

City Budget Gap Threatens Year Round Operation of Joinville Pool

The current economic downturn affects not only individuals and businesses, it affects Joinville Pool and the City of San Mateo, too. For the current 2008-09 fiscal year, the City has cut about \$9 million from the previous year's budget. Fortunately, these cuts did not significantly affect City services or programs. Now, their \$80 million budget for FY 2009-10 requires another 10% cut (\$8 million).

This could significantly affect the Marlins' program.

The City's tentative plan calls for a two-phase program to save \$8 million from their FY 2009-10 budget.

Phase I - \$4 million in cuts, will take effect July 1, 2009, and fortunately, will not directly affect the Marlins or Joinville Pool. It will however impact other Rec Department programs, as well as most other City Departments.

Phase II - the other \$4 million in cuts, would take effect in December 2009 and WILL directly affect the Marlins. **This proposal would make Joinville a SUMMER-ONLY POOL.** Phase two would ONLY be implemented if two City tax measures FAIL to pass voter approval in the November elections.

The two proposed tax measures are:

1. A ¼-cent sales tax increase--a simple majority vote is needed for passage, and
2. A 2% "transient occupancy" (hotel) tax increase--a two-thirds majority vote is needed.

The City decision-making process for adopting this two-phase plan involves at least three public hearings:

May 6, 2009 with the Parks and Recreation Commission (tentative)

June 1 & 15, 2009 with the full City Council

The Marlins response to this is twofold:

1. We will rally as a team/community interest group and lobby the City Council to keep Joinville Pool open year round. Closing this multi-million dollar facility to save \$140,000 is a penny-wise, dollar foolish proposal that needs to be revisited. We will work with the City to identify other ways to cut expenses and keep Joinville open. **It is important for every Marlin to express their opinion to the City!**
2. In the event that the City's decision is to operate Joinville as a summer-only facility, efforts will be made to locate another, comparable facility for the Marlins to call our home pool.

Our first priority is to maintain the integrity of the Marlins as a team, keeping our program and our community of swimmers together.

If you would like to volunteer to lead a letter campaign, rally a group of e-mails or call to boost attendance at one of the public hearings, please let us know. A showing from all of the Marlins, their families and friends can make a difference in keeping the Joinville Pool open.

If you'd like to receive updates or volunteer to help, please contact Bob Leuten at bob@leuten.com