




**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

Board of Supervisors

**DATE:** December 9, 2003

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** December 16, 2003

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Supervisor Jerry Hill   
**SUBJECT:** Southern San Mateo County Task Force on New Hospital Construction

**Recommendation**

Approve a resolution creating the Southern San Mateo County Task Force on New Hospital Construction.

**Background**

State law (SB 1953, Statutes of 1994) requires all hospitals in California to meet new seismic safety requirements by 2013. Presently in San Mateo County, only the San Mateo Medical Center meets the mandated standards. As a result of this legislation, hospitals statewide are required to retrofit or in most cases, rebuild facilities at substantial costs.

In San Mateo County a number of privately run hospitals have undertaken plans for rebuilding existing campuses or moving to new locations. Kaiser Permanente is moving forward with plans to rebuild its facilities in Redwood City. Likewise, Sequoia Hospital and Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), which has a 30 year management agreement to operate Sequoia, have stated an intent to either rebuild at the current location or relocate to a nearby site. Sequoia and CHW are looking to the Sequoia Healthcare District, which stretches from Belmont to Menlo Park, for assistance in this endeavor.

The Palo Alto Medical Foundation (PAMF), which is an affiliate of Sutter Health, has expressed interest in building a new medical facility in San Mateo County. PAMF is currently exploring plans to obtain approval for the campus in San Carlos at a location on an 18.5 acre site near the Holly Street/Highway 101 interchange.

## Discussion

With the proposed reconstruction/relocation of Kaiser and Sequoia, and a possible new PAMF facility, a number of questions arise for the future of healthcare in Southern San Mateo County. Some of the concerns already raised include:

- The feasibility of building three new hospitals
- Current and future staff shortages and the ability to adequately staff these hospitals
- Impact on healthcare choice should one or more of these hospitals fail
- Scope and accessibility of services to be provided
- Impact on San Mateo Medical Center
- Potential cost to taxpayers

As the various proposals move forward, it is imperative that the County, the cities and most importantly the broader community that will be impacted have a say in this important public policy issue. With wider participation in mind, the goal of the Southern San Mateo County Task Force on New Hospital Construction (Task Force) is to gather information from the affected communities and constituencies, develop a set of policy recommendations and share the findings with this Board, the cities and the various healthcare organizations in order to make more informed decisions.

The Task Force would be composed of members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and City Councils representatives of the 8 affected cities (Atherton, Belmont, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, and Woodside). The Task Force would meet over a period of ninety days in various locations to solicit community comments in "town hall" style gatherings.

Since the affected communities are within three supervisorial districts, I would invite Supervisor Rich Gordon, member of Health Plan of San Mateo Board of Director and Supervisor Rose Jacobs-Gibson, who sits on the San Mateo Medical Center Board of Directors, to participate. All meetings would be properly noticed so as to avoid any Brown Act violations.

If the Board agrees to the formation of this Task Force, I will pursue funding options so that professional staff may be retained to assist with the data compilation and reporting.

This process is crucial to determining the future of healthcare in Southern San Mateo County and I recommend the formation of the Task Force.

Approval of this recommendation would further the County's following commitments:

- Ensure basic health and safety for all and goal # 5 that Residents have access to healthcare and preventative care
- Responsive, effective and collaborative government and support Goal #20 that government decisions be based on careful consideration of future impact rather than temporary relief or immediate gain.
- Leaders work together across boundaries to preserve and enhance our quality of life and goals #23 Leaders throughout the County provide the impetus for broader regional solutions in land use, housing, childcare, education, health and transportation and #25 Residents express their support for regional, collaborative approaches to issues.

**Fiscal Impact**

No Fiscal Impact

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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**RESOLUTION CREATING THE SOUTHERN SAN MATEO COUNTY TASK FORCE  
ON NEW HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION**

**RESOLVED**, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

**WHEREAS**, State law (SB 1953, Chapter 740, Statutes of 1994) requires all hospitals in California to meet new seismic safety requirements by 2013 and as a result of this legislation, hospitals statewide are required to retrofit or in most cases, rebuild facilities at substantial costs, and

**WHEREAS**, a number of privately run hospitals in San Mateo County have undertaken plans for rebuilding existing campuses or moving to new locations, including Kaiser Permanente which is moving forward with plans to rebuild its facilities in Redwood City, and Sequoia Hospital and Catholic Healthcare West, which have stated an intent to either rebuild at the current location or relocate to a nearby site, and

**WHEREAS**, the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, which is an affiliate of Sutter Health, has expressed interest in building a new medical facility in San Mateo County and is exploring plans to obtain approval for the campus in San Carlos, and

**WHEREAS**, with the proposed reconstruction and/or relocation of Kaiser and Sequoia, and a possible new Palo Alto Medical Foundation facility, a number of questions arise for the future of healthcare in Southern San Mateo County, and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that the County of San Mateo, the cities and most importantly the broader community that will be impacted have a say in this important policy issue, and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Southern San Mateo County Task Force on New Hospital Construction is to gather information from the affected communities and constituencies, develop a set of policy recommendations and share the findings with this Board of Supervisors, the cities and the various healthcare organizations in order to make more informed decisions, and

**WHEREAS**, the creation and work of the Southern San Mateo County Task Force on New Hospital Construction is essential in determining the current and future healthcare needs of our community:

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED** as follows:

1. This Board hereby confirms the creation of the Southern San Mateo County Task Force on New Hospital Construction whose purpose is to gather information from the affected communities and constituencies, develop a set of policy recommendations and share the findings with this Board of Supervisors, the cities and the various healthcare organizations in order to make more informed decisions,
2. The Southern San Mateo County Task Force on New Hospital Construction would be composed of members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and City Councils representatives of the 8 affected cities - Atherton, Belmont, East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Carlos, and Woodside.

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