

Public Comments Submitted Electronically for the
September 28, 2023 Study Session

Information: Facilities Master Planning

Name	Comment
Kari Damato	As the head swim coach of the boys and girls swim team at LBHS, I fully support the facilities master plan provided by our district. I believe it's what's best for our student-athletes. I'm excited for things to move forward and have a better facility for our athletes in the future.
Jessica Hoffbs	As a former Swim team mom, Water polo mom and lap swim current user, its crazy that we don't have the top of the line facilities and an Olympic size state of the art situation in Laguna Beach. Home to 3 Female Olympians and former Olympians. Let's continue to attract young families!!!!
Cindy Swensen	<p>Of course we need a 50 meter pool - please see the facts below</p> <p>LBHS Boys Water Polo is currently ranked 7th in CIFSS Division 1</p> <p>The following CIFSS Division 1 teams have a 50M pool: JSerra, Harvard-Westlake, *Newport Harbor, *CDM, Oaks Christian, *Huntington Beach, Santa Margarita, Foothill, *Los Alamitos * Sunset-Surf League with Laguna Beach</p> <p>LBHS Girls Water Polo - Open Division semi finalist 2023</p> <p>other surrounding pools:</p> <p>Irvine USD - all 50M pools</p> <p>Northwood 50M JUA</p> <p>Irvine HS/Woollett two 50M+25M JUA</p> <p>Portola HS - 50M</p> <p>Woodbridge HS - 50M</p> <p>NMUSD- all 50 meter pools w JUA's w Newport and Costa Mesa</p> <p>Newport Harbor HS - 50M</p> <p>Corona Del Mar HS - 50M</p> <p>Estancia HS - 50M</p> <p>Costa Mesa HS - 50M</p> <p>Capo USD - 50M at Capo Valley</p> <p>Tustin Unified -all 50M</p> <p>Foothill HS - 50M (2010)</p> <p>Beckman HS - 50M</p>

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	<p>Tustin HS - 50M</p> <p>Huntington Union- Ocean View HS 50M</p> <p>Los Alamitos - LAHS 50M (2020)</p> <p>Orange- El Moderna (25>30M in 2022)</p> <p>Saddleback - El Toro HS 50M</p> <p>Santa Ana Unified- Segerstrom HS 50M</p> <p>Current LBHS pool not able to host league home games; team travels as far as Los Alamitos HS (1 hour drive) for in-league "home" games, requiring early release & missed school time</p> <p>50M pool would allow concurrent use (boys, girls, age group/community use) and home games at home</p> <p>if the new pool will be located in the current pool's spot, what is the local pool solution for displaced teams and community use swimmers and timeframe?</p>
Stefana Rusu	<p>Hi my son George Houldsworth is a senior graduating next year from LB high school. Not having a 50 meter pool for our water polo team has definitely affected our boys ability to be successful. Having to travel To other local pools to get the experience in the right pool is not something that a top tier water polo team should have to do. We are in the top 10 schools in the country for water polo it's a shame we are not investing in this amazing program. We have produced Olympian's and kids moving into college playing careers- the program could be even more successful and support so many more kids dreams and ambitions in this sport. Please support this effort. This will ensure LB continues to thrive and keep moving up in rank on a notational level. It's just the right thing to do. Our kids today and those of tomorrow matter.</p> <p>Best, Stefana Rusu</p>
Michelle Foley	<p>LB pool size disqualifies HS waterpolo from hosting in league "home" games. As a result for example, last week we traveled ONE HOUR to Huntington Beach for a "home" game. This is outrageous to expect families to travel that far mid day just to watch their child play their sport. It also means that we have fewer fans and families in the stand cheering for our boys due to the travel. The boys have to be dismissed from school earlier also to accommodate the travel, missing instructional</p>

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	<p>class time. Although less significant, the snack bar we operate does provide revenue for our sport and we miss out on that opportunity with no league games at home. Laguna Beach generates more Division 1 collegiate athletes than any other of our sports and this is how you repay them and their families who sacrificed so many hours driving? We have a new baseball field and facilities, new football field/scoreboard and track and new tennis courts since I've been paying attention. Why are we not addressing the pool situation? It is a broken pool that has outlived its lifespan and now outlived its ability to meet the standards set by our conference.</p> <p>The athletes for waterpolo and swim will NEED a provided alternative pool during the construction in order to keep the program alive. Your term as a board member could be remembered by this ONE decision. I have 3 kids who have all used the community pool for waterpolo and swim. Isabel Foley 2022, Julia Foley 2024 and Coleman Foley 2027</p>
Duncan Houldsworth	<p>I am asking the board to approve the plan for the 50m pool. There is a phrase from my home country of England that if something would be no more use than a chocolate fire place its not worth having. that is exactly what a 40m pool option would be. absolutely no use and not worth the expense.</p> <p>The international swimming standard of 50m by 25 yards would allow the pool to encourage the use for swimming AND for water polo and finally give the town the facility it should have had years ago. It will improve options for recreational swimming, high school sports and clubs for both water polo and swimming which have dramatically declined over the last few years.</p> <p>Laguna's rich history in water polo would be fully supported by this decision. My son is a senior on the boys water polo team and also on the swim team. He won't get to enjoy the new pool, but I implore the board to approve the 50m plan - its the only one that makes any sense.</p> <p>This is your opportunity to create legacy for Laguna and all its current and future aquatic sports participants.</p>

