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**CONTACTS:** Keith Carson, President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, District 5, (510) 272-6695  
Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator (510) 272-6984  
Jerri Randrup, Communications Director, Alameda Health System (510) 437-4732

**ALAMEDA COUNTY JOINS ALAMEDA HEALTH SYSTEM TO DEDICATE  
NEW HIGHLAND CARE PAVILION IN OAKLAND**

OAKLAND – Today, Alameda County and the Alameda Health System dedicated the new Highland Care Pavilion, a state-of-the-art facility that is the completed first phase of the \$668 million Highland Hospital Acute Tower Replacement project and campus redesign. The project is a rebuild of the historic hospital's main facilities that marks the largest construction project ever undertaken by Alameda County. Completion of the entire project is scheduled for 2017.

The Highland Care Pavilion is a pivotal piece of the ongoing rebuild of the Oakland medical center that is the linchpin of Alameda County's public health system. The Pavilion not only offers state-of-the-art facilities for some of Highland's most important medical services, it promises to take pressure off Highland's emergency care services and serve a vital function in the hospital's new model for care under health care reform.

"This project represents an unprecedented commitment by Alameda County to the health of its residents," said Alameda County Administrator Susan S. Muranishi, one of several East Bay officials with a hand in the project who spoke at today's dedication. "Through the financial challenges and myriad demands for our services that have marked the past several years, our County never wavered from its goal of creating a world-class acute inpatient hospital on the Highland campus. Our vision and deep commitment to the health of our communities has become a reality with these outstanding new facilities."

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, whose district includes Highland Hospital, said: "Through this project Alameda County is ensuring that this community will have a first-rate health care delivery system for decades to come, a system that provides exceptional care to all residents of Alameda County regardless of their ability to pay."

Kirk Miller, President of the Alameda Health System Board of Trustees stated "Today underscores our commitment to continue growing and expanding to meet the health care needs of the residents of Alameda County; for patients who come to us for care now and patients who will choose our services going forward."

Completion of the Highland Care Pavilion is a very important milestone for the future of Highland Hospital, and for health care in Alameda County. The three-story, nearly 80,000-square-foot building, with 175 parking spaces, new meeting space and a modern cafeteria, will offer an improved patient and employee experience as well as increased accessibility to patients, families, visitors and conference guests to the teaching campus.

In addition, the Highland Care Pavilion will be home to a new Same Day Clinic that will provide an alternative to the Emergency Department for patients with urgent but non-acute conditions, which should shorten wait times for patients requiring care in the Emergency Room. This, in turn, increases access to care for patients – a primary driver of health care reform.

Ten of Highland's specialty clinics will move to the new building in May – including allergy, cardiology, chest, congestive heart failure, gastroenterology/liver, hematology/oncology, infusion, hepatitis C, and rheumatology.

Supervisor Wilma Chan, who chairs the County's Health Committee said, "This great new facility, the Highland Care Pavilion, provides a needed boost to our public health care system and provides the best opportunity to Alameda Health System to achieve the primary goal of health care reform, which is to improve access to quality health care for all residents."

Added Alameda Health System Chief Executive Officer Wright L. Lassiter, III: "Today is a strong sign that we are here to stay and here to grow. The pavilion represents our commitment to specialty care; services that many residents continue to have difficulty accessing across the East Bay. The state-of-the-art facility also signifies our commitment to new service options such as the Same Day Clinic, an alternative for busy families and patients who cannot get into a doctor's office for urgent needs."

The nerve-center of Alameda County's public health care system, Highland is also the only Level II Trauma Center serving Oakland and other communities at the County's northern end, where in 2009 more than 2,500 trauma patients were treated. In addition, its emergency department is the busiest in Alameda County, with more than 90,000 visits annually.

In addition to the new facility dedicated this week, the multi-phase Acute Tower Replacement and campus redesign calls for a new 9-story, 169-bed Acute Care Tower that will house inpatient and maternal and support services currently located in Highland's existing Acute Tower, which will be demolished.

The multi-year construction project has been a source of thousands of local jobs and continues Alameda County's commitment to sustainability and "green" building practices. The project includes a comprehensive energy plan that includes high-efficiency mechanical equipment and long-life high efficiency lighting, to reduce energy usage and minimize operating and replacement costs. In accordance with the County's Green Building Ordinance, the buildings will achieve a LEED-Gold rating from the US Green Building Council.

Highland, an acute care hospital, is a central part of the multi-campus Alameda Health System. AHS also includes the 80-bed John George Psychiatric Pavilion, 159-bed Fairmont Hospital, a skilled-nursing and acute-rehab facility, and a network of community clinics. AHS has operated as a semi-autonomous health authority with a Board of Trustees appointed by the Board of Supervisors since mid-1998, but its land and buildings are owned by Alameda County. In 2012 AHS received more than \$85 million in revenue from the voter-approved Measure A half-cent sales tax for medical services, plus more than \$106 million from Alameda County to subsidize its operations.

For more information about the Highland Hospital Acute Tower Replacement Project, go to [www.HighlandATR.org](http://www.HighlandATR.org).