

HEALTH COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco
Resolution No. 10-09

**RESOLUTION DECLARING FINDINGS ON THE CALIFORNIA PACIFIC MEDICAL
CENTER INSTITUTIONAL MASTER PLAN**

WHEREAS, it is the role of the Health Commission to ensure that the health needs of all San Franciscans are addressed; and,

WHEREAS, the Institutional Master Plan (IMP) process provides the City and its policy bodies, including the Health Commission and the Planning Commission, with an opportunity to ensure that proposed changes related to health care institutions are reviewed to ensure the protection of public health and consideration of neighborhood and environmental integrity; and,

WHEREAS, City and County of San Francisco Ordinance 0279-07 amending the IMP process calls for, “the Department of Public Health (DPH) to analyze the relationship between the city’s long-term health care needs and facility planning for medical institutions...to provide the Planning Department with an important perspective for review of medical institutions’ master plans. Such analysis will help prevent loss of services and inefficient or redundant development of healthcare services in San Francisco”; and,

WHEREAS, Sutter West Bay dba California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) submitted its IMP to DPH, which contracted with the Lewin Group to conduct an analysis, which has been forwarded to the Planning Commission within the 90-day timeline; and,

WHEREAS, the CPMP IMP will impact the quality and equitable access to health care in San Francisco for the next 40 to 60 years; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Commission has reviewed the Lewin Group report on this IMP, as well as the 2007-08 Lewin Group’s Local Market Assessment, which, while they were primarily directed at the Department in its capacity as the primary entity for assuring health care in the City, they are very relevant to our planning process and, therefore, to all of the Department’s partners; and,

WHEREAS, in addition to the Lewin Group report, the Commission took extensive public testimony on the CPMC IMP; and,

WHEREAS the Health Commission appreciates the efforts by CPMC to engage the community and the Department in this thorough planning process and to meet the needs of the citizens of San Francisco for effective, efficient and culturally competent health care; and ,

WHEREAS CPMC has historically partnered with Chinese Hospital and the Chinese community to provide culturally competent obstetrical and pediatric and tertiary services and has indicated its intent to continue such partnership; and,

WHEREAS, the IMP is not just a “land-use matter,” and CMPC is a key partner in meeting the health needs of San Francisco residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Health Commission needs to ensure that the proposed plan, with all of its campuses and services, reflects a thoughtful approach to the present and future demographics of the City; and,

WHEREAS, the IMP process needs to be transparent and refined with the input of affected stakeholders; and,

WHEREAS, based on the Commission's review of the IMP, the Department shares in the goal of rebuilding CPMC's facilities as CPMC cannot operate three of its current four acute care hospital campuses (Pacific, California, or St. Luke's) as acute care facilities beyond 2015 due to California's statewide seismic requirements; and,

WHEREAS, were CPMC not to build new hospitals, the City would lose one-third of all acute care beds, two full-service emergency departments, and one specialty care emergency department, which would be a crushing loss for the City; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Health Commission supports rebuilding CPMC facilities to meet the State's current seismic requirements; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission supports resolution of the land-use issues recognizing that San Francisco sits at the intersection of two seismic faults, and were the City to lose hospital capacity and especially emergency department capacity prior to the rebuilding of these facilities, the health of San Franciscans would be compromised; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Health Commission supports and applauds CPMC's decision to rebuild St. Luke's Hospital, and believes that it is commendable that CPMC established the Blue Ribbon process and that the CPMC Board approved the recommendations as the southeast sector of the City needs St. Luke's Hospital and the Health Commission looks forward to working with CPMC to ensure that it is a vibrant campus; and,

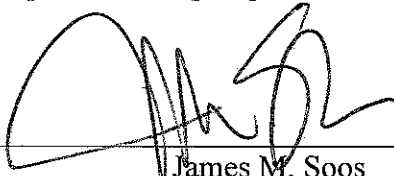
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to ensure the CPMC IMP results in the best possible health plan for the City and County of San Francisco, the Health Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. CPMC should increase its charity care, including but not limited to Healthy San Francisco, to a share comparable to other hospitals in San Francisco.
2. CPMC should increase its care of patients with Medicaid to a share comparable to other hospitals in San Francisco. Since hospital admissions other than those that come through the emergency department are determined by doctors associated with the hospital, the Health Commission believes that CPMC will best achieve this through establishment of a Foundation for physicians at St. Luke's campus, which was a recommendation of the Blue Ribbon Taskforce.
3. CPMC should replace lost skilled-nursing facility (SNF) beds with appropriate long-term care services for an equal number of persons. In this regard, the Health Commission recognizes that institutional care is not necessarily the best option for seniors and younger adults with disabilities who need long-term care.
4. CPMC should replace lost sub-acute beds with placements for all individuals currently in those beds.
5. CPMC should make a commitment that the St. Luke's campus will be operated as a community hospital for at least 20 years (barring significant changes in medical technology – the Health Commission does not favor the maintenance of empty hospitals).

6. CPMC should ensure that all of the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Taskforce be fully implemented. (The issue of SNF beds can be resolved through the creation of alternative services for those needing this level of care, as noted in recommendation number 3).
7. The Health Commission, DPH should establish a working group with representation of a dedicated membership* to work with the Planning Department, Permit Appeals Board, and Board of Supervisors to analyze progress realizing these recommendations.
8. CPMC should continue its partnership with all sectors of the community, including Chinese Hospital, its affiliates and the Chinese community to provide fair and affordable access to its services.

*Suggested membership would be three CPMC members, three DPH/Commission members, one City Hall representative, and two community representatives.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on July 21, 2009 adopted the foregoing resolution.



James M. Soos
Acting Commission Executive Secretary