

October 17, 1931.

Mr. W. A. Kearns, Superintendent
Playground Recreation Department,
San Diego, California.

Dear Mr. Kearns:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 16th which reaches this office in the absence of Mr. Austin. Your letter will be called to his attention immediately upon his return.

Courteously yours,

Secretary to the Mayor



PLAYGROUND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

COMMISSIONERS

Jerome B. Pendleton, President
Mrs. W. A. Price, Secretary
Mrs. Harriet B. Haskell
Chester A. Van Dusen
Daniel A. Ellsworth

W. A. KEARNS
Superintendent

Offices: Balboa Park
Phone: Main 0608

October 16, 1931

Honorable Walter W. Austin
Mayor of the City of San Diego
San Diego, California

Honored Mayor and Friend:

SUBJECT: A \$25,000 SWIMMING POOL AS ONE UNEMPLOYMENT PROJECT

This is a project which has within itself the possibility of reaching and serving more people, young and old, of both sexes, to a far greater extent than any recreation item in our City program. Only one-tenth of our people use beaches for swimming. Only a very small percent of our 25,000 school children have access to existing pools.

WHO IS INTERESTED?

The parents of thousands of young people are interested. Scores of Parent-Teacher Association groups, several civic groups and many improvement clubs, have expressed interest and a desire for such equipment. A group headed by Ed. Fletcher and the North-east San Diego combined communities are very anxious for swimming facilities. The Playground Commission has recognized the lack of a municipal pool to be our greatest weakness compared with cities of like size. The Mission Valley Swimming "Puddle" opened temporarily this last summer, and often had a daily attendance of 1,000 people and averaged over 125 per day for seven weeks.

LOCATION - COST - SUPERVISION -- MOSTLY COMMON LABOR

There would be no controversy about location if we would use the north end of Balboa Park as per the Nolan Plan. The necessity of a large auto parking area makes this the best location by far. Much of the cost of construction would be for common labor for excavating and trenching for mains, etc. Twenty-five to Thirty thousand dollars would build a 100 x 50 pool--filtration system included, and adequate dressing rooms. The Playground and Recreation Department could develop more complete facilities gradually and it is logical under our new Charter for this Department to have complete supervision of all City recreational facilities.

Mayor Austin, Re; Swimming Pool - #2.

POPULARITY OF NEW POOL WOULD EXCEED THAT OF GOLF COURSES

When I make this statement, it is unprejudiced (because I personally like golf better). I have observed and listened for three years, having very frequent contact with parents and young people in schools and Parent Teacher organizations, and there is absolutely nothing which would enjoy such popular approval.

I, therefore, alone, without a big stir of public support, submit this proposition on its merit for your earnest consideration as a very timely and valuable project of interest to City Officials and citizens.

I await your call if additional data is needed.

Respectfully,



W. A. Kearns
Superintendent of Recreation

WAK:B

Document No. 272208

FILED OCT 19 1931

~~ALLEN H. WRIGHT~~ City Clerk

By FRED W. SICK Deputy

Communication from W. A. Kearns
recomending construction of a
swimming pool in northeast
section of Balboa Park

Presented to Council and
ordered filed OCT 19 1931