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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CEREMONY TO DEDICATE NEW PERALTA OAKS FACILITY IN OAKLAND**

***NEW HOME OF ALAMEDA COUNTY CORONER'S BUREAU, PUBLIC HEALTH LAB AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME LAB***

Alameda County is hosting a public dedication on Thursday, December 4, to celebrate the completion of a major retrofit and redesign of its 3-story Peralta Oaks complex in Oakland. The facility will soon be the new home of three important Alameda County facilities: the Coroner's Bureau, the Public Health Department Laboratory and the Sheriff's Office's Crime Lab.

The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. inside the refurbished, 51,000-square-foot facility at 2901 Peralta Oaks Court, near Interstate 580 and just south of the Oakland Zoo.

The building is owned by Alameda County and was the home to its Department of Child Support Services for 20 years until it was vacated in 2007 due to the need for seismic upgrades. A recently completed \$31 million overhaul of the facility means that as early as January it will provide three key County offices with the expansion and modernization they need.

The project will allow for a long-anticipated upgrade for the Coroner's Bureau and Public Health Laboratory, which have operated in adjacent facilities in downtown Oakland for more than 70 years. Furthermore, it will allow Alameda County to co-locate three important offices requiring laboratory facilities into one complex near a major freeway, and thus accessible to all parts of the County.

Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, whose district includes the new Peralta Oaks facility, said, "I am pleased that this state-of-the-art facility is opening in District 4. This new dedicated space is critical to ensuring that County departments are operating at the highest level."

The upgraded facilities mean that Alameda County will have state-of-the-art equipment and safety systems in place to perform vital services that the community relies on the County to

perform. The Coroner's Bureau will no longer need to struggle with inadequate space and ventilation systems, while bereaved families will have more pleasant waiting rooms and spaces to meet with staff. The Sheriff's Crime Lab technicians will be using the latest equipment to perform forensic services for local law enforcement agencies, while vacating the current lab at the Eden Township Substation in San Leandro. The substation, in turn, will now have much-needed additional space at what is the headquarters of the Sheriff's Patrol Division.

For the Public Health Laboratory, added space and state-of-the-art equipment will mean more versatility and faster turnaround times in tests for disease that the County performs for local health care providers and to detect outbreaks of illness in the community.

"This is a great day for Alameda County," said Susan S. Muranishi, Alameda County Administrator. "Our residents can now be certain that vital services and important laboratory work we provide are being performed in first-rate facilities with the latest technologies available."