

Member, Board of Supervisors District 6 City and County of San Francisco

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"No Proposed Project" Supervisors Vote To Continue CPMC EIR Certification

San Francisco – After a robust seven-hour long hearing at tonight's Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisors aired serious concerns over the adequacy of the environmental analysis of California Pacific Medical Center's proposed hospital project. At the center of the discussion were concerns around traffic mitigations, narrow project objectives, and CPMC's lack of transparency on critical financial details. Supervisor Campos finally motioned to bring the decision back to the Board on the 31st, the last Board meeting before the summer recess.

Supervisor Kim stated in her closing comments, "The fundamental issue in certifying this EIR, in my humble opinion, is the elephant in the room, which is that there is no proposed project. The only sponsor of this project, has himself stated that there is currently no project without greater assurance and agreement to stronger language from project sponsor on a commitment to the operation of St. Luke's. And I commend the sponsor for making absolutely clear the interests of this City. A majority of this Board has made the same statement. This project and I believe the EIR hinges on a viable St. Luke's. In fact, that is one the thing that everyone appears to agree with, including the project sponsor, at least publicly."

It was made clear in statements from many of the Supervisors that the intent of the continuance is to allow CPMC time to present a clear and transparent process for addressing the real concerns raised at the hearing, including a commitment to meet directly with the ultimate decision-makers in CPMC's administration and reasonable access to CPMC's financials. Dr. Warren Browner, CPMC's CEO, is vacationing in Turkey, though CPMC representatives stated they were willing to work with the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to come to a resolution.

While the hearing itself is closed, the Supervisors will have another opportunity in two weeks to vote on appeal of the EIR.

Supervisor Kim said, "If I have to vote on this appeal tonight, I will have to vote to uphold the appeal, not certify this EIR and send it back to Planning. Now, I am glad that the project sponsor has announced at the hearing that they are willing to spend the next two weeks coming up with a structure for dialogue with the Mayor's Office and the Board-- one that I assume would get us to land on a project that can fully realize or optimally meet its project objectives. I do want to make clear, if we do not have a structure that is satisfactory and meaningful, we will have to vote on the EIR appeal in two weeks."

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