

Doctors Medical Center gets OK for \$10M emergency loan from Contra Costa County

San Francisco Business Times - by Chris Rauber

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 11:21am PDT

[Doctors Medical Center](#), a struggling public hospital in San Pablo, as expected won approval Tuesday night for an emergency \$10 million county loan, but Contra Costa County supervisors warned it must get its financial house in order.

The supervisors unanimously voted to loan \$10 million to the safety net hospital, which is facing both a short-term cash flow crunch and longer term fiscal concerns due to its patient mix, which is made up largely of Medi-Cal and uninsured patients.

“At some point, we need a plan that is sustainable,” county board Chair **Gayle Uilkema** said during an April 5 evening meeting, according to an account in the [Contra Costa Times](#) newspaper. Uilkema said Doctors can’t expect to come back every few years and get a cash infusion.

The hospital hopes to use the county loan to get matching funds from the federal government, so it could have a total of \$20 million to mitigate its short-term problems. Longer term, it needs to upgrade the facility and meet strict seismic safety requirements. In recent years, it’s shown little evidence of having a strategic plan to deal with those longer-term needs.

Doctors is also changing its convoluted governance structure from a two-headed beast made up of a public district board and a joint powers authority in conjunction with the county to a single board.