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Mona Palacios

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mona Palacios, Executive Officer, Alameda LAFCo (510) 272-3894 or mona.palacios@acgov.org**Draft Final Study of the Eden Township Healthcare District Now Available**

The draft final special study of the Eden Township Healthcare District (ETHD), also known as the Eden Health District, is now available for review on the website of the Alameda Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), www.acgov.org/lafco. The special study reviews the services ETHD currently provides, its financial position including any future obligations, and a fiscal analysis of various governance options, including dissolution. The draft final special study incorporates public comments received by LAFCo on the draft special study and includes the project consultant's responses to those comments.

LAFCo will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6 pm at the Castro Valley Library located at 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley to consider accepting the final study.

For more information, please contact Mona Palacios, LAFCo Executive Officer, at mona.palacios@acgov.org or via US Mail at: 1221 Oak Street, Room 555, Oakland, CA 94612.

ETHD was formed in 1948 to finance, construct and operate Eden Hospital in Castro Valley, but the District no longer owns and operates the hospital. Currently ETHD provides grant funding to health-related organizations, oversees its investment fund, and owns three office buildings where it leases office space to various healthcare providers. The District covers Eden Township, which includes the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo, and the cities of Hayward and San Leandro. It collects no tax revenues, and derives its revenue from net income from its office buildings. More information about the district is at <http://ethd.org/>.

In recognition of the need for a more coordinated and efficient public service structure to support California's anticipated growth, the State Legislature established local agency formation commissions (LAFCos) in the mid-1960s. Among other duties, LAFCos are responsible for periodically reviewing the municipal services provided by local agencies under LAFCo jurisdiction. These service reviews, known as "Municipal Service Reviews" (MSRs), provide information to help LAFCo, other agencies and the public better understand the municipal service structure. In 2013, Alameda LAFCo completed an MSR of ETHD that concluded that the District should continue in its current form.

Critics, including the Alameda County Grand Jury, have asserted that ETHD should be dissolved. Earlier this year, legislation was introduced in the State Assembly affecting the District including one bill signed into law (AB 2737) that imposes spending requirements on healthcare districts such as ETHD. At its July 2016 meeting, LAFCo approved a request from the City of Hayward to prepare a "Special Study" to help determine the future of ETHD.