

April 08, 2025

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

Catalina Island Health: Preserving Los Angeles County’s Only Critical Access Hospital

In 1960, Catalina Island Health (CIH), then known as the Avalon Municipal Hospital, had a bed capacity of eight patients with six beds. Over the years, CIH, the only medical services provider on Catalina Island (Island), expanded to provide comprehensive medical care, including emergency medical care, to 4,000 residents and 1 million visitors and tourists a year. CIH mainly treats a large minority, low-income community who live on the Island, which is considered an AB 1550 Low-Income community and ranked the lowest in four of six indexes, including Cost of Living. Due to the hospital being on an island, CIH is both a federally and state recognized Critical Access Hospital (CAH) as it is the first to triage, assess, and stabilize a patient prior to their transport to another hospital off the island.

Like other rural hospitals, CIH has historically been a financially fragile medical institution, therefore, the closure of CIH would not only exacerbate local health inequities on the Island but would place an exorbitant financial burden on Los Angeles County (County). Without a hospital on the Island, the cost of providing off-island medical services and evacuations would cost the County an estimated \$14 million dollars a year through costs associated with aerial evacuation, workforce, infrastructure, on top of additional costs on the patient and the Medicare system through delayed reimbursements. There would also be a massive delay in treatment due to

MOTION

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transportation accessibility and that delay in time could risk additional injury, harm, and even death to a patient.

Due to the current financial status of CIH, an immediate, one-time cash infusion is necessary before CIH's cashflow runs out in July of 2025, which will lead to an unprecedented, regionwide medical quagmire. Measure B, which was a special tax that voters supported in 2002, exists for the sole purpose of funding the Countywide System of Trauma Centers, Emergency Medical Services, and Bioterrorism Response. Allotting CIH one-time, available funding through Measure B must be considered and approved for utilization for the County's goal of health equity for its over 10 million residents and decrease additional burden on the County's fiscal and workforce resources.

Investing in Catalina Island Health, the County's only Critical Access Hospital, is not just a healthcare or budget decision; it is a public health imperative.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve and authorize the Director of the Department of Health Services (DHS), or her designee, to allocate in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 \$3 million in one-time, available Measure B funding to be released to Catalina Island Health, to maintain emergency room operations and availability for specific, qualified Measure B purposes as allowable, and in consultation with County Counsel.
2. In furtherance of Directive 1:
 - a. Delegate authority to the Director of DHS, or her designee, to execute the necessary

agreements with CIH to include such approved funding for FY 2024-2025, provided that, such agreements contain all provisions necessary to comply with proper reporting, monitoring, and oversight of the use of Measure B funds. Such agreement(s) are subject to review and approval as to form by County Counsel, and to take all other necessary actions to disburse the funding to CIH; and

- b. Approve the attached appropriation adjustment to transfer \$3,000,000 in one-time funding from Appropriations for Contingencies to Private Facilities within the Measure B Special Revenue Fund Account and allow DHS to provide funding to CIH through an approved contract agreement, in order to maintain critical medical care and emergency services on the island.

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March 18, 2025

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

**ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE
FY 2024-25
4 - VOTES**

SOURCES		USES	
HEALTH SERVICES - MEASURE B SPECIAL TAX FUND BW9-3303 APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONTINGENCIES DECREASE APPROPRIATION	3,000,000	HEALTH SERVICES - MEASURE B - PRIVATE FACILITIES BW9-HS-2000-41010-41016 SERVICES & SUPPLIES INCREASE APPROPRIATION	3,000,000
SOURCES TOTAL	\$ 3,000,000	USES TOTAL	\$ 3,000,000

JUSTIFICATION

Reflects the transfer of \$3M in one-time funding from Appropriations for Contingencies to Measure B-Private Facilities within the Measure B Special Revenue Fund to support Catalina Island Health.

Beverly Sosa-Reyes

Digitally signed by Beverly Sosa-Reyes
Date: 2025.03.20 11:22:00 -07'00'

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE BEVERLY SOSA-REYES, CHF, BGT MGT, CONTROLLER'S DIVISION

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---

ACTION

RECOMMENDATION

BY **Andrea Turner**
Digitally signed by Andrea Turner
Date: 2025.03.20 14:21:54 -07'00'

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

B.A. NO. 200

DATE 3/20/25

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BY **Erika Bonilla**
Digitally signed by Erika Bonilla
Date: 2025.03.20 14:31:39 -07'00'

DATE 3/20/25