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	Thank you.
Alison Stites	<p>We recently moved to Laguna Beach because it offers a small community with amazing public schools AND a storied tradition of excellent water polo. I have a freshman water polo player and a 7th grade water polo player. I also swim laps at the pool almost every day. The pool is a major part of our lives— our home away from home.</p> <p>The 50M facility is the better option— and is the only option that puts LBHS on equal footing with its peers. Further, it is imperative that Laguna Beach retain a community pool during construction. We already ask so much of our student-athletes— playing water polo is a huge time commitment and requiring students to travel for practice would be untenable. We currently have to travel for “home” games, which means my son will miss both class and tutorial just about every week during the water polo season. If Laguna Beach has no community pool during construction, that would be an additional burden on our student-athletes. For high-school athletes: Would the school provide busses? How much time would kids spend on the bus? And what would the solution be for the younger generation of swimmers and polo players?</p> <p>Aside from our student-athletes and water polo programming, I am on-deck a lot for personal exercise. It is rare that I see a lane open—our community has a lot of swimmers!— and I often share a lane. Keeping access to an aquatic facility to support the health and well-being of our entire community just makes sense.</p>
Tim Wald	<p>I am annual pass holder and swim regularly. 10th grader Piper is on LBHS WP and club SET. We routinely use pool with our kids.</p> <p>I rely on non-impact water workout as primary exercise given knee and back problems from tennis and pickleball. One pool in town, yet many tennis and pickleball. Losing our pool is devastating. 50M pool expands capacity (with city sponsored programs, increased lap swimming, and limited availability, we share lanes and wait for openings</p>

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	<p>Piper started in LB club. We had workouts in our pool (while cramped, it was local and convenient). We had girls in the program and players to field 2 teams. Now, we've merged our club with SET (based in El Toro) and rarely workout in LB. Our program has lost majority of players and freshman class only has 3 girls. "HOME" games are in Los Alamitos and club in El Toro. My daughter has morning workouts 2-3 / week at 5:45am. Every home game in Los Al. Club workouts from 7-9:15pm, getting home at 10pm. All while struggling to maintain grades</p> <p>We are active members of LB Parents Club and regularly meet with 10+ families during recreational swim. Majority of LBPC families (100+) utilize the pool and also the city swim lessons, splashball, and other fun programs. I believe it is critical for these families to have an open, accessible pool in our city. Closing it down during construction of a larger pool would simply be devastating</p> <p>Please cast your votes for the best available solution that satisfies these two critical needs</p>
<p>Mike Maruska</p>	<p>As a Laguna Beach resident and an avid supporter of the pool, I believe that it is vital that we keep this resource open as development for a new facility takes place. I use the pool regularly as do my family. I feel that a 50M pool is the standard for which we should set for ourselves. Laguna Beach has a history steeped in a strong, winning aquatic program. It's time for us to upgrade our facilities in a responsible way and support our winning teams and the community that greatly depends on this resource. It would be a great detriment to go without this pool for any period of time. A plan that does not consider keeping the pool open while making enhancements seems punitive and shortsighted. I appreciate the council's consideration in supporting both building a larger pool while keeping this needed resource open for use.</p>
<p>Katsura Bassett</p>	<p>I urge the Board to approve the construction of a 50m pool so that the community including the high school athletes and their families can all benefit. The construction of 50m swimming pool is essential to Laguna Beach for athletes of all ages. The high school water polo teams play in the most competitive league in the country and continue to rank highly</p>

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	<p>every year. With a 50m pool, the scholar athletes will be able to host league games, attend academic classes and worry less about missing live instruction and test taking, and enjoy the local fans and supporters to come to their games. Moreover, the bigger pool may allow the high school players to continue to play for Laguna Beach Water Polo Club (LBWPC) when high school season is over; LBWPC have not had high school age group (16U and 18U) teams, due to lack of pool space. With the 50m pool and LBWPC having 16U and 18U teams, the athletes will be able to spend less time commuting to water polo club practices outside of the city, the boys and girls high school teams will get stronger as they get to train year round together, and the city could see more income. Lastly, the community members who swim or do aquatic exercises will be able to come and use the pool while the high school practice may be taking place. Please approve the 50m for the good of everyone. Thank you.</p>
Kevin Harrison	<p>Laguna Needs and deserves a 50m pool for our world class waterpolo program. We need our teams to finally be able to have actual home games at home. Please do your best to work out a solution where the players of all ages can still practice in Laguna Beach while the new pool is being built. Not just for the high school players but just as importantly for the youth players age 6-15 who will be less motivated to play water polo if they have to be bused out of town 30 minutes each way for a chance to practice. This could do permanent damage to the future of our best in class program.</p>
Erwan de Quillien	<p>In response to your consideration for a new LBHS/Community pool under the facility plans being discussed. I am the father of Dorian de Quillien 26' and Sebastian de Quillien 29'. My son Dorian de Quillien 26', plays for the LBHS water polo team and is a proud Breaker Student Athlete. One of the biggest prides is playing for a division 1 sports program with a rich history of generating successful student athletes who go on to perform at the highest level and attend some of the most prestigious universities. In all competitive sports at all levels, the "Homefield Advantage" plays a great part in fostering camaraderie between the supporter and the team and enhancing the competitive spirit for the players to always</p>

