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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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February 2, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE CEQA FINDING AND AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF
CARDIAC CATHETERIZATION/ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT FOR LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER
(1st District) (3 Votes)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State Guidelines section 15301(a) and Class 1, Subsection (d) of the County of Los Angeles Revised Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987.
2. Authorize the acquisition of a motorized mobile C-arm cinefluoroscopy unit through the Los Angeles County Capital Asset Leasing (LAC-CAL) program at an estimated cost of \$464,259 for a total five-year cost of \$568,140 which includes the financing cost of \$103,881 for the LAC+USC Medical Center Cardiac Catheterization/Electrophysiology Laboratory.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

In approving the recommended actions, the Board is authorizing the Department of Health Services (DHS or Department) to purchase a major item of fixed asset equipment, specifically, a C-arm cinefluoroscopy unit (C-arm) for the Cardiac Catheterization/Electrophysiology Laboratory (Cath/EP Lab) for LAC+USC Medical Center (LAC+USC) and authorizing the Internal Services Department Purchasing Agent to proceed with the lease-purchase.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The estimated acquisition cost is \$464,259. The equipment will be financed through the LAC-CAL program over a five-year repayment term. Funding for the equipment lease payments is included in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 Final Budget, and will be requested in future fiscal years, as necessary. The equipment comes with a one-year extended service warranty.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LLEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

The Cath/EP Lab is a room with specialized equipment for evaluating heart and blood vessels. Contrast dye is injected into patients' cardiac chambers and blood vessels and visualized with special x-ray/camera equipment. Different types of heart diseases such as blocked coronary arteries or valve disease, irregular heart rhythms and peripheral blood vessel disease can be fully evaluated with this equipment.

The current equipment has been experiencing serious maintenance and operation problems. One piece of equipment (15 years old) is only used for limited electrophysiology cardiac studies, and the other piece (10 years old) is used for invasive cardiac catheterizations.

LAC+USC had hoped to manage with its current equipment until the replacement facility was completed in 2007. However, because of frequent breakdowns and only one piece of equipment capable of performing catheterizations and electrophysiology studies, LAC+USC's cardiologists have determined that equipment replacement is necessary immediately. LAC+USC cardiologists have evaluated C-arms from various vendors to assess the effectiveness of the equipment and are satisfied that C-arm equipment will meet the needs of their patients. When the replacement facility is completed in two years, the C-arm equipment will continue to be used to support other service needs.

The feasibility of refurbishing one of the existing Cath/EP Labs and taking early delivery of the system purchased for the replacement facility has been explored, but is considered inappropriate because of cost and timeframe considerations. Similarly, the feasibility of transferring patients to either another County facility such as Harbor-UCLA Medical Center or a community hospital such as USC University Hospital was explored, but also determined inappropriate because of cost and workload issues at the facilities.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

These actions meet the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence by promoting best practices for patient care and the Goal of Fiscal Responsibility by investing in the public infrastructure.

Consistency with DHS System Redesign

These actions meet DHS' strategic goals by improving health care provided by DHS and enhancing the health of the residents of Los Angeles County.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

The installation of this equipment is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State Guidelines section 15301(a) and Class 1, Subsection (d) of the County of Los Angeles Revised Environmental

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Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987. Under this categorical exemption, minor alteration of existing structures including installation of equipment which may require interior and exterior alterations of a building involving such things as interior partitions, exterior parapets, placement of walls, veneer facings and installation of false or drop ceilings, plumbing and electrical conveyances and heating and refrigeration systems, etc., is exempt.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

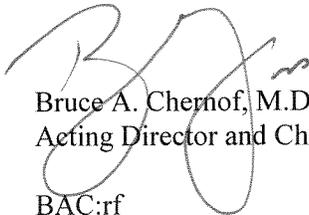
The request complies with the County Equipment Policy that the Board approved on October 16, 2001, which requires Board approval prior to a department's purchasing/financing equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

The acquisition of this equipment will provide continuity of services for cardiac patients at LAC+USC.

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors is requested to return three adopted copies of this letter to DHS.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

BAC:rf
LAC+USC CATH EQUIPMENT.RF.wpd

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Auditor-Controller
Internal Services Department