

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING & TECHNOLOGY



Community Open Forum

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Overview and Synopsis

- Goal: Year-round (as close as possible) aquatic access in Socorro;
- NMT is moving forward on collaborating with the City, County, and Socorro Consolidated School District on operating a Regional Aquatic Center.
- Briefly review our February Town Hall discussion, what was done since then, the factors that led us toward this decision, and next year's plan of operation.

February Town Hall Meeting

- Timeline of pool's evaluation
- Breakdown of operations / users
- Connection to the Wellness Center (Phase 3 based on NMT student use/interest)
- Concerns about NMT's Swim Center (e.g., deficit; current dome structure at end of life; cost of replacement dome structure; contractor's comments on infrastructure and subsurface)

February Town Hall Meeting (continued)

- Benefits and Challenges of a Regional Aquatic Center
 - Collaborative effort – assistance provided by County (e.g., operations), City (e.g., staffing, facility, some operations), and Socorro Consolidated School District (e.g., operations);
 - Challenges include cost (e.g., up to \$150k annual deficit vs. \$60k), infrastructure (e.g., needs access to a family restroom, kiddie pool will close, no concession stand planned), temperature of the pool, close to but not on the NMT campus.

What have we been working on?

- Closure was in early April (removed temporary dome; contractor reviewed existing NMT Swim Center)
- NMT will prorate memberships accordingly
- NMT and City continued exploring how to finalize year-round pool operations
- Community Project submitted to Representative Vasquez (not funded); Congressional Designated Spending proposals submitted to Senators Luján and Heinrich; Dome structure added to ICIP for NMT as part of the 2027 legislative session.

Challenges identified with reopening NMT Swim Center

- Facility & Infrastructure Issues
 - Deck is in poor condition; mats used to prevent injuries.
 - Outdated infrastructure (e.g., one projected pump replacement, two replaced last year; maintenance failures for Oxidation Reduction Potential system, regulates chlorine 24/7).
 - Cast iron pipe fragments have been found during backwashing when restarting the pump system.

Challenges with reopening NMT Swim Center (continued)

- Water Loss & Usage
 - Water loss occurs during regular operations (about 10,000 gallons per week with the dome);
- Staffing Challenges
 - Lifeguard shortages, especially in summer with staff split between two sites (NMT Swim Center and City).
- Uncertain about is longevity

Challenges with operating Regional Aquatic Center

- Estimated deficit is approximately double (\$150k vs. \$60k) due to higher operational costs:
- Larger solar blanket cost (~\$25,000 vs. \$12,000 at NMT)
- For the upcoming year, both facilities would experience reduced hours due to the lack of a dome structure. There will be no dome for 2026-2027.

Contractor review of NMT Swim Center

- Active and Progressive Cracking
- Distress at Structurally Sensitive Areas
- Evidence of Ongoing Movement
- Failure of Previous Repairs (to arrest cracking)
- Water Infiltration and Subgrade Risk
- Potential Reinforcing Steel Deterioration
- Safety and Liability Concerns

Contractor's recommendations

- The NMT pool not be refilled or reopened for use at this time.
- No reliance be placed on the existing deck or prior patching as evidence of structural stability.
- If reopened, the NMT Swim Facility should have further evaluation performed by a qualified structural engineer and/or geotechnical professional to determine the root cause of the movement and to define appropriate corrective measures before any return to service.

Options

1. Accept the potential financial deficit for this upcoming year as a pilot operation; work with collaborators to seek funding to operate the pool and build an enclosure.
2. Hold off on operating the Regional Aquatic Center; use funding to do a further study of the NMT pool; would likely result in pool access in Socorro ending in August 2026.

Goal: year-round aquatic access

- At this time, NMT will move forward with the operating the Regional Aquatic Center.

Next Steps

- Finalizing agreement with the City;
- Finalizing support with the County;
- Complete installation and upgrade of the necessary infrastructure (e.g., light installation, tile replacement, lap lane anchor updates) and equipment (e.g., solar blanket, reels) to open and operate the Regional Aquatic Center;
- Publish hours of operation; planned opening on June 1 (contingent on completed repairs and staffing; potentially Tuesday - Sunday operations).

Next Steps

- Dome structure cost is significant (e.g., \$1M for temporary and \$2M for permanent);
- Therefore, no dome structure will be available for 2026-2027. As a result:
 - we will seek out funding to support operations and infrastructure;
 - there will be reduced hours of operation during the winter months (weather & finance permitting; potentially weekdays: 1 - 6 pm; weekends: Noon - 5 pm; SHS swim team);
 - and updated fee structure, policies, and procedures for users.
- If anyone is interested in getting lifeguard certified, please contact Amanda Saenz.

Connection with Capital Outlay Requests

1. FY27 requests are for I&G: old Kelly Hall Remodel (\$6M), MSEC (\$20M+), Irrigation (\$8.4M); non-I&G (HB8): Wellness (Phase 1; \$40M; currently in Design Development).
2. NMT's financial commitments for FY27 are up to \$0.5M for old Kelly Hall & MSEC designs (as per LFC staff recommendations).
3. Looking ahead: Operating the Aquatic Center will provide information on the size and scope of Phase 3 request due to operational cost.

Questions