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August 18, 2011

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President Christina Olague
San Francisco Planning Commission
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

To President Olague and Members of the San Francisco Planning Commission,

On behalf of APA Family Support Services, I am writing to voice our support for California Pacific Medical Center's (CPMC) plans to build two, seismically safer hospitals – one at the location at Van Ness Avenue and Geary Street and one at its St. Luke's Campus south of Market, as well as renovating its Davies Campus in the Castro. CPMC's ambitious & well thought-out plans to rebuild our city's health care facilities will not only develop a citywide system that serves all neighborhoods in San Francisco, but will ensure our city is prepared and well-equipped to respond to a major earthquake.

APA's mission is to promote healthy Asian and Pacific Islander (API) children and families by providing family support services to prevent child abuse and domestic violence. APA also advocates for culturally competent services for Asians and Pacific Islanders through education, community building, and leadership development. Our agency started at San Francisco General Hospital more than 20 years ago to ensure healthy outcomes for immigrant, API women and newborns. APA is the only hospital-based agency offering in-home family support services specifically for API families and children. We are partners with the Bayview Child Health Center, which is operated by CPMC.

Mai-Mai Ho, APA's former Executive Director, participated in the Community Outreach Task Force for the St. Luke's Blue Ribbon Panel – a diverse coalition of health, union, community, and city leaders tasked with developing a consensus road map for a sustainable St. Luke's. She supports the panel's recommendations and CPMC's plans to rebuild the hospital into a facility that will support 21st century best practices in health care delivery and provide patients and employees with the safe and modernized building they deserve.

Health care is approaching 20% of our economy. We need to be concerned about the availability of the best of care for our residents with state-of-the-art environments. San Francisco cannot afford to let this large part of the City's economy risk viability. In fact, CPMC's rebuild project – which includes two new hospitals, one at Van Ness and Geary and one at the St. Luke's campus in the Mission plus major renovations at its Davies campus – will likely be a key economic generator - a tide that will lift all boats. The recent Affordable Care Act also means much of the Nation's 50 million uninsured will have access to affordable care and we will need safe, quality facilities to care for them.

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APA believes the CPMC's proposed hospital rebuild plan before you will help meet the health care needs of our clients and San Francisco residents. It will create jobs, and provide benefits that will be felt in the nearby neighborhoods and throughout the city.

Again, I encourage you to approve this project without delay.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amor Santiago", is positioned above the printed name.

Amor Santiago, DPM, MPH
Executive Director

Cc: *Mayor Edwin Lee*
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