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## **Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee Established for Measure A Hospital Seismic Safety Bond**

*County will Seek Nominations for Committee Members in January 2009*

SAN JOSE, CALIF. —The County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors has passed an ordinance to establish the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee for Measure A, the Hospital Seismic Safety and Medical Facilities General Obligation Bond. The passage of Measure A means that Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) will be able to meet the 2013 California hospital seismic safety law. By replacing needed hospital beds, SCVMC will be able to prevent the closure of vital medical services, a Level One Trauma Center and Regional Burn Center.

"Our community clearly understands the critical role the hospital plays in serving the most vulnerable, and providing trauma and burn care services to the region," said Supervisor Blanca Alvarado, Chair Pro Tem of the Board of Supervisors. "I dearly hope that residents who are interested in serving on the committee will be passionate about our role in providing healthcare services to this community."

On November 4, 2008, the voters of Santa Clara County approved Measure A, which provides \$790 million to the County of Santa Clara to rebuild and keep open 272 of the 574 inpatient beds at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. Over half of SCVMC's inpatient beds are in seismically non-compliant buildings, and maintaining these beds is necessary to operate SCVMC's top-level trauma center, and burn trauma center—the only one in the Bay Area. The bond measure will also provide \$50 million to fund the construction of facilities in or near downtown San Jose to replace urgent care and primary care medical facilities that were lost when San Jose Medical Center closed in 2004.

"The Board of Supervisors specifically identified the need for an independent oversight committee to give transparency to the process of administrating Measure A funds," said Supervisor Liz Kniss, Chair of the Board's Health and Hospital Committee.

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## Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee Established for Measure A– page 2 of 2

The oversight committee will review annual reports on the collection and expenditure of Measure A funds, and will communicate findings related to the uses of the bond proceeds to the community.

“Measure A requires both independent audits and public disclosure of how all funds will be spent,” said Acting County Executive Gary Graves. “The Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee will provide one more level of accountability.”

The Committee will consist of 10 members, with five members being appointed from each supervisorial district; one member appointed by the City of San Jose with a business law, accounting or financial services background, and representing the downtown San Jose area; one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors as a whole and selected from a non-profit health-care organization; one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors as a whole and selected from a labor or building trades organization; one member appointed by the Board of Supervisors as a whole and selected from the membership of the League of Women Voters; and one member from the Santa Clara County Health Advisory Commission. All members shall serve four-year terms, except that three of the initial members shall serve three-year terms, and three of the initial members shall serve two-year terms. This is being done to have a staggering of terms.

To be eligible to serve on the Committee, an individual must be a resident of Santa Clara County, is not serving as an elected official, and resides in the jurisdictions that they represent.

The County will seek nominations for committee members in January 2009, with initial appointments to occur before July 2009.

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