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SNCA Mission Statement:

Our mission is to promote, facilitate and coordinate the sustainability and expansion of aquatic resources within the Truckee Meadows.

Contact Us

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Frequently Asked Questions

Over the last month, we have been collecting and analyzing responses to our SNCA Survey. Thank you to all those that participated! From the feedback we received, we determined that some background information on what the organization has been doing to date and why SNCA has made some of the choices they have would help our followers understand where we are currently.

SNCA has decided to start a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section that will be featured in the newsletter and will also be on our website. To start, we have compiled a few questions to get things started. For the next few months, questions will be asked and answered, hopefully giving you the history of SNCA and a look into the future. If you have a question you would like to ask, please submit it to us!

This month, we will start with a few structural and facility questions that we have been asked.

Has Sierra Nevada Community Aquatic (SNCA) tried to partner with or garner land from any other governmental or private groups other than the City of Reno?

SNCA has met with not only the City of Reno, but also the City of Sparks, who thought that the Double Eagle regional sports facility would be a good fit for an aquatic center. The Double Eagle site would be a good candidate for an aquatics facility, but the drive time for most people would possibly outweigh the benefits. We also have met with Washoe County Parks, who had some good ideas on possible sites near the Washoe Golf Course and the Mt. Rose area. In the last year, SNCA has focused on the Moana site due its abundance of renewable resources (geothermal) and 22 acres of available land. This site is also centrally located and easy access to freeways.

Why don't we just put a bubble over Idlewild Pool or better yet enclose the pool in a new structure?

The cost of a bubble would in fact be fairly reasonable and SNCA has considered this as an option. When we explored this option, we ran into the following challenges:



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- There are fairly significant and costly improvements that would need to be made to the facility and deck in order to make the enclosure work.
- The current locker rooms are not designed with year round operation in mind and would need to be upgraded if used throughout the winter. Swimmers would also have to walk from the locker rooms outside and then enter the seasonal bubble.
- The primary population served by this solution would be the competitive groups as there would be little motivation for other users to visit the facility given the challenges noted above.
- The operations would be costly and the pool is already an operational loss for the City. They would currently be unable to accept even greater losses that would be created with year round operations.

Some of these challenges could be overcome with the construction of a permanent structure over the pool, however our investigation found issues with this scenario as well.

There is significant concern with spending millions of dollars constructing a building around a pool that was rebuilt in the 1980's and has a significant amount of deferred maintenance. When the cost of correcting the deferred maintenance and programming issues are considered, the cost is nearly the same as starting from scratch with a new facility. It would be preferable to invest any funds raised toward the effort to construct a new facility which would still leave Idlewild as a viable seasonal pool.

I notice that the plan shown on the website contains three pools – wouldn't it be a lot easier and less expensive to build a single pool?

While the costs of a single pool would certainly be less than the multi-pool complex proposed, there are a number of reasons we have designed the complex to incorporate multiple bodies of water.

We have attended several workshops, and read numerous publications related to modern pool facility design and operations. The consistent message is that the key to successful operations of an aquatic facility is the programming that can be handled by the facility. While it is possible to operate a small single purpose facility for a specific purpose (i.e. swim school or therapy pool) the key to successful operation of a community pool is the ability to run multiple types of programming at the same time.

The wide variety of aquatic users have varied needs in features, entrances, depths, and temperature that are only met with multiple pools. Our current design was scaled back to what was felt to be the minimal amount of space and pools required to meet the many demands of the community's aquatic user groups.

To submit a Frequently Asked Question, please send it to leah.bradle@snaquatics.org. We will review all questions and answer as many as possible.