



NEWS RELEASE

Contra Costa County Supervisor
JOHN GIOIA (joy-a)
Chair, Board of Supervisors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2006

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS EXPECTED TO APPROVE PLAN TO SAVE BANKRUPT DOCTORS MEDICAL CENTER IN SAN PABLO

What: Approval of plan to save Doctors Medical Center
Where: Board Chambers 651 Pine Street Martinez, CA
Who: Board of Supervisors
When: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 10:00 a.m.

Martinez, Calif., the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors is expected to consider approving an agreement at its **October 31st** special meeting to keep Doctors Medical Center in San Pablo open. The agreement, called a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), would be made with the West County Healthcare District, which currently operates the hospital. The MOU would establish a Hospital Recovery Plan to save Doctors' Medical Center from closing.

The plan calls for the County to transfer \$10 million to the State of California for the benefit of Doctors Medical Center. This transfer of money will draw down an additional \$10 million in enhanced Medi-Cal payments from the Federal Government. As a result, Doctors Hospital will receive \$20 million to stabilize its operations. Doctors Medical Center will transfer its future property tax revenue over the next four years to pay back the County for its \$10 million advance. The West County Healthcare District Board of Directors and the Federal Bankruptcy Court have already approved this arrangement.

The plan before the Board of Supervisors also includes the establishment of a new Joint Management Board to oversee the management of Doctors Medical Center. This new board will be made up of representatives from the West County Healthcare District and Contra Costa County, with the County having majority representation. The West County Healthcare District Board of Directors approved this arrangement at their meeting last Thursday.

The Joint Management Board will work towards the common goal of creating and maintaining a primary health care delivery system in order to maintain the existence of emergency room and acute care services at Doctors Medical Center, along with secondary and tertiary services. The Joint Board will be developing a strategic and financial plan for the long term survival of Doctors' Medical Center.

"I strongly believe that a partnership between Contra Costa County and the West County Healthcare District provides the hospital with its best chance of surviving to meet West County's healthcare needs," said Supervisor John Gioia, who's district includes San Pablo and was instrumental in forging this plan together. "Many people played a substantial and positive role in putting this plan together."

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