

Satellite Medical Facility (Thornton Hospital)

July 13, 1988

UCSD SATELLITE MEDICAL FACILITY BACKGROUND

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The campus hospital will be a satellite medical facility of the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest, with 120 of the Medical Center's 447 licensed beds transferred to the satellite facility. The hospitals will operate under common license and management.

The \$74.147 million facility will be built on a 40-acre university- owned site east of Interstate 5, across the freeway from the School of Medicine. The project will be funded with external financing.

"The concept of one Medical Center with two sites will provide us greater flexibility in programming for the benefit of our patients, and allow us to care for more undercompensated patients while maintaining the financial stability of the institution," said UCSD Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Gerard N. Burrow.

"The proximity of a hospital to the enormous concentration of research expertise on campus will create a stimulating environment for medical progress," said Burrow. "This arrangement will facilitate the transfer of scientific knowledge to clinical medicine--from the laboratory bench to the bedside, with ideas and questions flowing back to the laboratory for further exploration. Such interaction leads to greater opportunities for biotechnology transfer, which has been so important for the economy of San Diego."

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The satellite medical facility will contain 108 general medical- surgical beds and 12 critical care beds. An ambulatory care center that will house a broad spectrum of specialties will be built adjacent to the hospital. Both facilities will contain conference and teaching space to accommodate the School of Medicine's academic programs.

Medical services offered at both hospitals will be available to all patients. To avoid duplication of costly services, certain programs will be offered at only one site. For example, many of the regional and highly specialized medical services offered by UCSD will continue to be based at the UCSD Medical Center, including the Trauma Unit, Burn Center, Transplant Center and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

With the transfer of 120 beds to the satellite medical facility, the number of beds at the UCSD Medical Center will decrease to 327, allowing for critically needed improvements to the hospital.

"This transfer will help solve the space problems at the Medical Center by decompressing the severely overcrowded facility," said Michael R. Stringer, associate vice chancellor for health sciences and director of hospitals and clinics at UCSD. "The current situation provides only 778 square feet of total hospital space per bed, which falls short of the standard 1,000 square feet for a community hospital and 1,500 square feet for a university teaching hospital. With the campus facility, we could provide in both hospitals adequately sized rooms

and amenities, enhanced tertiary centers of excellence, and the development of new centers as new technologies emerge.

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"The development of the satellite facility will also help us meet the needs of San Diego's growing population, especially in the northern section of the county," he said.

This project is the result of several years of intensive research and planning to address the problem of overcrowding at the UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest, and to develop a system that will enable UCSD to continue to meet its educational, patient care and research commitments. The transfer of beds to a campus-based hospital was determined to be the best of several alternatives studied over the last three years.

Because of its physical limitations, the UCSD Medical Center cannot presently operate the full number of beds for which UCSD is licensed. The satellite medical facility will allow utilization of all licensed beds, increasing the number of patients in the system.

The hospital will also improve access to the UCSD health care system for the growing population in the North City/North County areas. The increase in available beds and location of the facility will allow UCSD to achieve a critical balance between privately insured and under-insured patients, and actually increase the number of under-insured patients the hospital can treat, according to planning projections.

Schematic designs for the hospital have been prepared by the project's executive architects, Stone, Marraccini, and Patterson of San Francisco. The building will contain 148,025 assignable square feet, with a sandstone- texture exterior that will complement the surrounding canyon setting. The entrance will be a three-story glass atrium that will connect the nursing unit and the diagnostic-treatment center.

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