piedmont is pool-less to the shortest duration possible.

Thank you for considering our comments,
Colin T. Kemp

Hello,

Thank you for all of the work you do on behalf of all residents in Piedmont.

The City of Piedmont needs its pool! Our oldest son is on the swim team and he loves the swim team. Honestly, we'd like to do family swim and be at the pool for other reasons, but the pool is usually fu, so we go elsewhere. We have another young son and I would love for him to grow up going to the pool for fun and for learning to swim.

The City would benefit greatly from refurbishing the pool and keeping it open. We think that many people would support this effort. Let's build a great community pool that provides jobs, enrichment for our children and families and generates revenue.

Thank you!
Cassie Cyphers

Dear Piedmont City Council,

As someone who's future in Piedmont revolves around the conditions of the community pool I urge you to consider opening the pool for team practices and turn to permanently closing the pool as a last resort.

I am a extremely competitive swimmer and have competed for PST for 5 years. In the time i have been training at the piedmont community pool i have achieved significant success at high level meets and my personal goals for the next year include pursuing a Junior National cut and eventually attempted a 2021 Olympic trial cut. To be blunt, the Piedmont high school team could greatly use someone of my ability. Last school year i was a freshmen and was unable to compete for the high school due to COVID-19. I have a hunger for success in that field of competition and want to have a blowout sophmore year. However, if the pool closes I will indefinitely be taking my talents else ware.

I understand that the Piedmont Community pool in old and is using an excess amount of money. However, renovations can be made without closing the pool.

Lastly I urge the council to consider how many lives are touched by the pool in general. The amount of memories made by the youth of piedmont, the responsibility influenced by the

opportunity to become a lifeguard for teens, the work ethic swimmers and water polo players develop, and the water safety learned by the infants of piedmont are all things to think about.

Simon Lins

Dear Piedmont City Council,

We are writing to express our thoughts regarding tonight's agenda item for the future of the Piedmont Community Pool. As parents of a Piedmont Swim Team member, we are very concerned about the Piedmont Swim Team's ability to remain a competitive team without a town pool. The Piedmont Swim Team has continued to grow over the years and is comprised of an extremely dedicated group of coaches, swimmers and parents. We respectfully ask that you please open the current pool when allowed by the county, while simultaneously building a larger swim facility that will serve the needs of the community, the Piedmont Swim Team, and the Piedmont High School aquatics program for years to come. Currently, our team uses three different pools, which makes scheduling very challenging for parents. If you've ever watched a swim practice, or seen the work that goes into hosting a swim meet, you'd understand the incredible amount of commitment the Piedmont Swim Team has, and what an important role in the Piedmont Community it serves. The Piedmont Swim team has worked hard to build a competitive program and rise in the rankings for swim clubs in Pacific Swimming, the 3rd largest and one of the most competitive of 59 regional associations of USA Swimming. Without a community pool, the team will struggle to stay viable and will lack the anchor to Piedmont that a community pool provides.

In addition, while not every family is going to want to or be able to commit the time and energy into competitive swimming, a community pool where children can learn to swim and where families can swim recreationally is a vital part of the health of a community. According to the CDC, drowning remains the number 1 cause of unintentional death in children ages 1-4 in the United States. A community pool makes it easier for families to teach their children to swim, or to enroll them in swim lessons without having to seek out lessons in a neighboring town. A community pool is also a place where communities come together while simultaneously getting exercise. This has obvious physical and emotional benefits for the community.

Yes, opening up the Piedmont Community Pool during the pandemic is expensive. And, yes, a new swimming complex will be expensive. However, we ask that you weigh that against the costs to the wellbeing of the children and families that depend on the Piedmont Community Pool. Currently, a small portion of the Piedmont Swim Team are practicing in Contra Costa where pools are open for "camp." The demand for the 72 "camp" spots available through Piedmont Swim team filled within the first 90 seconds of online registration opening. The swimmers are desperate to return to training and are willing to get up in the wee hours of the morning to drive to El Sobrante and Moraga to get time in the pool. Everyone on the team is eagerly awaiting the opening of the Piedmont Community Pool again. We beg of you to please reopen the Piedmont Community Pool during this crucial time as allowed by the county, and not add to the losses our kids have already faced during this pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Alesia Barrett Singer & Andy Singer

Dear members of the Piedmont City Council,

As a 20-year Piedmont resident and member of the Piedmont pool, I am writing to urge you to consider strategies to keep the pool open and include modernizing the pool as part of a bond offering to modernize the city's infrastructure.

We are all aware of the city's fragile budget situation, but I encourage you to direct the Recreation department to develop a plan to minimize the net cost of operating the pool in the near term. Solutions do exist to keep the pool open while minimizing costs. Another longtime swimmer, Jon Sakol, has already shared ideas for doing so with Rec Department staff, including charging all users (the Piedmont swim team, lap swimmers, etc.) **more** to use the pool.

The pool is an important and safe source of exercise and wellbeing, particularly during these current physically constrained conditions. A number of public city pools in Contra Costa County such as in Walnut Creek and Concord have recently successfully opened for lap swimming and swim team practices. My kids and I have had to drive to these pools and paid to use them. All the lanes are reserved and paid for ahead of time. At the very least, the city's rec department could pilot for 6 months a higher pricing scheme coupled with an online reservation system for lap swimming to assess demand and feasibility.

Thank you for considering ways to keep the pool open. More importantly, thank you for your service to the community, particularly during these challenging times.

--

Jackie Khor Liu

**Item #1 – Direction to Staff on Continued Operation of the Piedmont Community Pool
Correspondence Received before 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2020**

I agree that the City of Piedmont has a lot of infrastructure to upgrade.

The timing of placing a bond to cover the costs of upgrades on the coming November election is poor.

There is too much upheaval and uncertainty at this time.

Some people might think the Council is trying to use the pandemic to pass an agenda without adequate public input.

The City needs to consider a Master Plan for these improvement.

Reconsider the locations of some of the facilities.

Carefully evaluate the outcome and costs.

The existing Piedmont recreational building will be inadequate even if millions are used to upgrade it.

Start over.

The reopening of the pool under the proposed schedule will cause a lot of dissatisfaction with the users.

Modify it or keep the pool closed until the pandemic is contained.

Please step back a bit and look at the issues from a distance.

We've waited this long for some upgrades, we can wait a bit more.

I thoroughly appreciate the hard work you all do.

Francoise Putting

Can't make the meeting tonight but wanted to voice my support for the piedmont pool. Was planning to sign up for an annual membership before COVID hit and hope we can find a way to keep it around (the pool, not COVID!).

Thanks

David Hitchcock

Good Afternoon!

I'm writing to you, because I just heard that the city will be discussing the Piedmont Pool situation tonight.

I just wanted to let you know that I **wholeheartedly support** any measure that tries to fix/update the Piedmont Pool. That pool is in a disgraceful state. It is so worn and certainly needs a lot of

TLC so that it can continue to bring joy and teach water safety to our town. We have lived in Piedmont since 2011 and we have used the pool for swim lessons, attended birthday parties, participated in summer camps, school parties and general swim exercise. We love the fact that both our girls learned to swim (a must for any child!) in that pool. The pool is an absolute necessity for this city, just as some of the play parks are. Our kids/families/neighbors/schools deserve a quality pool facility that can meet the needs of our community.

Please consider a measure that will allow the pool to be enlarged and the facilities modernized. The changing rooms are in an awful state. I remember speaking to one of the pool staff a few years ago and they told me that the pool leaks a huge amount of water (I also read this in the town newspaper). The Piedmont pool is an integral part of our community and is one more avenue for our kids to have fun and celebrate childhood milestones (camps, parties, school events). It's so difficult to get swim lessons in the Bay Area due to the lack of pools and the general layout of our topography (to say nothing of the high real estate cost). The fact that Piedmont has a pool that can serve as a teaching arena, sport facility and all around fun area is VERY important and should be supported by the town council.

The pool is there and it is used A LOT by all age groups in our community....let's make it better and in the process enhance our town's facilities and options.

I would definitely support a ballot measure that would modernize and enhance our Piedmont pool.

Thank you.

Sarah Holt

Sorry, I agree we should keep it closed until after the pandemic, but please don't close it permanently. This is so important to families of all ages in the city. Our family been members since moving here some two decades and it makes this city great as other facilities don't offer use for all age groups and disabilities as swimming.

Thank you!

Paul Kuroda

Janie Hirata M.D.

Dear Members of the Piedmont City Council,

I'm writing to you today to ask that you please consider keeping the Piedmont pool open.

My name is Jack Bell and I have been on the Piedmont Swim Team since I was 8 years of age. I'm now 15 and still a committed member of the Piedmont Swim Team.