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	<p>perform at their best in front of their home crowd. Given the prestige of the LBHS water polo program for both boys and girls, they need facilities worthy of these programs. To ensure LBHS water polo and swimming continues to compete at the highest level, it is imperative that we provide this generation and future generations with the right tools. I encourage the board to vote for a 50M pool so that LBHS is on par with its rival schools and provides facilities worthy of the level of professionalism the LBHS water polo and swimming programs have exemplified. It is imperative that a temporary location in Laguna Beach be offered so as to not disrupt the program and all community aquatics activities during that time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Erwan de Quillien</p>
Ty Leverty	<p>I am a swimmer, water polo player, and coach. I have two kids in Laguna Beach who swim and play water polo. The pool is a staple in our daily lives.</p> <p>I support the 50M pool—this option would allow for concurrent use of the pool for multiple programming, which would allow for growth in what is offered in Laguna Beach. I would love to see a competitive youth swim team and Masters water polo, for example. I have experience growing programs and would be interested in making these happen in Laguna Beach—but currently the facility and lack of pool time makes it impossible to grow anything. A 40M pool would not allow for concurrent programming and would stifle future growth opportunities.</p> <p>It is imperative that the community retain access to a pool during construction—both for the health of current water polo and swimming programming (LBHS water polo, LHBS swimming, Laguna Beach Water Polo) and for learn-to-swim programming. Laguna Beach is a beach community, so community members will be exposed to water. If there is no place for kids to learn to swim (even temporarily), it will increase the dangers of water (and potential drownings). If these costs to the community are incorporated into the proposed budget it should be an easy decision to build a temporary pool/retain access to a community pool throughout construction. A vote for no temporary pool is a vote for</p>

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	avoidable drownings.
Kavi Shankar	50 meter pool needed. Willing to drive our kids out of town during pool construction. This is important for our community and future generations.
Katy Miller	<p>My name is Katy McGoey Miller. In the spring of 1994, I was thrilled to be a sophomore on the LBHS swim team who finally had a new pool at our school to practice in. Traveling to Laguna Hills High School every afternoon during the spring of 1993, after their high school team practiced, to hold our own practice, was time consuming, stressful and it did not provide for a great balance of academics as well as athletics. The new pool was amazing and wonderful and we celebrated it, but that was 30 years ago. Laguna was different, our population was different, and our aquatics program was different.</p> <p>I have two sons who play water polo, we use the pool EVERY DAY! I received an attendance report for my freshman this morning. He has missed instructional time three days in the last two weeks. The longest period of time he missed was when our team had their "home" games at HBHS. As a high school teacher and former coach, I am well aware of how high school athletics work, but our boys missed one entire block period as well as their tutorial period (both are instructional minutes). Our athletes and our community deserve the opportunity to host games, swim meets, etc. They need a larger 50M pool, they also will need a local pool available during construction. Traveling to another pool is not easy and it does not support our students or community members, I know from experience. Please make the right decision for our students, our student athletes and our community.</p>
Jonathan Rose	<p>Dear City Council Members. We would like see the city support the plan of a 50 meter pool at the High School. During our sixteen years of residence in Laguna Beach the pool has always been the place where our family experienced a sense of community. There has long been a need to make that space more accessible and open to a diverse range of activities that require a much larger facility. A 50 meter pool would allow for competitive high school athletics, recreational swim across all age groups, and the town sponsored club water polo program.</p>

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	<p>We hope the council sees the broad value this asset will bring to our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jonathan and Sharon Rose</p>
Kirsten Rogers	<p>Yes please to a 50m pool and a solution where a local pool can be used during construction.</p> <p>The current LBHS pool is not able to host league home games; team travels as far as Los Alamitos HS (1 hour drive) for in-league "home" games, requiring early release & missed school time.</p> <p>50M pool would allow concurrent use (boys, girls, age group/community use) and home games at home if the new pool will be located in the current pool's spot, what is the local pool solution for displaced teams and community use swimmers and timeframe?</p> <p>thank you!</p>