

County May Help Finance MGH Turnover

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While credit is tight in the current economic crisis, the County of Marin is evaluating whether to advance a \$20 million loan to the Marin Healthcare District as it assumes control of Marin General Hospital.

County Administrator Mathew Hymel wrote a letter to the MHCD board on September 2, 2008, stating the requirements the agency must meet to form a partnership and secure working capital for the transition period before July 1, 2010, when the Greenbrae hospital reverts from Sutter Health to district control.

Necessary considerations include:

- An appointed operating board.
- The maintenance of these healthcare services: labor and delivery, emergency, intensive care, trauma, sexual assault assessment, child protection, detox medical clearances, and in-patient mental health.
- A public health disaster preparedness program.
- A relationship with the Marin Community Clinic.
- Participation in the Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan.

Before executing a legal agreement between the County of Marin and MHCD, the county also wants evidence of a definitive turnover timeline, favorable terms

regarding the transition of information technology service plans and a blueprint for a retrofitted hospital.

"It is clear that the district can't borrow money on its own to finance a seismic retrofit," MHCD executive director Lee Domanico told the assembly.

Sharon Jackson, MHCD board chair, said that it was important for the county and district to formalize the financial offer by the October 14 MHCD board meeting.
