



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR

September 26, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Community Health Commission

Submitted by: Holly Wertman, Chairperson, Community Health Commission

Subject: Health Impact Assessment of the Proposed Closure of Alta Bates

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting the preparation of a Health Impact Assessment, incorporating a proposed scope, and referring to the City Manager a request that the Public Health Division assist with (1) interagency arrangements such as contracting with the University of California, Berkeley, Alameda County, and/or another governmental entity or consultant(s) to conduct the Assessment, (2) sharing access to existing data for researchers conducting the HIA, and (3) supporting educational opportunities for community members.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Short-term minor costs to assist with the Assessment. Long-term savings to the Police, Fire, and Health, Housing, Community Services Departments.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center has been providing “full service” Acute Care hospital services in Berkeley, serving the East Bay I-80 corridor at the Herrick Campus since 1904, and at the Alta Bates Campus since 1905, and from their merger in 1984. Alta Bates’ Berkeley facility is crucial for providing timely health care services for residents of Berkeley and neighboring communities. In spite of this, Sutter Health Corporation has announced its intention to close Alta Bates’ Berkeley facility. Sutter has also closed the Cardiac Catheterization Unit and the Pulmonary Sub-Acute Unit at Alta Bates, requiring cardiac and stroke cases to be rerouted to further locations such as Summit.

BACKGROUND

Many hospital departments are often at capacity, and all of the local Emergency Departments reportedly have long delays in service. These delays will only be exacerbated by the merging of the two full-service Acute Care Hospitals, Alta Bates and Summit, to one Oakland location, increasing even further wait and admission times. The increased travel time to a more distant location raises questions about the potential for negative health outcomes, particularly for cardiac, stroke, and pulmonary patients. Further, when Berkeley’s first responders are mandated to travel to Summit Campus in Oakland, they may take longer to respond to subsequent emergencies in Berkeley,

raising questions about the impact that the closure of Alta Bates may have on public safety.

On July 27, 2017, the Community Health Commission moved to approve the proposed Health Impact Assessment of the Proposed Closure of Alta Bates:

M/S/C (Katz/Lingas) Motion to approve Health Impact Assessment of the Proposed Closure of Alta Bates.

Ayes: Commissioners Carter, Smart, Chen, Wong, Speich, Stein, Katz, Morales, Chin, Lingas and Kesarwani

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent from vote: Commissioners Wong, Teunis, Kim and Engelman

Excused: Commissioners Franklin, Brosgart, and Wertman

Motion passed.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with Berkeley's Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is an analysis and community education tool for the community to learn about the health impacts and participate in actions affecting public health. Discussions are in progress with the U.C. Berkeley School of Public Health to identify researchers to conduct the assessment.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Do not conduct the Health Impact Assessment. This is not recommended since the City and Community will not have adequate information to respond to the proposed actions regarding hospital closure.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager supports the Commission's work on this matter and reiterates that City of Berkeley staff support will be extremely limited and contingent on available resources and capacity.

CONTACT PERSON

Rebecca Day-Rodriguez, Commission Secretary, HHCS, (510) 981-5337

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

SUPPORTING A HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED CLOSURE
OF ALTA BATES

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council has previously adopted a resolution in opposition to the proposed closure of Alta Bates Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, the closure of Alta Bates Medical Center is expected to have serious impacts on the health of Berkeley and East Bay residents; and

WHEREAS, the health impacts likely include delay of care for emergency medicine events, impacting patient health outcomes for cardiac and stroke, pulmonary, obstetrics, psychiatric, alcohol and drug poisoning, and trauma emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the health impacts likely include impacts to safe hospital operations, including hospital acquired infections, inpatient bed capacity; and

WHEREAS, the health impacts likely include impacts to community access to primary and specialty care, reduction in services for safety-net and special needs populations; and

WHEREAS, the health impacts likely include impacts to first responder operations and heightened risk in a disaster event; and

WHEREAS, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is an analysis and community education tool for the community to learn about the health impacts and participate in actions affecting public health; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Mayor's Office has identified faculty at the U.C. Berkeley School of Public Health to conduct a Health Impact Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the Community Health Commission has proposed a Scope of a Health Impact Assessment of the proposed closure of Alta Bates Medical Center.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) should be conducted regarding the proposed closure of the Alta Bates Medical Center, including the scope recommended by the Community Health Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council refers to the City Manager a request that the Public Health Division assist with (1) interagency arrangements such as contracting with the University of California, Berkeley, Alameda County, and/or another governmental entity or consultant(s) to conduct the Assessment, (2) sharing access to existing data for researchers conducting the HIA, and (3) supporting educational opportunities for community members.

