



Open Letter to Our Community from Martha Marsh and Christopher Dawes

The Stanford University Medical Center Renewal Project has reached a significant milestone—the publication of a comprehensive Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) prepared by the City of Palo Alto. We are very pleased that this important document is now available for public review and comment. This represents significant progress toward assuring that Palo Altans will continue to have access to vital medical services in modern, seismically safe facilities.

In the upcoming months, the City will accept public comments and then prepare a Final EIR, which will provide essential information for City Council consideration in making the decisions necessary to permit the Renewal Project to go forward.

An extensive and thorough analysis of the project and its potential impacts has been underway for nearly three years. Since August 2007, the City through its formal process, and the Hospitals through informal outreach to community groups, have conducted more than 200 meetings to present the plans to expand Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and rebuild Stanford Hospital.

As we approach the fourth year of the review process, we wish to underscore the sense of urgency we feel to keep the project moving forward. Our Emergency Department was built for less than half the number of patients who come to us now every day and both our hospitals frequently reach full capacity. In addition, the State of California has mandated that all hospitals meet the highest level of seismic safety standards and we must comply with the law.

When a family medical emergency, local disaster, earthquake or serious illness occurs, we all want assurance that the hospitals we rely upon will be there for us. We want the best care when it matters most, in an environment designed for 21st century medicine that is comfortable for both patients and families. Stanford Hospital and Packard Children's Hospital are dedicated to meeting those needs, but need your involvement at this critical time.

For more information on how to get a copy of the DEIR, please visit the City of Palo Alto website at www.cityofpaloalto.org. Additionally, to assist in understanding and public discussion of the Draft EIR, we will be publishing a *Guide to Key Community Issues for the Stanford University Medical Center Renewal Project*. This guide will be published after June 1 and will be available at www.stanfordpackard.org. Printed copies may be requested by calling our outreach coordinator at (650) 725-2960.

We are truly grateful for the many expressions of support we have received from concerned community members. We appreciate your participation in the process to date and thank you for taking the time now to help ensure that Palo Alto continues to have the finest health care anywhere right at its front door.

Sincerely,

Martha H. Marsh
President and CEO
Stanford Hospital & Clinics

Christopher G. Dawes
President and CEO
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital