

RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION  
CORRESPONDENCE

Agenda September 12, 2024

Item 6-A: Recommendation to Approve the City Aquatic Center Design Concept with a 30-Meter Pool and Activity Pool and Provide Direction to Staff on Additional Design Features such as Lobby, Diving Well and Springboards, Community Room, Building Storage, and Electrification.

## Justin Long

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**From:** Cybelle Kelley-Whitley <ckelwhit@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 3, 2024 4:12 PM  
**To:** Justin Long  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Aquatic Center

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Greetings members of Recreation and Park Commission,

I am writing in support of keeping the two pool plan that is already in place and voted for by the majority of Alameda residents. We are finally getting a public swim center and it should work for the majority of Alamedans, not just a small group that want it exclusively for swim meets/competitive swimming. Thank you.

Cybelle Kelley-Whitley

**From:** Greg Lee  
**To:** Justin Long  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Jean Sweeney 50 Meter Pool  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 2:10:36 PM

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Dear Alameda Recreation and Park Commission members,

As a swimmer with Alameda Aquatic Masters, I am thrilled about the plans to build a new pool at the Jean Sweeney Open Space site. Having year-round access to a new swim facility will be a fantastic addition to our community. It will undoubtedly enhance the range of aquatic programs available to Alameda residents.

While any new pool is a welcome development, I want to strongly advocate for the 50-meter pool option. Alameda already has two similar facilities to the 30-meter with activity pool design.

Adding another would not significantly expand our community's aquatic capacity.

An Olympic-sized pool would provide a world-class training space for swimmers like myself. It

would also enable Alameda Aquatic Masters, as well as youth teams and swimmers not affiliated with any team, to practice long-course swimming in the summer. This type of facility is

a critical need for any swimmer preparing for open water swims, triathlons and long-course competitions.

Masters swimming attracts a diverse range of participants, from former competitive swimmers

and open-water enthusiasts to triathletes, fitness swimmers, and newcomers, all united by their

passion for staying active and improving in the sport regardless of age or ability. A 50-meter pool would allow us to better accommodate this diversity, creating a welcoming and functional space for all.

With Alameda's population continuing to grow, this facility would be a valuable municipal resource that could meet our needs of various aquatic activities—from swim lessons to water

aerobics—without compromising space or scheduling.

This is a rare opportunity to build a facility that serves the long-term needs of our community,

and I urge you to support the 50-meter pool option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory Lee

Alameda Aquatic Masters Swimmer

**From:** [Gretchen Hoff Varner](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Pools  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 9:31:04 AM

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I am writing to express my strong support for the single pool option in Alameda. I understand that this is a complex issue with many stakeholders. However, Alameda already has multiple small pools, including Encinal and Emma Hood. Alameda does not have a 50m pool. This is a generational opportunity for us to not just replicate existing community assets but expand them. A 50 meter pool would meet the needs of a broad cross section of the community. Nor does the 50 meter pool need to be at odds with family usage. There are plenty of examples of 50 meter pools that can be sectioned for family usage, activities, lap swimming, and other usage. In short, the 50 meter pool gives us everything we want (except warmer temperatures, which could be managed.). The smaller pool forecloses significant and valuable activities and deprives multiple stakeholders of opportunity.

Finally, it seems clear that there is enormous demand for more aquatics access and infrastructure in Alameda. I urge the city to consider how it might put another pool either at the Jean Sweeney site or elsewhere to adequately meet this demand and need.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Inger Beaird](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 50m Pool  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 8:21:58 AM

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Dear Alameda Recreation and Park Commission members,

As a swimmer with Alameda Aquatic Masters, I am thrilled about the plans to build a new pool at the Jean Sweeney Open Space site. Having year-round access to a new swim facility will be a fantastic addition to our community. It will undoubtedly enhance the range of aquatic programs available to Alameda residents.

While any new pool is a welcome development, I want to strongly advocate for the 50-meter pool option. Alameda already has two similar facilities to the 30-meter with activity pool design. Adding another would not significantly expand our community's aquatic capacity.

An Olympic-sized pool would provide a world-class training space for swimmers like myself. It would also enable Alameda Aquatic Masters, as well as youth teams and swimmers not affiliated with any team, to practice long-course swimming in the summer. This type of facility is a critical need for any swimmer preparing for open water swims, triathlons and long-course competitions.

Masters swimming attracts a diverse range of participants, from former competitive swimmers and open-water enthusiasts to triathletes, fitness swimmers, and newcomers, all united by their passion for staying active and improving in the sport regardless of age or ability. A 50-meter pool would allow us to better accommodate this diversity, creating a welcoming and functional space for all.

With Alameda's population continuing to grow, this facility would be a valuable municipal resource that could meet our needs of various aquatic activities—from swim lessons to water aerobics—without compromising space or scheduling.

This is a rare opportunity to build a facility that serves the long-term needs of our community, and I urge you to support the 50-meter pool option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Inger Beaird

Alameda Aquatic Masters Swimmer

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Inger Beaird

This girl loves to tri!

Everyone is an athlete. But some of us are training, and some of us are not." --Dr. George Sheehan, runner/writer/philosopher

## Justin Long

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**From:** Kate MacDonald <blueberryjeep@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 8, 2024 3:47 PM  
**To:** CityCouncil-List; Justin Long  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Community Aquatic Center

Hello,

I'm writing in support of the 50m x 25 yd community pool design. I have attended both informational workshops and completed the first survey. I am a masters swimmer and ARPD lifeguard who believes a 50 m x 25 yd pool will round out the water recreation menu of options in Alameda once the Emma Hood Swim Center is refurbished with its 30m x 25 yard + recreation pool design (why duplicate this design four miles eastward at Jean Sweeney?)

Thank you,  
Kate MacDonald  
Sent via Vulcan mind meld.

## Justin Long

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**From:** Kevin Arndt <kevin\_arndt@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2024 5:53 PM  
**To:** Justin Long; CityCouncil-List  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2 Pools please

Hello!

I'd like to express my support for the 2 pool approach for the new aquatic center. I believe this offers the most benefit for the most people.

Thank You  
Kevin Arndt  
1001 Shoreline dr. #101



September 9, 2024

Via email to [jlong@alamedaca.gov](mailto:jlong@alamedaca.gov)

Alameda Recreation and Park Commission  
Chair Adrienne Alexander  
Vice Chair Drew Swartz  
Kareem Burney  
Wesley Radez  
Eric Robbins  
2263 Santa Clara Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501

RE: Jean Sweeney Open Space Proposed Swimming Pool Configuration

Dear Chair Adrienne Alexander and Recreation and Park Commission members:

The Board of Directors for the Alameda Aquatic Masters is extremely excited for the new pool to be built at the Jean Sweeney Open Space site. We feel this swim facility will be a wonderful addition to the Alameda Parks and will provide residents with easy access to year-round swim programs.

We understand that there are two options being considered, a 30-meter x 25-yard pool and a 50-meter x 25-yard pool. While we will warmly welcome any additional pool construction on the island, we strongly support a 50-meter pool option. This would enable competitive swimmers to train in an Olympic size pool, allow for parallel programming of multiple user groups, and provide more flexibility for Alameda's growing population. We have a generational opportunity to build a facility that will meet the needs of our growing population and we urge you to consider the 50-meter pool option.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, we hope to see your support.

Sincerely,

Alameda Aquatic Masters Board of Directors

Troy Hosmer – Alameda Aquatics Masters Co-Chair, Board of Directors

Tim Velasco – Alameda Aquatics Masters Co-Chair, Board of Directors

Board Members:

Mike Grace

Lisa Klein

Clifton Linton

Robert Powers

Anne Delp

Connie Wong

Alameda Recreation and Parks Commission  
September 12, 2024  
**Item 6A -2024-4395**

Good evening Chair Alexander, Members of the Commission, and City Staff

My name is Liz Warmerdam and I have lived in Alameda for almost 3 decades. All 3 of my kids have gone to AUSD schools and I have worked in local government over the course of my 25 year career. My apologies for not being able to deliver these comments to you in person.

I am also writing to you as a Board Member of Alameda Backyard Growers (ABG). Briefly, ABG is a local non-profit that teaches and supports people growing their own food. We also pick excess fruit from neighbors' trees and deliver it to the Alameda Food Bank. Since 2011, we have picked over 65,000 lbs of fruit that otherwise would have gone into the landfill.

