

Request: Provide funding for vital facility needs in order to enable the small, rural City of Gustine to continue to operate its City pool.

Description: The City pool provides an essential health and welfare benefit to residents of Gustine and an important option for the most vulnerable and underserved who do not have access to safe ways to cool down during sweltering Valley summers.



Without this facility, many more families, especially the youth, will venture into nearby dangerous canals and rivers in order to cool down. The City also provides beginner and strengthening swim lessons at the pool, which is an invaluable service in a geographically isolated and rural City with no other providers.

The pool is also an important resource for seniors with aquatic exercise classes drawing high participation rates from seniors in the community who, without the orthopedic benefit that water activity provides, would otherwise not be able to exercise.

The City has continued to operate the pool despite the fact that aquatic program revenues cannot keep pace with the ever-expanding maintenance issues for a facility of its age. The City has prided itself on investing its discretionary funds toward keeping the facility open, even while other cities shuttered their aged facilities. Now, the City of Gustine is at an important juncture for this facility where it must complete work that it does not have funding for in order to keep the facility operating.



The City has applied to numerous grant programs for this work but funders are resistant to funding, as they may classify a pool as a "luxury." In the community of Gustine, the pool provides necessary options. The City dubs its pool an "aquatic center" based on the breadth of programs that it offers and to signify its mission to serve the community as a whole. In reality, the pool is no-frills, aged facility and this request consists solely of very real needs that must be met in order to continue to operate this vital facility.

Dedicated in 1953 in memory of World War II veterans, the Gustine pool is one of the oldest operating facilities of its age in the region. The City has kept the facility operational through use of its General Fund and Utility User Tax funds

(UUT), as well as local donors, who provide funding for smaller programmatic needs. However, at this time there are multiple maintenance needs and facility updates required that the City does not have either reserve funds to cover in either its general or UUT fund. Local sponsors cannot possibly fill the gap and the City has not found any other sponsors or funders to provide funding.

The most urgent and expensive needs are resurfacing the pool itself and replacement of decks that continue to sink. The pan of the pool itself consists of primarily fiberglass, installed decades back when this was considered state-of-the-art. This has proved challenging in the City's attempts to address leaks in the pool lining that re-appear annually in different spots. Last year, the City was advised by several pool contractors that the most recent patch would likely be the last year it could do so without completely stripping away the old fiberglass and plaster patchwork and putting all new plaster in its place. Further, decks which have sunk

a significant amount around it—it is assumed related to leaks in the pan over the



years—need to be removed, reinforced and replaced, which is both prudent and possible once the pool plaster is replaced.

Necessity: As a City with a population fewer than 6,000, the City has limited tax dollars and the bulk of those dollars go toward public safety by way of necessity. The City as a whole falls under either the category of a severely-disadvantaged or disadvantaged community, depending upon the indicator for both federal and state thresholds.



Agriculture is a significant industry in Merced County and Gustine, and the City has a significant farmworker population. The health indicators for these workers and their families are less positive than for many other families. Many of these families only have access to learn to swim through the City pool and its programs.

At the same time as all these factors, the City is geographically isolated from the rest of Merced County and nonprofit services and affordable options for healthy activities for both youth and senior citizens. The low-impact exercise provided by swimming activities improves health related to the City's most vulnerable citizens—including seniors, youth and those with obesity.

Funding request: \$635,000

- \$300,000: Removal of existing fiberglass and pool structure and replace with new plaster pan.
- \$275,000: Concrete Pool Deck and Coping
- \$50,000: Chemical Chlorine Relocation
- \$10,000: Install new ADA Aqua Tram Lift

Beneficiaries:

- Local residents of all ages
- Visitors to the Community
- Youth and families participating in life-saving swimming
- Senior citizens and others with mobility, strength, balance or weight issues who can utilize water activity in instances where other activities may not be possible

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