

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

March 13, 2018

Rancho Los Amigos Recuperative Care Center Project

Options are very limited for homeless individuals who are recuperating from hospitalization. Typically, when a patient no longer needs acute care but is still recovering from an illness or injury, they are discharged home to rest and may receive follow-up care as an outpatient. Homeless individuals, however, have no place to go and end up staying in the hospital for a much longer period of time than necessary. Recuperative care facilities are a viable, short-term alternative; they offer on-site nursing support, health oversight, case management and linkage to permanent supportive housing. Further, recuperative care facilities cost a fraction of an acute care hospital bed. The Department of Health Services (DHS) estimates that approximately 10 homeless people a day are discharged from hospitals that could benefit from recuperative care. As of December 2017, the County has only 432 recuperative care beds. With nowhere else to go, these patients often end up back on the streets, which creates repeated costly emergency room visits by homeless men and women who are affected by chronic illnesses.

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MOTION

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Rancho Los Amigos (RLA) National Rehabilitation Center, which is located in the City of Downey, is currently undergoing a major undertaking called the “North Campus Consolidation Project.” The project will create a more consolidated, state-of-the-art, seismically compliant facility for the patients of RLA. Building 900 is one of the existing buildings of the RLA north Campus center, which currently houses in-patient beds for the hospital and provides space for rehabilitation therapy programs. These functions are expected to be relocated to other parts of the Rancho campus in the summer of 2018, leaving Building 900 vacant for use.

In January 2016, DHS requested that the Department of Public Works (DPW) carry out an assessment of Building 900 to evaluate the feasibility of repurposing it into a recuperative care facility. The proposed project would remodel the 78,000 square-foot building into a 165-bed recuperative care facility. DPW collaborated with DHS to draft a preliminary program and scope of work, which includes construction, change order, contingency, plans, specification, jurisdictional approvals, consultant services, and County services. The Departments have already determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the provision of CEQA because it consists of interior improvements to an existing facility and the restriping of an existing parking lot. The most recent cost estimate for the project is approximately \$10,100,000. Given the urgent need for housing, however, DHS should also look into innovative building solutions, including but not limited to Capital Improvements Intermediary projects or the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles, to complete this project as soon as possible.

Recuperative care facilities provide a critical link for homeless individuals who are recovering from hospitalizations by offering a safe space to recover and be connected to supportive housing. This project would increase the number of recuperative care beds in the County from 432 to 597 beds (a 62% increase), helping the County reach another major milestone in combating the homeless crisis.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the proposed Downey Recuperative Care Center Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act;
2. Approve and establish Capital Project No. 87465 for the Rancho Los Amigos Recuperative Care Center Downey Project, with a total project budget of up to \$10,100,000; and
3. Direct the Department of Health Services to work with the CEO's Office of Homeless Initiative to identify funding for the capital project as well as the ongoing operating funds.

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