Since it's inception, ABG has been involved in the development of Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. You may not know this, but back in 2013, when it was first imagined, the park included a 2 acre community garden. ABG, together with Supervisor Wilma Chan, and countless volunteers, spent hundreds of hours to design the garden that would include garden plots for residents, an education space, a self-pick community fruit orchard, a pollinator garden, toolsheds and a composting area. In July of 2016, the City Council approved the JSOSP Plan and it included the community garden.

When the first phase of the park was developed, it did not include the community garden for financial reason. We were told at that time that it would be included in later phases of development. Fast forward to the present day, that next phase of the park has arrived!

When it looked like the community garden space was a good location for the proposed Aquatic Center, ABG was asked how we felt about changing the garden location to accommodate the new project. The ABG Board voted to support the relocation if the community garden could be included in the Aquatic Center Project.

Make no mistake, ABG and the entire Alameda urban farming community still expects the community garden to be built. More and more people in Alameda are concerned about food insecurity and turning to their backyards (if they have one) to grow their own food. We are constantly asked how people can get involved and unfortunately, we have no place to direct them.

We see it through our mailing lists, attendance at our workshops, and the small donations we receive from Alameda residents. Alamedans care about the environment and they want to make changes in their lives to be more climate resilient. That includes planting and pruning trees, growing their own food, creating pollinator gardens, etc. What better place to make that a reality than through a community garden, especially for the 55% of our residents who don't own their home and have no place to farm.

As you can imagine, we are extremely disappointed that there is no community garden in the concept plan you see tonight.

Madam Chair and members of the Commission, you can make sure the community garden gets built.

In your recommendation to the City Council, include an additional recommendation that directs staff to find the money and build what was promised: a Community Garden at JSOSP.

Thank you

**From:** [Lyndsey Schlax](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2 pools please!  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 8:30:58 AM

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Hello!

I am a resident of alameda and a teacher in AUSD and I hope that the parks and rec commission will choose an option for the new aquatic center that includes a pool for competition and one for recreation. Our city's children need a public space in which to learn to swim!

Thank you,

Lyndsey Schlax

**From:** [Meredith Akers](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Alameda Aquatic Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 5:22:40 PM

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Dear Members of the Recreation and Park Commission and City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 2 pool approach at the Alameda Aquatic Center. As you prepare to vote on this important issue, I urge you to consider the broad benefits that this approach offers to our community.

A recent survey conducted by the design firm in May revealed that 75% of Alameda residents are in favor of having two pools at the Aquatic Center. This feedback is a clear indication of the community's preference for a facility that caters to a wide range of needs. The proposed plan includes a 25 yard x 30 meter competition pool for races and water polo, as well as a separate activity pool for casual recreation. This dual-pool configuration is designed to serve both competitive athletes and residents seeking recreational opportunities, particularly benefiting kids and seniors.

The 2 pool approach aligns with the diverse needs of our community, providing a space where competitive swimmers can train and compete while also offering a safe, accessible area for families, seniors, and casual swimmers to enjoy. This inclusive design ensures that the Aquatic Center will be a resource for everyone, fostering greater community engagement and promoting healthy lifestyles across all age groups.

In contrast, the proposal from a small but vocal group advocating for a single 50 meter pool primarily serves competitive swimmers and could limit the accessibility of the facility for general recreation. While regional swim meets are valuable, it is crucial that our Aquatic Center also addresses the recreational needs of our broader community.

I encourage you to support the 2 pool approach to ensure that the Alameda Aquatic Center becomes a vibrant and inclusive community hub. Your vote in favor of this plan will demonstrate a commitment to serving all residents and enhancing the quality of life in our city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Meredith Akers (she/her)  
415-272-3328  
[akersmeredith@gmail.com](mailto:akersmeredith@gmail.com)

**From:** [Natalia Kelley](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Pool options  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 10:01:57 AM

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Dear Members of the Recreation and Park Commission and City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 2 pool approach at the Alameda Aquatic Center. As you prepare to vote on this important issue, I urge you to consider the broad benefits that this approach offers to our community.

A recent survey conducted by the design firm in May revealed that 75% of Alameda residents are in favor of having two pools at the Aquatic Center. This feedback is a clear indication of the community's preference for a facility that caters to a wide range of needs. The proposed plan includes a 25 yard x 30 meter competition pool for races and water polo, as well as a separate activity pool for casual recreation. This dual-pool configuration is designed to serve both competitive athletes and residents seeking recreational opportunities, particularly benefiting kids and seniors.