Swimming with PST has taught me so much more than to be a better swimmer. It has taught me life long lessons.

My best friends are my teammates and the Piedmont pool is our communal home. We have the most amazing and supportive coaches who care for us both in and out of the pool. We have a really special team spirit which is not just attributed to the swimmers and coaches, but also the

staff at the pool, our families, and the other members of the pool. I feel that myself and my teammates have grown up knowing and feeling the value of a strong community and we also feel that we are valued members too.

Swimming is the one sport where all ages can participate. It does not discriminate against age, skill level, race, or faith. It's an inclusive sport/recreation and teaches all participants the importance of respect, both of themselves and of each other.

If school has been hard, I know I can go straight to the pool afterward and swim with people who care about me. I leave the pool feeling stronger and ready to take on anything that is thrown at me.

Over the last seven years, I swim each morning at the pool and have come to know the older lap swimmers. They have been a huge source of inspiration to myself and I know to the other younger swimmers. It has shown us the value of a life long sport, for physical and mental health. It has shown us the importance of a healthy way of life too.

It would be a devastating loss to myself and my teammates if the pool were to close. It would feel like our home had been taken away from us. It's difficult to maintain close relationships if you lose your communal place. It would be devastating to all of our families who have all grown into one larger swim team family. It would be a huge loss to the older lap swimmers who I'm sure to enjoy us as much as we enjoy them. Finally, I feel it would be a terrible shame for all the younger kids who potentially will not grow up experiencing our amazing community in the same way as we have.

Thanks for your time in reading my email.

Sincerely,

Jack Bell

My husband and I moved our family to Piedmont in 2019. I knew about Piedmont in part through an old grad school friend who had been a PHS graduate who won a D1 scholarship in part because of the swimming she honed at Piedmont Community Pool. We enjoyed having our toddler take swim lessons last summer and were looking forward to getting both the toddler and baby involved in swim lessons this summer. I know the pool refurbishment would be expensive, but it seems like a true community good— it provides jobs and CPR/ lifeguard training for high school students, swimming education for kids and adults, and a great resource for the school teams. We would strongly support levying a bond or another community-based measure to replace the Piedmont community pool.

Claire Jarvis and Vince Cannon

Dear City Council Members,

As a young member of the Piedmont Swim Team, I implore you to keep the pool as the valuable part of the Piedmont community that it is.

Many people, including those who are not citizens of Piedmont, depend on this pool to provide them with a place to exercise, socialize, and make a living.

I've been swimming with PST at the Piedmont Pool for half of my life, since I was 7 years old, and I couldn't imagine a life without it. In fact, there have been many weeks that I haven't gone a single day without going to the pool. Whether it's 6:15 in the morning in the cold and rain or lounging poolside with my friends on a hot summer day, the pool has always been a part of my life, and I can't imagine a life without it.

I know that in the past, kids have had the same experience as I did, and I hope that in the future many more will as well. Once again, I hope you will take all these things into consideration and continue to work towards keeping this valuable resource available for generations of people to come.

Respectfully,

Paige Arnold

Hi,

My name is Joe Bell and I am a member of the Piedmont Swim Team.

Coach Zoe taught me how to swim at the pool and then last year I joined the team. I am 9 years old and have just moved up to the Blue group. I am excited to get faster now that I've moved up and I am excited to swim at more meets.

I am also really looking forward to when I can swim in the mornings before school. My big brother is on the Platinum group and he tells me that one of his favorite things about swim team is that he gets to see the sun rise each morning and set each evening.

I also am really looking forward to being able to be a life guard at the pool when I am older.

My favorite stroke is the breaststroke and I hope one day to be as fast as Adam Peaty who swims for Britain.

I have been coming to the pool since I was a baby and waiting for my brother . It was really sad when we had to stop coming to the pool because of COVID 19. Most of our family friends are people who also use the pool each day and we already miss them a lot. I also miss our coaches a lot although they have called us each week on zoom and given us exercises to do to stay fit and even set up treasure hunt games for us.

I have made some nice friends since joining the team and would like to have the same fun time as my brother has had whilst on swim team. He has gone to meets in Santa Cruz, and has even been on training camps in Hawaii and in Arizona. I have been looking forward to doing the same when I am old enough and if we do not have a pool then I won't be able to do this.

I hope the pool does not close as it is my favorite place.

Thank you.

From
Joe Bell.

