

Dear Half Moon Bay School Board, City Council Members and Boosters Club,

We are writing to express our dissatisfaction with the lack of action being taken to replace the pool at Half Moon Bay High School. It has long been recognized that the pool is in need of replacement but there is no coordinated effort by your organizations to work toward that goal. The pool is more than 50 years old and is frequently closed because of mechanical issues. It is time for your organizations to work together to find a solution that meets both the needs of the community and the needs of student athletes.

Unlike most other sports, swimming is a lifelong and life saving skill. Other sports you may play for a few years, but few you can take part in for a lifetime and learn a skill that could save your life.

There is a need for a pool that serves both the athletes and the community. A pool that is able to be accessed by members of the community could be used during off hours for low impact aerobics as well as lap swim, which would increase the health of our community. Student athletes could use the pool before and after school hours for practice. In addition, having a pool that follows the basic guidelines for water polo games and swim meets would save student athletes irreplaceable instructional time that they currently miss due to the need to travel for every game and meet, even when they are the "home" team.

With regards to funding the pool there are grants available through USA Swimming for learning to swim, and local companies have philanthropic arms that might provide funds.

It is time for you as our community leaders to work together and start taking action to provide a pool for the community that supports its needs, allows for community activities that improve health and provides athletes a home pool to host swim meets and games, rather than having to travel to other pools for practice and rent pools to play as a home team in.

Thank you for taking up this call to action the aquatics community of Half Moon Bay.