



LAGUNA HONDA
HOSPITAL AND REHABILITATION CENTER

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Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center

PRESS RELEASE

San Francisco Opens California's First Green-Certified Hospital
Mayor Gavin Newsom, Congresswoman Jackie Speier
Usher in New Era of Care at Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center

San Francisco, CA, June 26, 2010 – Mayor Gavin Newsom and Congresswoman Jackie Speier officiated today at the opening ceremony for the first green-certified hospital in California, San Francisco's new 780-resident Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center.

The new Laguna Honda, a city-owned hospital and skilled nursing facility providing long term care and rehabilitation for seniors and adults with disabilities, received silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program on June 18.

Newsom and Speier joined Elizabeth Cutler, the president of Laguna Honda's Residents' Council, to cut a ribbon at the main entrance of the new hospital, opening the doors to a crowd of several hundred well-wishers for a first look at the new facility. Residents will move into the new buildings in September following licensing by the California Department of Public Health.

"The new hospital represents a continued commitment to long term care and rehabilitation for our incredibly diverse city," said Mayor Newsom. "With the new green design, we can also ensure that hospital recovery not only includes medical care, but a healthier environment."

Congresswoman Speier said, "I have experienced first-hand how invaluable this hospital is to our community, including to my own family. My grandfather spent the last years of his life at Laguna Honda and received the best care imaginable. I am thrilled that the new hospital will be able to care for our families when they need help and dignity the most."

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The hospital's three new buildings address environmental impacts in their design, construction and operation across six LEED-designated categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation and design process.

"Laguna Honda is reinventing itself," said Mitchell H. Katz, M.D., Director of Health. "The new campus gives San Francisco a center for long term care in a sustainable, community-oriented environment."

Laguna Honda Executive Administrator Mivic Hirose, R.N. said, "Our new buildings encourage holistic approaches. We're putting San Francisco on the map as an innovator in long term care and rehabilitation."

Ed Reiskin, Director of Public Works, said, "Providing world class facilities to San Franciscans is our highest priority at the Department Public Works and we are proud to deliver California's first green hospital at Laguna Honda. This project represents our department's commitment to developing sustainable infrastructure throughout San Francisco, and advancing our city's reputation as a leader in green building."

Luis R. Cancel, the San Francisco Cultural Affairs Director, said, "This is one of the largest and most significant public art projects the San Francisco Arts Commission has undertaken. I want to thank the Director of the Public Art Program, Susan Pontious, for her ten years of dedication to this project, and the artists for their incredible creativity in developing works that will truly enhance the lives of Laguna Honda residents. Thanks to their efforts the city of San Francisco now has a museum-quality public art collection that sets a new standard for art in a hospital setting."

The Buildings

The hospital is designed to foster community and offer its residents choices about the basic activities of daily living, including when and where to enjoy privacy and recreation.

The buildings take advantage of the healing qualities of Laguna Honda's 62-acre campus. They open onto a central park with raised planting beds accessible to people who use wheelchairs, an animal therapy center or petting zoo, an orchard, and an expansive meadow named for long time hospital benefactor Betty Sutro.

The buildings are linked together by a broad indoor boulevard, the Esplanade. Modeled after the main street of a small town, it is lined with places for residents, care-givers, volunteers, and visitors to meet and greet, including a community theatre, a café, art studios for painting and sculpting, a barber shop and hair salon, a multi-media library with a fireplace, a cafeteria with indoor and outdoor seating, and a tropical bird aviary.

Each of the 13 floors in the new buildings is a distinct neighborhood housing one of the hospital's specialized nursing programs. Residents will live in four 15-person households arranged around a

Great Room at the center of the neighborhood where daily activities will take place. Households have their own living rooms and share a dining room with one other household. Many bedrooms are single-person in suites of 2 or 3 people. Some rooms are shared. Meals are cooked in a central kitchen and served fresh from a galley kitchen in each neighborhood.

Artwork

A central feature of the new buildings is original artwork commissioned especially for Laguna Honda by the San Francisco Arts Commission under the city's art enrichment ordinance. One of the first in the country, the ordinance provides that 2% of the total eligible construction costs of public works projects be allocated for public art.

The Laguna Honda Replacement Program generated approximately \$3.9 million in art enrichment funds to help provide a warm, engaging living environment. The works of art were created to engage memory and encourage interaction. Most are tactile and wheelchair accessible.

Services

Laguna Honda's award-winning nursing care emphasizes programs and services that maximize independence, promote individual choice, and enhance connections with family, friends and community.

Among Laguna Honda's unique services are its restorative care program, named a 2008 Best Practice by the California Hospital Association; its Spanish and Chinese language communities, which enable monolingual residents to receive care in their native tongue; the only HIV/AIDS skilled nursing program in the San Francisco Bay Area; and a nationally recognized program for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Rehabilitation

As a rehabilitation center in addition to a skilled nursing facility and acute care hospital, Laguna Honda provides occupational, physical and speech therapy for people living with the effects of stroke, traumatic brain injury, neurological disorders, chronic illnesses and other disabilities.

The Laguna Honda Rehabilitation Center includes a wellness gym with state-of-art equipment, two therapeutic pools to assist clients to regain joint and muscle strength, and an outdoor terrain park featuring many typical street and sidewalk surfaces to assist clients learning to use wheelchairs and otherwise regain mobility after an injury.

Funding

The new Laguna Honda was funded by \$323 million in general obligation bonds and interest, \$141 million in revenues from the settlement of city consumer protection lawsuits brought against the tobacco companies, and \$120 million in certificates of participation, a form of security. Total financing was \$584 million.

Mission

A civic icon since 1866, when it opened to care for one of the first generations of San Franciscans, the Gold Rush pioneers, Laguna Honda is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the country, representing San Francisco's extensive commitment to long term care and rehabilitation for a culturally diverse safety net population.

Project Credits

The new Laguna Honda is a project of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Ground-breaking was in 2003. Design was by the joint venture of Anshen+Allen Architects and Stantec Architecture. The general contractor was Turner Construction Co. The hospital replacement program was managed by the San Francisco Department of Public Works.

Laguna Honda is a member of the Center for Health Design, a non-profit organization that champions evidence-based design for healing environments.

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