**(Insert Club Logo here)**

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Subject: Reopening our swim facilities

[**Salutation**],

Last Friday Governor Newsom approved the reopening of fitness facilities including [swimming pools](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf) as early as June 12, 2020, and weeks ago the State and the County of Los Angeles allowed physically-distanced recreation such as golf, tennis, biking, hiking, and swimming in the ocean. Like these activities, swimming is inherently a solo sport that lends itself to physical distancing, and the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html) has concluded “there is no evidence that Covid-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools.”

As the parent of a competitive swimmer, I respectfully request that our County health officer approve the use of swimming pools for regulated lap swimming, including supervised and physically-distanced swim team practices, effective June 12, 2020. With the right restrictions and physical distancing plans, pools can provide a safe environment for our residents to be physically active and for our competitive swimmers to resume training while also improving their mental and emotional well-being. Such plans include:

* Assigning lanes to swimmers with appropriate physical distancing;
* Requiring swimmers to arrive and leave in their swimsuits, bring their own gear, and avoid using water fountains;
* Limiting access to locker rooms; and
* Following all pool facility policies and procedures

[San Diego County](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/pool.html) already has established a reopening plan for pools as have other California counties. These and other plans, such as the one developed by [USA Swimming](https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/covid-19-team-resources/facility-reopening-plan-guidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=8a533a32_2) in conjunction with the CDC and NIH, provide models for L.A. County to reopen pools on June 12. I urge you to reopen pools on that date for regulated lap swimming and supervised team practices, even if local epidemiological data do not suggest swimming pools can open for all activities on June 12. With appropriate measures in place, these activities will not implicate the County's social gathering restrictions and are less risky than swimming in an unsupervised residential complex pool, which the County already allows.

Reopening pools also supports the competitive swimming community throughout L.A. County and allows many small business owners of facilities and clubs and their respective coaches to begin working again. The continued closures of pool facilities threaten the livelihoods of 440 small business owners that collectively employ 3400 employees in California.

Thank you for all you do to serve our County and its residents.

Respectfully,

**(Family Signatures here)**

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To the Board of Supervisors and Public Health Director of LA County:

[Southern California Swimming](https://www.socalswim.org/) represents over 160 competitive swim clubs and teams and 24,000 swimmers affiliated with USA Swimming, the national governing body for the sport of swimming. Organized swimming is an integral part of our state culture, and swimming provides physical and mental health benefits that are critical for many of our members, especially during the summer. In Los AngelesCounty, our swimmers come from every socio-economic background and represent the diversity that is Southern California. From Lynwood to Lancaster and Pasadena to Long Beach and beyond, swimmers swim in every corner of the County.

Last Friday Governor Newsom approved the reopening of fitness facilities including [swimming pools](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf) as early as June 12, 2020, and weeks ago the State and L.A. County allowed physically-distanced recreation such as golf, tennis, biking, hiking, and swimming in the ocean. Like these activities, swimming is inherently a solo sport that lends itself to physical distancing, and the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html) has concluded “there is no evidence that Covid-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools.”

As the governing body for Southern California Swimming, we respectfully request that the county health officer approve the use of swimming pools for regulated lap swimming, including supervised and physically-distanced swim team practices, effective June 12, 2020, in line with the State’s industry guidance. With the right restrictions and social distancing plans, pools can provide a safe environment for our residents to be physically and mentally active and for our competitive swimmers to resume training.

Southern California Swimming has developed a [3-Step Plan](https://www.socalswim.org/Articles/ArticlesShare/AF/56b997bc76dd4373bb54f5283fcef790/SCS%203%20Step%20RTP%20Guidelines.pdf) for affiliated clubs and teams to create guidelines to return to practice with physical distancing and other safety measures in place. For example, clubs may:

* Assign lanes to swimmers with appropriate physical distancing;
* Require swimmers to arrive and leave in their swimsuits;
* Require swimmers to bring their own gear including water bottles to avoid using water fountains; and
* Limit access to locker rooms.

The Plan also encouraged teams to prepare weeks ago to have sufficient personal protective and screening equipment, and to begin coordinating with swim facilities to ensure compliance with all state and local policies and procedures.

[San Diego County](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/fhd/pool.html) has already established a reopening plan for pools as have other California counties whose residential complex pools and other swim facilities are already open. These and other plans, such as the one developed by [USA Swimming](https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/covid-19-team-resources/facility-reopening-plan-guidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=8a533a32_2) in conjunction with the CDC and NIH, provide models for L.A. County to reopen pools on June 12. We urge you to reopen pools on that date for regulated lap swimming and supervised team practices, even if local epidemiological data do not suggest swimming pools can open for all activities on June 12. With appropriate measures in place, these activities are less risky than swimming in an unsupervised residential complex pool, which the County already allows.

Reopening pools also supports the competitive swimming community throughout L.A. County and allows many small business owners of facilities and clubs and their respective coaches to begin working again. The continued closures of pool facilities threaten the livelihoods of 440 small business owners that collectively employ 3400 employees in California. Together these employees lose $10 million per month in wages, and swimming facilities across our state lose $2.5 million per month in revenue from fees that swim teams and other users normally pay, thus further exacerbating local budget deficits.

On behalf of the swim community throughout the County, we thank you for your service to the County and respectfully ask that you approve the reopening of our swim facilities on June 12. We stand ready and available to work with you or your staff to answer any questions you might have and to create a reopening plan that comports with the State’s guidance and your concerns.

Sincerely,

Terry Stoddard Kim O’Shea

General Chairman Executive Director