

# Dueling Hospitals Lawsuit Drags On

By: Terrence Vestal  
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MAMMOTH LAKES, CA

Northern Inyo Healthcare District and the Inyo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) are working on submitting briefs and other filings regarding a lawsuit against Mammoth Hospital over a physical therapy clinic in Bishop that is run by Mammoth.

LAFCO is an independent agency charged with ensuring orderly government formation and serves the city of Bishop and more than 25 special districts in Inyo County, including NIHD. The five-member LAFCO board includes representation from the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, the Bishop City Council and the general public.

LAFCO and NIHD filed the suit in August 2015, alleging that Mammoth Hospital is unlawfully providing health care in Inyo County by “contracting to operate and/or operating the Bishop Physical Therapy Clinic and the Mammoth Orthopedic Institute” at 162 S. Main St. in Bishop.

“We think there is about \$5 million a year in orthopedics that is going up to Mammoth,” NIHD CEO Dr. Kevin Flanigan said Tuesday. “That’s draining the tax revenue of NIHD. We offer as good or better services with our surgeons, diagnostic imaging, three new operating rooms and great rehab services. It’s not like we don’t offer the services.”

## **San Francisco Chronicle**

# **New City Manager Could Be Appointed Tuesday**

Bay City News Service

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RICHMOND (BCN)

The Richmond City Council on Tuesday could approve hiring a new city manager.

The council, in closed session, could approve a three-year contract with Laura Snideman, now assistant city manager of Fairfield. The contract as offered would give Snideman an initial base salary of \$255,000 a year (about \$343,000 in total compensation), to start Jan. 27. If the appointment is made, it would be announced shortly after the regular public meeting begins.

Snideman would succeed interim City Manager Steven Falk, who started work in August following the firing of Carlos Martinez in July. Falk had been the city manager in Lafayette for 23 years before his resignation in September 2018 over philosophical differences over the city's plans for housing development.

Snideman has been assistant city manager in Fairfield since 2014. Before that, she served briefly as executive offer of LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) of Napa County. She worked from 2009 to 2013 in Half Moon Bay, first as administrative officer and then for three years as city manager.

Tuesday's meeting begins at 5 p.m. (closed session) and 6:30 p.m. (regular meeting) in the Community Services Building, 440 Civic Center Plaza in Richmond.

## East Bay Times

# Terraces of Lafayette project returns for another round

**Lafayette's contentious Terraces plan, which dates back to 2011, is subject of Jan. 21 joint commission meeting.**



The proposed 22-acre site for the Terraces of Lafayette, a 315-apartment complex is photographed in Lafayette, Calif., on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019. (Anda Chu/Bay Area News Group)

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**LAFAYETTE** — A controversial proposal to build 315 apartment units in this city will be back on the table early next year.

On Jan. 21, 2020, the Lafayette Planning Commission and the Transportation & Circulation Commission are scheduled to discuss the project's potential traffic impacts and transit-related issues at a joint meeting.

Meanwhile, the city's staff report on the so-called Terraces of Lafayette project and a traffic impact study will be published on the city website no later than Jan. 7, according to a city press release.

Since it was initially proposed in March 2011, the Terraces plan by the O'Brien Land Co. has been marked by controversy.

It has been the subject of 20 public hearings, a lawsuit, a state court ruling and a failed referendum called Measure L that sought voter approval of a compromise plan of 44 houses instead of apartments. The property covers 22 acres off Deer Hill and Pleasant Valley roads near Highway 24.

Bryan Wenter, an attorney for O'Brien Land Co., said in an October interview that the "project is 90 percent of the way or more to the goal line." He also acknowledged an appeal to the Lafayette City Council "is virtually a certainty."

Michael Griffiths of grassroots Save Lafayette said the group has "always opposed the Terraces" and now will "have to see what transpires." Save Lafayette filed the lawsuit against the project and led opposition to Measure L.

Wenter has said any approval of the plan shouldn't lead to a referendum because the company is only seeking a use permit for the Terraces.

"As a matter of law, that would be an invalid referendum and it would not go anywhere," Wenter said. "There is no possibility of a valid referendum here."

Wenter also said 20 percent of the Terraces units — 63 in all — would be designated as low-income units.

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### **If you're interested**

For more information about Terraces, including the environmental impact report, go to the city's website at [www.lovelafayette.org/Terraces](http://www.lovelafayette.org/Terraces).

The city said that inquiries and comments should be sent to Luke Connolly at [lconnolly@ci.lafayette.ca.us](mailto:lconnolly@ci.lafayette.ca.us) and to Planning Director Greg Wolff at [gwolff@ci.lafayette.ca.us](mailto:gwolff@ci.lafayette.ca.us).

City offices will be closed for the holidays from Dec. 23 through Jan. 1, 2020, and will reopen on Jan. 2, 2020.