The 2 pool approach aligns with the diverse needs of our community, providing a space where competitive swimmers can train and compete while also offering a safe, accessible area for families, seniors, and casual swimmers to enjoy. This inclusive design ensures that the Aquatic Center will be a resource for everyone, fostering greater community engagement and promoting healthy lifestyles across all age groups.

In contrast, the proposal from a small but vocal group advocating for a single 50 meter pool primarily serves competitive swimmers and could limit the accessibility of the facility for general recreation. While regional swim meets are valuable, it is crucial that our Aquatic Center also addresses the recreational needs of our broader community.

I encourage you to support the 2 pool approach to ensure that the Alameda Aquatic Center becomes a vibrant and inclusive community hub. Your vote in favor of this plan will demonstrate a commitment to serving all residents and enhancing the quality of life in our city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,  
Natalia

## Justin Long

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**From:** Patrick Miller <patrickomiller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2024 9:29 PM  
**To:** Justin Long  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Aquatic Center  
**Attachments:** 87955.jpg

Hi,

I saw this on the social media and wanted to reiterate my support for two-pool plan. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Patrick Miller  
805.712.0607  
715 Lincoln Ave  
Alameda, CA

Dear Alameda Recreation and Park Commission members,

As a swimmer with Alameda Aquatic Masters, I am thrilled about the plans to build a new pool at the Jean Sweeney Open Space site. Having year-round access to a new swim facility will be a fantastic addition to our community. It will undoubtedly enhance the range of aquatic programs available to Alameda residents.

While any new pool is a welcome development, I want to strongly advocate for the 50-meter pool option. Alameda already has two similar facilities to the 30-meter with activity pool design. Adding another would not significantly expand our community's aquatic capacity.

An Olympic-sized pool would provide a world-class training space for swimmers like myself. It would also enable Alameda Aquatic Masters, as well as youth teams and swimmers not affiliated with any team, to practice long-course swimming in the summer. This type of facility is a critical need for any swimmer preparing for open water swims, triathlons and long-course competitions.

Masters swimming attracts a diverse range of participants, from former competitive swimmers and open-water enthusiasts to triathletes, fitness swimmers, and newcomers, all united by their passion for staying active and improving in the sport regardless of age or ability. A 50-meter pool would allow us to better accommodate this diversity, creating a welcoming and functional space for all.

With Alameda's population continuing to grow, this facility would be a valuable municipal resource that could meet our needs of various aquatic activities—from swim lessons to water aerobics—without compromising space or scheduling.

This is a rare opportunity to build a facility that serves the long-term needs of our community, and I urge you to support the 50-meter pool option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Raphael Casaes  
Alameda Aquatic Masters Swimmer



**From:** [Rose Coffield](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Swim Center  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 7:00:20 AM

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Dear Members of the Recreation and Park Commission and City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 2 pool approach at the Alameda Aquatic Center. As you prepare to vote on this important issue, I urge you to consider the broad benefits that this approach offers to our community. Currently the ability for citizens living in Alameda to enjoy recreational swimming and casual fitness swimming is limited to one location that is not inviting or enjoyable. The only other option is to join a private pool or gym and this financially restrictive and, frankly, reflects elitist thinking.

A recent survey conducted by the design firm in May revealed that 75% of Alameda residents are in favor of having two pools at the Aquatic Center. This feedback is a clear indication of the community's preference for a facility that caters to a wide range of needs. The proposed plan includes a 25 yard x 30 meter competition pool for races and water polo, as well as a separate activity pool for casual recreation. This dual-pool configuration is designed to serve both competitive athletes and residents seeking recreational opportunities, particularly benefiting kids and seniors.

The 2 pool approach aligns with the diverse needs of our community, providing a space where competitive swimmers can train and compete while also offering a safe, accessible area for families, seniors, and casual swimmers to enjoy. This inclusive design ensures that the Aquatic Center will be a resource for everyone, fostering greater community engagement and promoting healthy lifestyles across all age groups.

In contrast, the proposal from a small but vocal group advocating for a single 50 meter pool primarily serves competitive swimmers and could limit the accessibility of the facility for general recreation. While regional swim meets are valuable, it is crucial that our Aquatic Center also addresses the recreational needs of our broader community, especially as we see more and more hot days throughout the year.

