

April 16, 2024

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
San Jose, California

Reference: Item 9: Emergency Medical Services Agency relating to the reduction of trauma and specialty care services at Regional Medical Center of San Jose

President Ellenberg and Honorable Supervisors,

I am writing to urge the Board of Supervisors to do everything possible to keep the trauma and specialty care services at Regional Medical Center of San Jose.

This hospital is the closest one to my home and the one an ambulance would drive to in an emergency situation. As elderly residents under doctors' care, it is very feasible I or my husband could have an emergency situation that would necessitate these emergency services. The less miles an ambulance would need to drive, the more likely we could survive.

The late Eastside activist and advocate Sofia Mendoza decades ago led our community to fight for equitable healthcare in our community. Back then our community members did not have healthcare in the area. One of the options offered was to be bussed to Valley Medical Center for healthcare. The community rejected that idea. I see the proposal to eliminate some critical emergency services at Regional Medical Center of San Jose as a step back to those times where we did not have equitable healthcare.

Please do everything possible to keep equitable healthcare for our community in our community.

Thank you,

Elma Arredondo
Resident of Eastside in District 2



Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Clara
70 W. Hedding Street – 10th Floor, East Wing San José, California 95110
Sent via electronic mail

Dear Board President Ellenberg and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

Re: Item 9, Reduction of trauma services at Regional Medical Center

On behalf of Latinos United for a New America (LUNA), we write this letter to support efforts to keep the Regional Medical Center's trauma and cardiac services open and available to residents. Eastside San José residents face inequities around housing, air quality, and now healthcare. The Santa Clara County Supervisors have to take the opportunity to ensure that we are not taking away crucial services from communities who need it the most.

Our organization works with 6 different neighborhoods in eastside San Jose. Three of these chapters are involved in our Air Quality campaign and are currently involved in our goal of installing a Tree Barrier at the Intersection of Highway 101 and Highway 2800. Many of the members involved are involved because they have seen how these environmental factors have impacted their health, the health of their families, and of their neighbors. They are seeing a rise in heart disease and strokes. Closing the RMC's trauma and cardiac services on top of already having felt the impact of cutting specific services such as labor and delivery, would leave many in dire situations .

As one of three Adult Trauma Centers in the county, RMC assumes a substantial role in trauma patient care, seeing an average of 2,450 trauma patients annually. These patients could die or have worse outcomes if they had to get to a hospital further away. This closure would have a disproportionate effect on vulnerable communities and potentially exacerbate existing healthcare disparities by impacting low-income communities of color in East San José. Cutting these essential services could result in delayed access to essential services and could lead to longer transport times, delayed care, and potentially increased morbidity and mortality rates.

We urge you to do everything within your power to engage with HCA and applicable regulators to prevent this closure. Please consider the growing families and communities that are here in Eastside San Jose.

Thank you,
Team at *Latinos United for a New America*

From: [Amy Nguyen](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment for 4/16/2024 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 12:40:02 AM

Hello,

This email contains my public comment for the Board of Supervisors meeting at 9:30 AM on April 16th, 2024, regarding agenda item number 9.

First off, I'd like clarification on the wording of the agenda. Quoted directly from the Agenda Packet, it says the Board will hear from Emergency Medical Services Agency on "the reduction of trauma and specialty care services at Regional Medical Center of San Jose," but according to a news statement from Regional (<https://regionalmedicalsanjose.com/about/newsroom/trauma-and-stemi-programs-closing-effective-august-12-2024>), there is *no reduction* but rather, two whole programs will *close entirely*.

Secondly (and this relates to my first point above), I'd like to know if/when the Draft Impact Assessment will be made available to the public. I could not find this document as a supported material on the website.

I find it unlikely that there is apparently such decline in utilization of trauma and STEMI services that Regional opted to shutter them completely, but to go with their conclusion, I would like to hear how the Board (alongside Emergency Medical Services, doctors at Regional, etc.) plans to move forward.

Lastly, I offer my apologies that I cannot attend in-person nor via Zoom.

Thank you.

Amy N.

From: [Lorena Chavez](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [District1](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 9 – Public Comment Regarding Regional Medical Center Closure of Specialty Services
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:44:57 AM

To whom it may concern,

Currently, Regional Medical Center is the ONLY hospital located in East San Jose. I ask that you prioritize the health of our residents in East San Jose and ensure some of our most vulnerable community members have the support they need.

The removal of critical services will negatively impact East San Jose and South County. Regional Medical Center has been a critical lifeline for our East San Jose and South County residents – this closure and delayed access to receiving critical lifesaving care *will* lead to increased travel time and transportation barriers for patients and EMS, resulting in *delayed care* which will inevitably increase the likelihood of complications or death to trauma patients, including our most vulnerable youth, and critically ill community members.

The systematic closure of health services at Regional Medical Center has already closed include pediatric and labor and delivery services, and now the future closure of life-saving trauma, stroke, and heart attack services will have devastating and disproportionate impacts on our most vulnerable communities that will further exacerbate existing healthcare services. **Please do what is right for all of our communities.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,

--

Lorena Chavez
Board Member, East Side Union High School District
[Twitter](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

From: [Kristina Pistone](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Comment on 4/16/2024, Items #9-10, 24-5381 and 24-5018
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:27:36 AM

Dear Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors,

Meant to send this follow-up from when I was perusing the agenda for item 11! I just also wanted to voice that 1) I am greatly concerned about the possibility of reduction in emergency services, because in many cases, minutes and seconds in response time can change the outcome, although I am acutely aware of the different ways that our healthcare system; and 2) my support to continued efforts to transition Reid-Hillview Airport to other uses, and especially for the county's efforts to work against leaded gasoline on a federal level. It's astounding that it's still something that's legal, considering everything we know, and have known for decades, about the horrible and lasting health effects of lead. I'm glad the county is finally working towards mitigating those effects both in our community and nationally.

Thank you,
Kristina Pistone

From: [Minh Pham](#)
To: [Chavez, Cindy](#)
Cc: [BoardOperations](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Item 9-Receive Emergency Medical Services Agency Report on the Reduction of Services at Regional Medical Center
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:21:54 AM

Dear Supervisor Chavez,

I hope this letter finds you well.

As a resident of East San José and a Trustee of the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, I am writing to express my deep concern and opposition to the potential closure of the Trauma Unit at Regional Medical Center. At this time, I ask for you to support the acceptance of the report of the Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) as a first step in the process of maintaining adequate emergency services in the East Side of San Jose.

East Side residents rely on the essential services provided by Regional Medical Center, especially the Trauma Unit, which plays a crucial role in ensuring the timely and effective response to life-threatening emergencies. The potential closure of this unit both jeopardizes the health and well-being of our constituents but also raises serious questions about the accessibility and availability of critical medical care in our community.

Furthermore, in my capacity as a Trustee of the TK-8 public school district that is most impacted by the closure of the trauma unit, the decision by Regional Medical Center to reduce their services potentially puts the staff and students of Alum Rock Schools in danger should the need for trauma services arise. In those situations, every minute counts in an emergency. A delay in getting appropriate treatment caused by having to send emergency patients to Valley Medical can mean the difference between life and seath.

I appreciate your opposition to the closure of the Trauma Unit and your support for the exploration of alternative solutions that would allow Regional Medical Center to maintain its commitment to serving the community. The acceptance of the report by the EMSA is an important start in that direction.

The wellbeing of our community is of utmost importance, and I believe that by working together, we can find a solution that ensures the continued operation of the Trauma Unit at Regional Medical Center.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

--

Minh Pham
Member, Board of Trustees
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District