

State court upholds dissolution of East Bay healthcare district

by Phillip Lewis March 15, 2022 Global Circulate



A small East Contra Costa-based healthcare district has lost its judicial appeal to keep operating.

The California Supreme Court denied Los Medanos Community Healthcare District's appeal last week, resulting in its dissolution as of March 10.

Not affected is the operation of the Pittsburg Health Center, which the Contra Costa County Health Services department has run since 1998 and remains open with no changes to regular, ongoing services for patient care, according to officials.

Formed by a vote of local residents in 1948 to build and run a community hospital, the district has continued to operate even after Los Medanos Community Hospital closed in 1994. Since then, the district has overseen the distribution of various grants to health-related local programs, a task that critics say Contra Costa County could do with fewer costs.

“The court action means we can lower overhead costs significantly and increase grant funding for the benefit of residents’ healthcare priorities and needs in the former District area,” Supervisor Federal Glover, whose District 5 represents the communities, said in a news release. “We will be able to make a bigger difference for our residents.”

The healthcare district had served a largely disadvantaged community of more than 97,000 people in Pittsburg, Bay Point and parts of Antioch, Concord and Clayton, whose residents pay it special taxes. It also was one of the major contributors to the Pittsburg RotaCare clinic, which provides free medical services to the uninsured.

But several critical grand jury reports criticized the district, saying it spent too much on administrative costs, duplicated services and didn't effectively track its programs.

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors first asked LAFCO – an agency partly responsible for streamlining government entities – to dissolve the district and transfer all of its assets and debts to the county in 2018. LAFCO approved the action on Sept. 12, 2018, but the district responded by obtaining 10,594 valid protest signatures to stop dissolution, though it was later told the effort came up 419 votes short.

A coalition of residents and nonprofits tried to save the district, holding rallies and posting on social media, suggesting the district funds community programs that would otherwise not get funded.

They also opposed the Assemblyman Jim Frazier’s proposed 2021 bill, [AB903](#), to eliminate the district, which later died in a state senate committee.

The county superior court, though, twice sided with the district in 2019 and in 2020, but LAFCO appealed and the recent state supreme court action sealed the dissolution order.

“This has been a thoughtful process to ensure that the community’s needs and concerns are addressed,” Supervisor Karen Mitchoff, board chair, said. “The county will allocate 90% of funds to health-related programs and establish a reserve fund to help ensure that programs are sustainable moving forward.”

In preparation for the transfer, last week the board of supervisors established the Los Medanos Healthcare Advisory Committee, which will make recommendations for grant funding to meet healthcare priorities of residents in the former District area.

The committee will be composed of seven members, including five community members who work or live in the Los Medanos area and two healthcare professionals.

“The targeted, coordinated approach to how we focus funding will help us do more for residents in the former District area to improve their health and how they receive healthcare,” Glover said.

Patient care and services at the Pittsburg Health Center will not be impacted, officials said, noting patients should continue to schedule their medical appointments and seek services at the Pittsburg Health Center as is normal.



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California ◇ Contra Costa County

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Press Release

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) announced that he secured over \$65 million in federal funding for 29 projects across the Bay Area. These projects were included in the bipartisan FY 2022 appropriations package that passed the House yesterday. The President is expected to sign the bill into law next week after it passes the Senate.

“I am proud to have secured funding for projects in the Bay Area to improve our water and transportation infrastructure, support health care services, and make our communities safer,” **Senator Padilla said.** “This



We are also investing in projects that will increase California's capacity to treat patients and deliver mental health services."

Projects across the Bay Area that will receive federal funding include:

- **\$33 million to Combine both the 940th Squadron Operations and the 940th Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Beale Air Force Base in Santa Clara County**

This funding will help combine both the 940th Squadron Operations and the 940th Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Beale Air Force Base. Construction of this facility is critical to sustaining the KC-135 aircraft refueling mission that operates out of Beale and will create good-paying construction jobs. A modern facility will help ensure the sustainment of the aging KC-135 platform at Beale AFB and the safety of all airmen at the facility.

- **\$3.6 million for the California State Coastal Conservancy's Resilient San Francisco Bay Pilot Program**

This funding will help expand the Coastal Conservancy's pilot program, in conjunction with the US Army Corps of Engineers, to test for the beneficial use of dredged sediment to prevent erosion of shoreline and provide flood risk management.

- **\$3.5 million for the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Upper San Leandro Drinking Water Treatment Improvement Project**

This funding will bolster regional drinking water reliability and quality, and improve treatment processes at the Upper San Leandro Water Treatment Plant.

- **\$2.7 million for the Santa Clara Infrastructure Improvement Project**

This funding will support a project to enhance safety, improve mobility, and reduce vehicle emissions by implementing high-priority bicycle projects along De La Cruz, Lick Mill, and Scott Boulevards.

- **\$2 million for the 7th Street Connection Project in Oakland**

This project aims to improve pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle, and public transit connectivity between West Oakland, Downtown Oakland, and the Oakland waterfront. The project will construct protected bike lanes, widen and provide lighting and accessible ramps to sidewalks, improve crosswalks, and install and maintain traffic lights to improve transit and safety.

- **\$2 million for the Crow Canyon Road Iron Horse Trail Bicycle-Pedestrian Overcrossing**

This funding will support the construction of an overcrossing to improve the safety of cyclists and pedestrians crossing Crow Canyon Road on Iron Horse Trail.

