



SB 1439 – Health Facility Land Exemption Act

Surplus land use exemption for Sutter Health in Sacramento

SUMMARY

SB 1439 creates an exemption in the Surplus Land Act for healthcare facility development, specifically for Sutter Health in Sacramento, CA, allowing the development of a state of the art cancer center on land owned by Regional Transit. This bill will help improve access to critical specialized healthcare for Sacramento and surrounding regions.

BACKGROUND

Current law outlines exemptions for how surplus land can be disposed which includes, but is not limited to, housing developments, specific government uses such as waste disposal or wastewater treatment plants, infrastructure projects including wireless facilities or utility sites. Current law ensures that surplus land is efficiently managed and utilized in a manner that aligns with community needs and public interests.

Sutter Health has established itself as a reputable provider of quality healthcare in many of our districts – in Northern California, the Bay Area, Central Valley, and Southern California. Of its 3.2 million patients served every year, Sutter serves over 1.2 million Medi-Cal and Medicare patients, and as Senate District 8’s population grows, so will these numbers. However, as the state’s population continues to grow, so too does its need for access to quality medical care.

THE PROBLEM

Sutter Health projects a significant shortage of both medical and surgical oncologists to serve cancer patients within the population they serve in Greater Sacramento over the next five years.

Currently, an estimated 7 million Californians live in areas with a provider shortage and experience an extensive delay in getting appointments.¹ Delaying

critical development for healthcare infrastructure exacerbates the obstacles patients currently face in receiving care. Patients needing oncology services face a greater delay in meeting with a provider and beginning treatment.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the state of California, with an estimated new 189,000 cases and 61,000 deaths reported every year.² According to a study from UC Davis, Sacramento County performed worse in cancer mortality when compared to the state average.³ There is a great disparity in getting access to critical, lifesaving care, especially for those who have Medi-Cal or Medicare.² Low-income patients are less likely to receive lifesaving treatment and experience higher death rates from a cancer diagnosis.²

THE SOLUTION

This exemption to Surplus Land Act will allow Sutter Health to develop a cancer treatment facility. Through this facility, Sutter Health will serve patients from the underserved community, who otherwise do not have access to the newest technologies and treatments.

Sutter Health invests heavily in the underserved communities in and around Senate District 8. WellSpace Health and Sacramento Native American Health Center are two Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) that count on investments from Sutter Health. These health centers serve our most vulnerable populations by providing them with competent, holistic, and patient-centered care. With the development of Sutter Health’s new cancer center, patients from these FQHCs will be able to receive the best therapies and treatments they would otherwise not have access to.

¹ [Let's Get Healthy California](#)

² [Cal Matters - Cancer Care in CA](#)

³ [UC Davis Community Needs Assessment](#)

SB 1439 outlines the following safeguards to ensure this public land will be used only for health facilities and will serve marginalized communities:

- Prohibit application to a parcel if it is identified in the sites inventory in the housing element for low income housing
- Require that the facility be a disproportionate share hospital or have a 340B designation
- Requires a deed restriction that the facility will remain a 340B or disproportionate share facility for 55 years
- If during this period, the facility is found to not be a 340B or disproportionate share facility, it would be in violation of the SLA subject and subject to a fine of 30% of the fair market value of the property

By accommodating more patients in Senate District 8 and offering critical, lifesaving care, we can provide individuals with early diagnosis and intervention, improving the quality of lives for Californians.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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SUPPORT

Sutter Health (sponsor)

WellSpace Health

Sacramento Native American Health Center

California Professional Firefighters

Sacramento LGBTQ Community Center

Mayor Steinberg, City of Sacramento

Steinberg Institute

The California State Building Trades

California Hospital Association

California Medical Association

Western States Council Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation

California State Pipe Trades Council

California State Association of Electrical Workers

Sacramento Association of Realtors

California Consortium for Urban Indian Health

Sacramento Economic Council