



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **COUNTY APPROVES PLAN TO REBUILD EDGEMOOR HOSPITAL** ***New Facility Will Be Worthy of Its Patients And Highly Skilled Staff***

The County Board of Supervisors approved plans to replace the outdated Edgemoor Hospital facility in Santee, with a state-of-the-art, skilled nursing complex that will be less expensive to operate and more comfortable for patients and the medical professionals who care for them.

The new complex will be built on 30 acres of Edgemoor's current 326-acre, County-owned property located just north of the existing Magnolia Street barn. The new 192-bed facility is expected to be complete in early 2007 and will be specially adapted to accommodate quadriplegics and traumatic brain-injured patients.

"When it opens, it will be a working testament to the County's commitment to care for the most vulnerable of our neighbors," said Dianne Jacob, Chairwoman of the County Board of Supervisors, who began to pursue the development of a new facility in 1998.

The County determined that it would be more cost effective to rebuild Edgemoor on another part of the current property, than to update its old buildings, some of which date back to the 1920s. The antiquated design of the current facility often presented challenges for caregivers, but the new design calls for many operational efficiencies including specially engineered rooms, elevators, and enhanced security measures.

"It is a wonderful occasion when the County can improve the quality of life for those special individuals who call Edgemoor home, and save taxpayers money at the same time," said Jacob.

Edgemoor currently houses 175 patients, many of whom have complex, debilitating conditions that require specially trained staff and services not found in other community settings. The average age of Edgemoor patients is 51.

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