

Hospital district seeks public input on VS clinic plans

By Nick Baptists / The Valley Springs News / Friday, July 24, 2015

West Calaveras residents will have an opportunity to learn more about the new state-of-the-art medical clinic proposed for the southwest corner of State Route 26 and Vista Del Lago West when the Mark Twain Health Care District has a special meeting Wednesday, Aug. 5 in Valley Springs.

The Board of Directors meeting is scheduled 7:30 to 9 a.m. in La Contenta Golf Course's Vista Grille, 1653 State Route 26. The meeting is open to the public and coffee, tea and rolls will be served.

The Mark Twain Health Care District is in escrow to purchase approximately 14 acres at the intersection for the projected 18,500 square-foot clinic, according to Daymon Doss, the district's executive director.

The first half of the Aug. 5 meeting will include a presentation regarding the project, an update on the due diligence process the health care district is following regarding the proposed site and an update on the permitting process, Doss said.

The second half of the meeting will focus on community input and discussion, he added.

The project has already expanded from initial plans for a 15,000-square-foot facility. The additional 3,000-square-foot expansion is for a larger women's health component, Doss said.

In addition, more square footage is being devoted to a walk-in primary care clinic with extended hours in the evenings and on weekends, he said.

County officials and other interested government entities, such as Caltrans and the Calaveras County Water District, got a look at the proposal and opportunity to offer suggestions during a pre-application phase.

Doss called the pre-application "Very helpful" and the project is now entering the format application phase, which includes community input.

"If the community has questions, we'd like to answer them early rather than later in this phase," Doss said, hence the purpose for the Aug. 5 meeting.

The proposed clinic would replace the existing one located on the northeast corner of the intersection and has been deemed "much too small" by the district to serve the growing medical care needs for the community.

The site for the clinic is owned by Marvin Stark and zoned for commercial planned development along with planned parking.