I encourage you to support the 2 pool approach to ensure that the Alameda Aquatic Center becomes a vibrant and inclusive community hub. Your vote in favor of this plan will demonstrate a commitment to serving all residents and enhancing the quality of life in our city.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Rose Coffield

**From:** [Scott Harding](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Cc:** [CityCouncil-List](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Support for the 2 Pool Approach at Alameda Aquatic Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 8:55:44 AM

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Dear Members of the Recreation and Park Commission and City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed 2 pool approach at the Alameda Aquatic Center. As a parent of two young children, I am particularly invested in this issue, and I urge you to consider the significant benefits this plan offers to our community.

A recent survey conducted by the design firm in May showed that 75% of Alameda residents favor having two pools at the Aquatic Center. This feedback highlights the community's desire for a facility that caters to a diverse range of needs. The proposed plan includes a 25 yard x 30 meter competition pool for races and water polo, as well as a separate activity pool designed for casual recreation. This dual-pool setup would not only support competitive athletes but also provide a valuable space for families, seniors, and recreational swimmers.

As a parent, I am particularly concerned about ensuring that my children have access to safe and engaging swimming opportunities. The 2 pool approach would offer one of the few options for my children to participate in swimming activities in our area. The separate activity pool would provide a safe and accessible environment for kids to learn and enjoy swimming, which is crucial for their safety and development. Without this option, families like mine may have limited access to quality swimming facilities, impacting our children's opportunities for healthy recreation.

The alternative proposal of a single 50 meter pool primarily serves competitive swimmers and could restrict access for general recreation. While regional swim meets are important, it is essential that our Aquatic Center also meets the recreational needs of families and casual swimmers.

I urge you to support the 2 pool approach to ensure that the Alameda Aquatic Center is a community asset that benefits everyone. Your vote in favor of this plan will demonstrate a commitment to providing a facility that serves all residents and enhances the quality of life for families in our city.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your dedication to our community.

Sincerely,

Scott Harding

**From:** [Sheila Donnelly](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New pool at Jean Sweeney Open Space site  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 11, 2024 12:23:57 AM

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Dear Alameda Recreation and Park Commission members,

As a swimmer with Alameda Aquatic Masters, I am thrilled about the plans to build a new pool at the Jean Sweeney Open Space site. Having year-round access to a new swim facility will be a fantastic addition to our community. It will undoubtedly enhance the range of aquatic programs available to Alameda residents.

While any new pool is a welcome development, I want to strongly advocate for the 50-meter pool option. Alameda already has two similar facilities to the 30-meter with activity pool design. Adding another would not significantly expand our community's aquatic capacity.

An Olympic-sized pool would provide a world-class training space for swimmers like myself. It would also enable Alameda Aquatic Masters, as well as youth teams and swimmers not affiliated with any team, to practice long-course swimming in the summer. This type of facility is a critical need for any swimmer preparing for open water swims, triathlons and long-course competitions.

Masters swimming attracts a diverse range of participants, from former competitive swimmers and open-water enthusiasts to triathletes, fitness swimmers, and newcomers, all united by their passion for staying active and improving in the sport regardless of age or ability. A 50-meter pool would allow us to better accommodate this diversity, creating a welcoming and functional space for all.

With Alameda's population continuing to grow, this facility would be a valuable municipal resource that could meet our needs of various aquatic activities—from swim lessons to water aerobics—without compromising space or scheduling.

This is a rare opportunity to build a facility that serves the long-term needs of our community, and I urge you to support the 50-meter pool option.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
[Sheila Donnelly ]  
Alameda Aquatic Masters Swimmer

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sona Cederquist](#)  
**To:** [Justin Long](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Supporting 2 pools at the new Alameda Aquatic Center  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 5:00:54 PM

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Dear Recreation and Parks Commission,  
I am writing to vocalize my support for 2 pools in the planned Alameda Aquatic Center. As a parent of a 2 year old and a member of a bustling moms community, I feel strongly that 2 pools would serve the greater community. Many surrounding towns have similar set-ups, and it feels unfortunate that Alameda does not have a better public swimming facility that serves children and people of all ages.

Thank you for your hard work in serving our community.

Sincerely,  
Sona Cederquist