

## What you should know:

# 6 REASONS WHY A HELIPAD ON SFGH IS NOT NECESSARY.

- 1** Because the medical helicopters are all based in Concord or Santa Rosa, **helicopters will not be used to transport a patient, who has a trauma or accident in San Francisco.** Currently, ground ambulances in SF reach trauma victims in 4-10 minutes.
- 2** **92% of the proposed 700 annual landings at SFGH, are scheduled flights from another Bay Area hospital to SFGH.** These are private patients going to UCSF for heart surgery or to Davies Hospital or other SF hospitals for special procedures. About 400 will stay at SFGH for scheduled surgeries.
  - SFGH and its emergency department are already overcrowded and SF residents endure long waits for care. For every private patient flown in from another Bay Area hospital, the SF patients will have longer and longer waits for care. The Hospital has said they will not be hiring more staff to care for the increased numbers of patients.
  - SFGH is the safety net hospital for the poor and under insured in SF. It needs to focus its care on those patients. That is their Mission.
- 3** **There is no demonstrated need for trauma victims in other parts of the Bay Area to come to SFGH.** Currently no Bay Area Trauma victim is more than 10 minutes by helicopter from a Trauma I or Trauma II hospital. (Trauma II Centers have the same level of clinical care as a Trauma I Center ) For example, John Muir in Walnut Creek was just voted one of the top US hospitals, especially for spine and orthopedic care. SFGH was not even in the top 300.
  - SFGH is a Trauma I Center for pediatrics as well as adults.
- 4** **A SFGH helipad is not needed in case of emergency.** The City already has identified 29 emergency landing sites located across the City and near all 10 SF hospitals. These can be used if any one of those hospitals need to transfer a patient to another Bay Area hospital. They would also be used in case of a mass disaster such as an earthquake. This diversification of emergency resources is necessary as no one knows exactly where the next disaster might hit. The Bay Area Ferry system is being enlarged to respond to need for mass evacuations .
  - Recently, UCSF Mission Bay has announced that when their planned helipad is completed, it will be made available to the City for use in a disaster.
- 5** **Other dense urban areas, like NYC, do not have helipads on their Trauma Centers or hospitals.** Patients are flown to helipads on the river and transported to the Trauma Center by ground ambulance.
- 6** **The cost to build the helipad is now up to \$5.7-6 Million.** They also plan to DEMOLISH it in a few years and rebuild it on the new SFGH to be built on Potrero Avenue. SFGH is our only public hospital and it already cannot provide all the timely care needed. \$6 million could provide more doctors and beds for the patients who are already waiting for care.



# STOP HELIPAD

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