

## Coalition for a Downtown Hospital

### **Proposed recommendation for land use designation 3-22-10**

Since the threat of, and subsequent closure of San Jose Medical Center, the Coalition for a Downtown Hospital (previously Save San Jose Medical Center Coalition) has been actively pursuing appropriate necessary healthcare access for the increasing San José downtown community including new residents, workers, 100's of attendees at special events such as Cinequest, conventions, etc. Our research has indicated that Greater Downtown is the single area of greatest medical needs in the county with the highest infant mortality rate, highest concentration of medically at risk senior citizens and highest percent of low income residents.

When the 2004 San Jose Medical Center Closure Impact Study (funded by the City and County) was updated in 2007, the author Dr. Henry Zaretsky reiterated the likely need for a 200 bed hospital by 2020, but modified his earlier recommendation to make it clear that a future hospital should meet the demographics of the expected population growth Downtown and in North San Jose by 2020.

CoDH makes the following recommendation for future hospital sites:

We propose the following area where all sites can be designated within a category that includes hospital with specific exceptions such as residential and light and heavy industry - up North First St. from Taylor on the south to the 101 over pass on the north extending approximately two blocks east and west of First St, to include from First St. to Highway 87 between Taylor and Hedding.

Although representatives of the Downtown and North San José groups would prefer sites within their respective areas, it is acknowledged that this “middle ground” best balances the needs of each area for reasonable access to a hospital. However, both Greater Downtown and North San José should not be precluded from the possibility of a future hospital. Planning and land use tools should allow for appropriate sites to be rezoned based on the future demographics of the two areas and the future market needs of a proposed hospital. We wish to identify preferred sites along the Santa Clara St. and First St. Corridors through Downtown as well as other Downtown sites with good transportation access. Consequently, the Downtown should be designated within a category that includes hospital with specific exceptions such as light and heavy industry. (Note, residential is not included in the specific exceptions for Downtown.)

CoDH has made this “middle ground” recommendation also based on the City's need for reserving adequate larger sites for its economic development/tax base efforts. A potentially large set-aside in the heart of the San José's Golden Triangle could adversely affect the City's merged project area revenues and thereby compromise its ability to address other critical needs of the citizenry, e.g. affordable housing, SNI, etc.

Furthermore, it would be good judgment to conduct one more *SJ/City Hospital Committee* meeting, where the stakeholders (SC County etc. including our CoDH) can properly finish their set of recommendations for a future hospital, downtown and North SJ.

Or, at least, an opportunity to present our proposal with your observation and response. Other Committee members may or may not participate, as they choose.