No further funding for the pool

Karin Fetherston

Dear City Council Members,

We urge you to keep the Piedmont Community Pool open, and submit a capital improvement bond this Fall, in order to fund the realization of the 2018 Aquatic Master Plan.

Many in the Piedmont community – of all ages – have relied on the pool for health & well-being, sport, and recreation, including

- Lap swimmers – of all ages
- Piedmont Swim Team,
- PUSD, including the PHS Swim Team and PHS Water Polo
- Birthday pool parties,
- Families with young kids
- Kids learning how to swim for health, fun and safety, and
- The leadership and responsibility that comes from your first summer job as a lifeguard

Much like Witter Field and our tennis courts, the Piedmont Community Pool is an integral part of the appeal of our vibrant, verdant, dynamic, and increasingly diverse city.

Despite many attempts over the years to proactively avoid the situation we find ourselves in, we can no longer avoid the long-overdue call to action. The voters of our city have risen to the call before (PHS capital improvements, etc.), and the Council owes it to our Community to put this matter to a vote.

Today, The New York Times published a thoughtful piece, entitled “[Who Will Get to Swim This Summer? History is repeating itself as pools, beaches and clubs open — but mostly for the privileged few.](#)”, which speaks to the importance of **public recreation facilities which facilitates access for all**, not just the wealthy and the private club members. In part:

“But exclusionary measures that predominantly white and wealthier communities have eagerly adopted, combined with the fact that many cities and towns are keeping public swimming pools closed to help narrow budget gaps, mean many Americans who rely on public facilities for outdoor recreation — disproportionately lower income families and people of color — will step outside this summer only to find that there are [few places left](#) for them to go.

This has happened before. Throughout American history, in times of heightened racial tension and rising inequality, the socially advantaged tend to retreat into private spaces, withdraw taxpayer support for public recreation, and work to restrict access to public space within their communities, often using concerns about public health and safety as justification.”

Public outdoor recreation facilities, when used in a safe, social-distanced manner, are needed more than ever in the face of uncertainty and during this pandemic.

Now is the time to act for the public good, and we urge you to keep this vital facility open, and put this matter to ballot in the Fall 2020.

Respectfully,
Hussein, Lindsay, Farris and Dahlia

Hello City Council

When we moved to Piedmont from Berkeley 7 years ago, we felt like we'd entered a slice of community heaven—from the Rec department, to the magical parks, to the friendly neighbors, to the pool. One of the things I love about Piedmont is we enable community with our shared spaces and the pool is a huge part of that. I'd miss terribly the pool parties, random summer swims, lessons, camps and more of the pool were to close.

I've always supported bond measures to improve our community access to recreation and supported the pool measure years ago. Another amazing thing about our community is if you ask, we listen and help. I am confident there are lots of neighbors who would vote or donate to create a new facility!!

Thanks for reading,
Stacy Hammond

can you please relay this message of support to keeping the Piedmont pool open for the foreseeable future? We are longtime residents of the city and really enjoy using the pool facilities. We would be open to additional bond measures or tax measures to help fund the repairs.

Thank you for your help. Kevin and Liana Ma

Please count my vote to keep the pool! I ask that this issue be put on the ballot for all residents to vote. The pool is a community treasure.

Thank you,
-Vicki Fall

Dear City Council:

Please take strong, forward action this evening in considering the future of the Piedmont Pool. The present Pool is beyond its natural life and needs replacement through a Pool bond measure, which I urge you to approve as part of a broader aquatic facility.

My support for the Pool, and its support for me, have lasted for over 40 years. Both my children benefited from it, and now two of my granddaughters, whose parents are Piedmont residents, have joined swim programs at the Pool. The Pool is a Piedmont institution that, like local education, enhances the community's attractiveness and the life and health of its members. The Pool's programs are well run by a qualified and dedicated staff.

You have my support and the support of many residents, whether Pool members or not, in favor of a bond measure to replace the present Pool as part of a broader aquatics facility. Thank you for your work on this important effort.

Clive Chandler

Hello,

I'm writing in support of re-opening the community pool as well as supporting the potential bond needed to fund a new aquatics center.

Since moving to Piedmont 7-years ago the pool has been a valued resource for my family. We've benefited from offerings such as lap swim, swim lessons, recreational swimming and summer camps. It's also been a way that we've built community with staff and patrons (Piedmont residents and non-Piedmont residents). That sense of community and having a central place to gather in town is important and contributes to what makes Piedmont special.

Please consider a short and long term investment in the Piedmont community pool.

Monica Piniella
