

**335 West Lutge Avenue
Burbank, California 91506-3321
June 22, 2012**

Mayor and City Council Members
City of Burbank
275 East Olive Avenue
Burbank, CA 91510-6459

Subject: Burbank Aquatic Programs and Lap Swimming

Dear Mayor Golonski and Council Members,

I wrote the City Council a month on the subject topic and this is an update after the opening of McCambridge pool and announcements about Verdugo Pool.

McCambridge Pool

As you probably know, McCambridge Pool is the only venue for adult lap swimming this year; Burroughs HS (or Burbank HS) pools were available during the week in prior years. While swimming at Burroughs was less than ideal, I think its absence this summer is a further decline in swimming opportunities for adults in Burbank.

McCambridge pool, so far, is generally satisfactory except for the following:

- a. Weekday swimming uses the short width of the pool, a non-standard 22 yards. Only four lane lines have been setup. The pool could easily accommodate eight. "Open-water" swimming is more difficult because there are no markings on the pool bottom. Surely more lane lines are available.
- b. The water temperature is certainly at the upper end of standards for active aquatics and the warmest I've ever experienced at McCambridge.

Verdugo Pool

Late in the afternoon on June 11, I received an email from Vice Mayor Emily Gabel-Luddy that a neighborhood meeting would be hosted by City staff at Verdugo pool that day at 6 pm. Her email stated this had been announced in the Burbank Leader.

I went to the meeting, which primarily discussed the initiation of construction for the Verdugo pool in the next week. I counted 10-12 people at the meeting who were not Burbank employees. A later check showed this meeting was announced only in the online edition of the Burbank Leader.

My comments on this meeting:

- a. The lack of notice and participation in meeting is another example of poor communications between the City staff and Burbank residents.

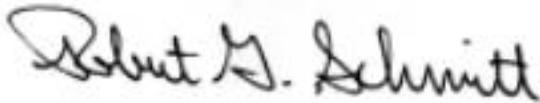
- b. The meeting was conducted outside the pool, around a bulletin board with all persons standing. I think this shows a lack of serious purpose.
- c. When a few aspects of the new pool were discussed, a resident asked if solar heating would be installed. The answer was only solar panels were planned to provide electrical power because solar heating was not required in the summer season. Obviously, this reasoning is only valid if there is no use planned for Verdugo pool except in the summer!
- d. It was later explained that the pool was designed to never be drained, but remain filled year-around. Are the Burbank leaders prepared to explain a filled pool not being used after August each year?

Aquatics Policy

From where can Burbank residents expect to see leadership on the issue of year around pool utilization and aquatics programs? The City Council? Park, Recreation and Community Services department? The City Manager?

After many years of policy drift on this issue, I – and other adult swimmers – very much expect thoughtful planning and clear policy statements towards year-around aquatic programs.

Very truly yours,



Bob Schmitt

rgschmitt@gmail.com

TeamBurbank.com (818-842-5798)

cc: Carol Cormaci, Burbank Leader
Maria Hsin, Burbank Leader