



Institute on Aging

Helping Bay Area Seniors Live Independently

October 14, 2011

Honorable Edwin Lee
Office of the Mayor
President David Chiu
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mayor Lee and President Chiu:

Although 21 years have passed since the Loma Prieta earthquake, San Francisco still does not have an acute care hospital facility that meets code requirements for sustainability in a major seismic event. California Pacific Medical Center's project, awaiting approval from the City to begin construction, will provide San Francisco with more than 40% of the necessary beds.

CPMC, after substantial review by the Health Commission has submitted its Institutional Master Plan for review by the Planning Commission. Once the Planning Commission has approved CPMC's draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), CPMC will submit the Master Plan to the Board of Supervisors for granting of entitlements so that construction can begin.

With the incorporation of St. Luke's Hospital into the CPMC system and acceptance of the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations to rebuilding that campus, CPMC has shown significant commitment to increasing accessibility to health care for vulnerable San Francisco populations. A CPMC facility centrally located at Van Ness and Geary would increase access for residents of the Tenderloin and the nearby high population density areas of the City. Because of increasing numbers of elderly residents in the neighborhoods of the Van Ness and Geary campus, as documented by the Planning Department, we at the Institute on Aging believe it would benefit the community if the CPMC project moved forward expeditiously.

In addition, we are pleased that the new St. Luke's campus plan calls for a center of excellence in geriatric services and that CPMC has committed to additional skilled nursing facility beds in the community. So, speaking as an advocate for health services for the elderly residents of San Francisco, IOA strongly supports CPMC's request for approval.

Speaking as well as a former Director of Public Health in San Francisco, I remain deeply interested in ways to promote access to safe and high quality health care. I therefore urge you to approve entitlements for the rebuilding of St. Luke's and the construction of the new CPMC campus at Van Ness and Geary.

Respectfully,

David Werdegar, MD, MPH
President and CEO

bcc: John Golenski