



# Memo

**To:** Board of Commissioners

**From:** Board subcommittee, Aquatic Recreation Center (Matt Simms, Erik Jokinen)

**Date:** 8/15/2023

**Re:** Agenda Item – Aquatic Recreation Center

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This item is to discuss the status of the Aquatic Recreation Center project

## Project Updates:

- We were informed last week the Resilient Power Grid design grant for \$100,000 was awarded to SWPRD. This grant application represents a collaboration between SWPRD, SWPAF, and Island County as input from all parties was combined in the successful application. This will fund the design of the microgrid for the Aquatic Recreation Center, including the 100kW photovoltaic array, generator, inverter, battery storage, and control system design. With this success we are now allowed to apply for Phase 2 of the grant where we can compete for funds to actually build the system.
- Our contractor ARC informed us last week that the cost estimate for the facility had gone up significantly, and a value engineering exercise was immediately launched in order to recover the cost increase and return to the \$27M design target. The Joint Aquatic Center Committee is fully engaged and working with ARC and numerous subcontractors on this exercise.
  - Two cost recovery paths will be outlined by ARC in the presentation in the meeting
    - Option A - Preserve the building shell and remove elements from the interior
      - Path 1 – remove the elevated walking track
      - Path 2 – remove the second floor
        - In order to achieve the \$27M target, both of these reductions must happen
    - Option B - Preserve the interior elements of the building and cost reduce the building shell itself
      - Path 3 – utilize a lower-cost building technology

→ It appears this approach can get us to the \$27M target with no reductions in the building interior, but more work remains to be done in the cost estimating of this path to know for sure

- Your board subcommittee is committed to working with the Joint Aquatic Center Committee and ARC to get us back to the \$27M target while best preserving the features of the facility. Erik and I will have further updates for the Board in the coming days and weeks.
- The Parks and Aquatics Foundation fundraising committee has been active over the past several months working on private fundraising to build an “Accessibility Fund”, to support access to the facility for everyone once we open in 2025. The goal of this private funding is to enable us to say to every citizen interested in using the Aquatic Recreation Center that “Everyone is welcome. No matter age, physical condition, or ability to pay.” This message of equity, accessibility, and inclusion sends a great message to the community that each and every person will be able to use this facility once we open. This private fundraising effort is also designed to fund a program where every child in the schools across South Whidbey will be able to learn to swim at no cost. This is such an important initiative from the standpoint of water safety and health and wellness, and opens the door to a life in the water for the youth of our community.