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### **VA Moves Forward with Selecting Sites for New Facilities In San Joaquin and Alameda Counties**

In the next step for the site selection for the new VA facilities in San Joaquin and Alameda Counties, VA has sent letters to site representatives notifying them of their selection status. Two properties in each county were recommended as preferred sites for acquisitions.

These decisions are part of a long, data-driven process that began five years ago when it was determined to relocate Livermore Campus programs to the Central Valley and East Bay to better serve veterans. Throughout the site selection process, criteria such as the geographic location of the veteran population, transportation, potential hospital partnerships, cost of land and availability of qualified medical staff formed the basis for all decisions.

A VA Site Selection Board made recommendations on the preferred parcel sites for the new VA medical facilities in the Fall 2009. The next stages of the process will include due diligence evaluation (site analysis and environmental assessments) on the preferred parcels and then actual property acquisition for the East Bay and Central Valley facilities by VA Real Property from Washington, D.C.

In the San Joaquin County, preferred sites include a land parcel adjacent to the San Joaquin County General Hospital campus and a land parcel located at University Park in Stockton. In the Alameda County, preferred sites include a land parcel at Technology Court in Fremont and a land parcel at South Grimmer Blvd. and Old Springs Rd.

A portion of the funding for the new Central Valley Outpatient Clinic and CLC major construction project was in the President's 2010 budget. In June 2009, VA selected HDR, Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif., to provide architectural and engineering services for the new Outpatient Clinic and 120-bed Community Living Center (nursing home) in San Joaquin County and the new multi-specialty Outpatient Clinic in Alameda County. Programming and design of the new facilities is underway now.

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Meanwhile, the VA Palo Alto Health Care System is expanding the leased clinics currently located in Stockton and Modesto and adding additional primary and mental health care capabilities. This will serve as an interim step until the new Central Valley and East Bay Outpatient Clinics can be opened in 2015.

Until the new Outpatient Clinics and CLC can be constructed, VAPAHCS will continue to operate, maintain and upgrade buildings and services at the Livermore Division. Once the new facilities are open in the central valley and east bay in approximately 2015, VA will evaluate the best reuse for the Livermore Campus.

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