



Contra Costa County

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NEWS RELEASE: Update on Los Medanos Community Healthcare District

(Martinez, CA) – The California Supreme Court denied an appeal by the Los Medanos Community Healthcare District (District), which resulted in the dissolution of the District effective yesterday afternoon. The court decision does not affect the operation of the Pittsburg Health Center, which is operated by the Contra Costa County Health Services department and remains open with no changes to regular, ongoing services for patient care.

In 2018, following Contra Costa County Civil Grand Jury recommendations, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors requested the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which is responsible, in part, for evaluating ways to reorganize, simplify and streamline the structure of governmental entities in California, to dissolve the District and transfer all of its assets and liabilities to the County. The court decision finalizes LAFCO's dissolution decision that was originally approved in September 2018.

"The court action means we can lower overhead costs significantly and increase grant funding for the benefit of residents' healthcare priorities and needs in the former District area," said Supervisor Federal Glover, whose District 5 represents the communities. "We will be able to make a bigger difference for our residents."

"This has been a thoughtful process to ensure that the community's needs and concerns are addressed. The County will allocate 90% of funds to health-related programs and establish a reserve fund to help ensure that programs are sustainable moving forward," states Board Chair, Supervisor Karen Mitchoff.

The Board of Supervisors has established the Los Medanos Healthcare Advisory Committee, which is responsible for making recommendations for grant funding to meet healthcare priorities of residents in the former District area.

The Advisory Committee will be composed of seven (7) members, with the majority being community members (5) who work or live in the Los Medanos area and two (2) healthcare professionals. As appointed by the Board of Supervisors, the Committee includes:

- (2) Representatives recommended by the City of Pittsburg;
- (2) Representatives recommended by the Bay Point Municipal Advisory Committee;
- Representative from the County's Public Health Division;
- Representative from the County's Behavioral Health Division; and
- At-Large representative who lives or works in the Pittsburg/Bay Point area as recommended by the Board's Internal Operations Committee.

The benefits of including medical professionals on the Committee are to support impactful grant-making, collaboration, and leveraging of efforts with other healthcare programs and services in the County. An area health plan will be developed that will identify major health disparities to inform funding priorities for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

“The targeted, coordinated approach to how we focus funding will help us do more for residents in the former District area to improve their health and how they receive healthcare,” added Supervisor Glover.

Patient care and services at the Pittsburg Health Center are not impacted. Patients should continue to schedule their medical appointments and seek services at the Pittsburg Health Center as they normally do.

The Pittsburg Health Center is the largest clinic in the County’s 10 clinic healthcare delivery system. The County has operated the health center for over 20 years since the bankruptcy of the District in the 1990s and has been responsible for capital improvements since that time. The County most recently completed a multi-million-dollar renovation of the Adult Primary Care area within the facility as well as a comprehensive elevator replacement project.

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