- **\$1.6 million for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project**

This funding will support a US Army Corps of Engineers study to identify flood risk management and ecosystem restoration options for the South San Francisco Bay Shoreline Project. The goal of the Shoreline Project is to protect the parts of Santa Clara County's shoreline with the highest potential damages and



- **\$1.5 million for the City of Hayward's Stack Center**

This funding will support a new center to provide wraparound services including health, education, recreational, and career training services.

- **\$1.5 million for a New Fire Station in Brentwood**

This funding will support the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District's efforts to construct a new fire station in Brentwood.

- **\$1.2 million for Oakland's Mental Health Resilience Project**

This funding will develop a comprehensive mental health-focused, trauma-informed support system for Oakland families and seniors most impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The goal of the program is to create systems of mental health care across all City program services, from Head Start to Senior Servi

- **\$1.1 million to Expand Contra Costa County's Mobile Crisis Response Team**

This funding will help Contra Costa County to expand its Mobile Crisis Response Team to ensure residents receive a timely response to behavioral health crises, anytime, anywhere in the county. The response provides residents with immediate crisis stabilization and support, and connects them to appropriate community services. Additional staffing will help address gaps in the county's existing crisis response system and ensure the community's most vulnerable residents have access to timely crisis response services.

- **\$1 million for Levee Construction at Bel Marin Keys in Marin County**

This funding will support U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction on the levee at Bel Marin Keys, which is necessary to prepare the site to receive dredged material and ultimately be opened up to the Bay.

- **\$1 million for Contra Costa County to Develop a Crisis Hub to provide Mental Health Services**

This funding will help develop a Crisis Hub to serve as an integrated response center with crisis call center capacity, remote crisis intervention services, a dispatch system to deploy community crisis teams, and a crisis treatment center responsive to a variety of mental health, substance use, or complex, co-occurring conditions. Staff would be specialists in addressing mental health and substance use-related crises and would assist clients in accessing an appropriate array of supportive services following the crisis phase.

- **\$1 million for the City of San Jose's Mobile Crisis Assessment Team**

This funding will support the expansion of San Jose's crisis intervention training program and the establishment of a Mobile Crisis Assessment Team in collaboration with Santa Clara County Behavioral Health Services. This project aims to increase collaboration between the mental health system and law enforcement to improve the response to incidents involving people with mental illness.

- **\$1 million for City of San Leandro Water Quality Protection**

This funding will be used to install trash capture devices in 18 locations throughout San Leandro to keep trash and debris from flowing into local waterways.



educational program, aimed at ending violence.

- **\$1 million for Veterans Memorial Buildings Improvements in Contra Costa County**

This funding will support improvements to make Veterans Memorial Buildings in Contra Costa County more energy-efficient, environmentally healthy, and safer for the public to utilize.

- **\$900,00 for the Vallejo Community Mobile Mental Health Response Unit**

This funding will support the Vallejo Community Mobile Mental Health Response Unit, which will provide trauma-informed mental health response and linkages to social services over arrest through the Vallejo Police Department and its community partners. The mobile mental health response unit will be staffed by civilian and clinical personnel to better respond to individuals experiencing mental health crises, as well as those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- **\$734,000 for a Community Responders Program in Oakland**

This funding will support the implementation and training of Mobile Assistance Community Responders in Oakland (MACRO), a program that sends civilians with medical and mental health training to respond to non-violent emergency calls in East Oakland. The development of MACRO is led by community organizations and experts with experience in mental health response, de-escalation, and working with Oakland's most vulnerable community members.

- **\$700,000 for Non-motorized Access on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard**

This funding will support a project to improve bicycle and pedestrian access along East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard between Interstate 580 and US Highway 101.

- **\$500,000 for the SOMOS Mayfair Community Center in San Jose**

This funding will support construction, equipment, and program services for SOMOS Mayfair's new community center in East San José. This community center will provide housing services, early learning and youth development programs, and programs and access to services for community residents, which include extremely low-income families, at-risk youth, and the formerly un-housed.

- **\$500,000 for a transitional housing project in the City of Alameda**

This funding will be used to establish 24-7, year-round temporary housing for unsheltered individuals and families until they are offered a safe permanent housing option.

- **\$500,000 for an Economic Mobility Resource Hub in the City of South San Francisco**

This funding will support the Economic Mobility Resource Hub Workforce Development Program, which will bring supportive, case-management driven workforce development services to North San Mateo County residents facing job loss and job insecurity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **\$450,000 for the City of Dublin's Care Center**

This funding will create a center to serve as a central entry point for assessment, triage, treatment, and care coordination for anyone seeking mental health treatment, regardless of insurance type or status.



Dihi (formerly Rockville Trails Preserve).

▪ **\$375,000 for Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District**

This funding will help the district develop and deploy a community engagement pilot program to improve parent participation and student performance in mathematics and English Language Arts.

▪ **\$350,000 Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office**

This funding will support the development of the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training program to educate first responders on responding to psychiatric emergency situations.

▪ **\$350,000 to Improve the Safety of Iron Horse Trail**

This funding will support a project to provide safety improvements and enhancements to the Iron Horse Trail across multiple jurisdictions, including the installation of a pedestrian bridge and bicycle lanes.

▪ **\$250,000 for the Covenant House California Homeless Youth Services Center in Oakland**

This funding will support the completion of a new youth homeless services center in Oakland, which will provide housing and support services to help youth exit homelessness to find safer, more stable housing situations.

A full summary of the FY 2022 Appropriations Omnibus package is available [here](#)



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