

A HELIPAD AT SFGH IS NOT NEEDED IN THE EVENT OF A SAN FRANCISCO DISASTER:

San Francisco needs a comprehensive disaster plan coordinating the resources of all 10 SF hospitals in case of disaster, not a new helipad. Even the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury agrees. In its 2006 Disaster Plan Report, the CGJ expresses concern for a surge of patients requiring medical attention. This situation could overwhelm the capacity of all our medical facilities, requiring diversion to all Bay Area facilities. So a helicopter, which transports patients one at a time, can play a small role at best in moving patients. That's probably why the Report doesn't even mention a helicopter for this function, focusing rather on busses, ferries and other ground-based transportation options.

BUILD A HELIPAD ON A NON-RETROFITTED BUILDING?

Unbelievable as it may sound, SFGH is proposing to build a helipad on the Main Hospital which has not and will not be retrofitted to survive an earthquake. That means that in the event of our most likely disaster, an earthquake, the helipad may not even be available for use. AND, the hospital plans to build a new acute care Hospital on Potrero Avenue and will then demolish this helipad and build another helipad on the roof of the new hospital at the cost of another \$6 + million.

KNOW THE FACTS:

SFGH is making an emotional appeal for this \$5.7 million dollar project. Money that could be better spent on increasing hospital facilities and staff. Here are the facts about helicopters and a San Francisco disaster scenario:

- o The City has identified 29 emergency helicopter landing sites spread over the City and located near existing hospitals for use in a mass casualty or disaster incident
- o A helipad is already planned for the new Mission Bay hospital and UCSF has stated it will be available for use in case of a mass casualty event
- o Due to unpredictable weather patterns, there are no guarantees it will be safe to land or take-off when needed
- o Helicopters have very limited capacity and thus cannot play a big part in a disaster
- o What we really need are more beds, supplies and staff located all over the City since no one knows where a disaster will strike

SUMMARY: The Hospital wants to spend \$5.7 million to build a helipad on a non-retrofitted building that may not even survive our most likely disaster. Wouldn't that money be better spent on facilities and staff we know will be available to us?



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