



**County of Contra Costa  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
Memorandum**

**DATE:** April 1, 2014  
**To:** William Walker, Health Services Director  
**FROM:** Patricia Frost, EMS Director  
**SUBJECT:** **Update of Doctor's San Pablo (DSP) 2011 Report**

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I have reviewed the July 2011 "Study of West County Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department and Critical Care Access", prepared by the Abaris Group to determine if the variables or assumptions were still valid. The full report is posted at [http://cchealth.org/ems/pdf/west\\_county\\_emergency\\_report\\_july\\_2011.pdf](http://cchealth.org/ems/pdf/west_county_emergency_report_july_2011.pdf).

The report projected patient care impacts through 2015 and based its' conclusions on a projected hospital closure date of August 1, 2011. Current OSHPHD (2012-2013) hospital/emergency department utilization datasets and 2013 EMS data show utilization that is consistent with that described in the 2011 report. Therefore the report continues to reliably describe the impacts to West County and the Contra Costa Emergency and Health Care System. The key conclusions of the 2011 report continue to be valid:

- 1) The loss of DSP would be catastrophic to West Contra Costa County; it is one of only two hospitals in the region.
- 2) DSP represents 79 percent of the inpatient capacity in the region.
- 3) DSP provides approximately 60 percent of the ED care in the region.
- 4) DSP receives 62 percent of the regional ambulance traffic.
- 5) The remaining West County hospital would be inundated by this patient volume shift as DSP patients would need to go somewhere.
- 6) The remaining hospital is part of Kaiser and the general public typically perceives it as unavailable to non-Kaiser members.
- 7) The region already does not have enough needed ED treatment stations or ICU beds even with DSP.
- 8) West County ED waiting times will likely reach 10-12 hours.
- 9) Additional ambulance hours needed to maintain current EMS performance would cost \$2.5M annually.
- 10) Critical infrastructure would be eliminated to support a disaster. Remember Doctors' key role in the Chevron Fire response serving thousands of patients in that event.

In addition DSP is the only hospital in the West County with a STEMI (ST-Elevated Myocardial Infarction) Center. DSP provides 25 percent of the STEMI care in the county. Patient outcomes would be threatened and longer lengths of stay expected due to the resulting delays in arranging for intra-facility transfer or transporting patients to more distant STEMI centers. This critical asset would be a substantial loss to the healthcare system.

cc: Pat Godley, CFO