



City of Emeryville

CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 18, 2016

TO: Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

FROM: Sheri Hartz, City Clerk

SUBJECT: **Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville
Opposing Sutter Health Corporation's Plan To Cease Emergency
Services And Acute Care Hospital Operations At Alta Bates
Summit Medical Center's Berkeley Campus**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution opposing the plan to cease emergency services and acute care hospital operations at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center's Berkeley campus.

BACKGROUND

On September 8, 2016, Mayor Martinez received a request from a representative of the California Nurses Association for the City of Emeryville to consider adopting a resolution opposing the plan of Sutter Health, owner of the Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Berkeley campus, to close the inpatient hospital and its emergency department by 2018, instead of rebuilding and retrofitting as required by state seismic standards established in Senate Bill 1953. Those standards require that all inpatient hospitals are built to both withstand a major quake and to remain fully operational after such an event.

The City Councils of Berkeley and Oakland, as well as El Cerrito, have all recently adopted resolutions opposing the plan to discontinue providing acute care and emergency room services at the Alta Bates campus. Sutter plans to consolidate inpatient and emergency facilities at its Summit campus in Oakland, and convert the Alta Bates campus into a hub for outpatient services, which would not be subject to the same strict seismic standards as are inpatient facilities. If taken, this action on Sutter's part will result in the loss of 347 inpatient beds.

DISCUSSION

The closure will impact patient care throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties, where last year, Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo also closed and took with it more

than 20 emergency department beds. Alta Bates has absorbed many displaced patients since the shutdown.

California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) records show that acute care services at the Alta Bates Berkeley facility are used extensively and that, for the period between 2002 and 2015, hospital beds there were occupied by patients over one million days in aggregate. OSHPD also reports that the number of emergency room visits at the Alta Bates campus has increased over the last five years, with more than 40,000 emergency room encounters being logged at Alta Bates in 2015.

CONCLUSION

Sutter Health Corporation's plan to close its acute care and emergency services at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Berkeley Campus will have a significant impact on the patient care of Emeryville and surrounding community residents. Essential medical resources must be protected to promote public health, and the health needs of the greater community safeguarded.

PREPARED BY: Sheri Hartz, City Clerk

**APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EMERYVILLE:**



Carolyn Lehr, City Manager

Attachments: None