

Friday, September 3, 2010

Highland Hospital set to start \$668M rebuild

San Francisco Business Times - by [Chris Rauber](#)

Alameda County Medical Center is finally moving ahead with a \$668 million rebuild of Highland Hospital in Oakland. Demolition of some existing structures has started, and a \$300 million bond issue is slated to go out in October.

The project is the largest construction job ever undertaken by the county, officials said. Alex Briscoe, director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, said county supervisors were willing to do so because of “the demonstrated excellence of ACMC’s current administration,” led by CEO Wright Lassiter III. In his five years with the public hospital, Lassiter has led an impressive financial and clinical turnaround, Briscoe said.

The multi-phase project, dubbed the **Highland Hospital Acute Tower Replacement**, is slated to be complete by 2017, when the current acute-care building will be demolished. Demolition of a 700-seat auditorium is well under way, and other demolition work is slated to begin in a matter of weeks. Some departments have already been moved to make way for demolition and construction.

All told, a \$430.8 million design-build contract with Clark Design/Build of California, awarded last November, involves demolition of six buildings on the current campus at 1411 East 31st St. and construction of two major buildings — the new 250,000-square-foot inpatient tower and a 75,000-square-foot satellite building — plus a front entrance and an interior courtyard, according to a detailed project description of the project shared by county and hospital officials with the Business Times.



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