

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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

WHEREAS, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center has been providing "full service" acute care hospital and emergency services to East Bay cities such as Emeryville in Alameda and Contra Costa counties for decades; and

WHEREAS, Sutter Health Corporation has announced its intention to dramatically alter services by ceasing to provide inpatient and emergency services at its Alta Bates Ashby facility in Berkeley to avoid implementing the requirements of Senate Bill 1953, and will instead consolidate those services at its Oakland Summit Medical Center, transitioning the Alta Bates Campus to an outpatient hub, resulting in the loss of 347 inpatient beds; and

WHEREAS, the Alta Bates Ashby facility is crucial for providing timely healthcare services for the people of Emeryville and its neighboring cities; and

WHEREAS, from 2002 through 2015, records from California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) revealed very high usage of acute care services at the Alta Bates Berkeley facility, including over one million aggregate days that hospital beds were occupied by patients; and

WHEREAS, OSHPD also reports that the number of emergency room visits at the Alta Bates Campus has increased over the last five years, with over 40,000 emergency room encounters at Alta Bates in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Sutter Health Corporation, as a highly profitable healthcare corporation with total assets in the billions, has the financial resources to rebuild and retrofit the structure and live up to its stated corporate mission to "enhance the well-being of people in the communities we serve through a not-for-profit commitment to compassion and excellence" in health care services; and

WHEREAS, closing the Alta Bates Campus as an acute care hospital instead of retrofitting the structure to comply with Senate Bill 1953 is a business decision on Sutter's part that will be a detriment to the communities Alta Bates now serves; and

WHEREAS, the West Contra Costa County, Berkeley, and North Alameda County areas have already suffered the recent closure of Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo, and that resulting loss of acute care hospital and emergency services, while being located in a region that is subject to the threat of severe earthquakes, frequent urban interface wildland fires, industrial chemical releases and mass traffic casualties – all of which require emergency services at an acute care hospital; and

WHEREAS, the ramifications of the Alta Bates Campus closure of emergency services and acute care will impact West Contra Costa County where the aforementioned closure of Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo left the Kaiser Richmond Medical Center as the only emergency room between Martinez and Alta Bates in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, many hospital departments are often at capacity, and all of the local emergency departments already have large delays in service, which will only be exacerbated by the merging of the two full-service acute care hospitals and with emergency departments into one Oakland location, increasing wait and admission times even further; and

WHEREAS, when access to healthcare is made more difficult, patients often delay healthcare or even stop seeking the care that is necessary; and

WHEREAS, paramedics and ambulances that are required to transport patients to an acute care facility from Emeryville will spend more time at the proposed consolidated emergency room in Oakland, resulting in reduced numbers of first responders available in Emeryville at any given time; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Emeryville has a role and responsibility to protect resources to promote public health, since there is no regional body researching the health needs of the greater community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Emeryville hereby opposes Sutter Health Corporation's plan to close its acute care and emergency services at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Berkeley Campus, calls upon Sutter Health to cease all actions in furtherance of any and all plans to close Alta Bates Summit Medical Center Berkeley Campus, and requests Sutter Health to begin the planning and execution to bring the Alta Bates Campus up to the necessary standards to comply with Senate Bill 1953 in order to provide an acute care hospital and emergency services at Alta Bates to Emeryville and its neighboring communities.

ADOPTED, by the City Council of the City of Emeryville at a regular meeting held Tuesday, October 18, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



CITY CLERK

CITY ATTORNEY