

From: [Genevieve Flores-Haro](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [Venessa Teran](#)
Subject: Public Comment, Special Meeting, Item 9
Date: Monday, June 17, 2024 3:19:08 PM

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Subject: Urgent Appeal to Reconsider the Proposed Budget Recommendation to Close Essential Units at Santa Paula Hospital

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed budget recommendation to close the Obstetrics and Intensive Care Units at Santa Paula Hospital. As a resident of Ventura County, a trained doula, and the Associate Director for the Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP), I strongly believe that the closure of these essential units would have a devastating impact on the health and well-being of our community.

Having been involved in healthcare and health access for our Indigenous migrant community for almost a decade, I have witnessed firsthand the critical importance of accessible obstetrics care. The closure of the Obstetrics Unit would significantly reduce access to essential maternal healthcare services and lead to poorer health outcomes for pregnant individuals in our community. Expectant mothers need access to quality obstetrics care in their community and in their language.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to reconsider the proposed budget recommendation and explore alternative solutions, allowing the Obstetrics and Intensive Care Unit at Santa Paula Hospital to remain operational. Community-based organizations like MICOP can be thought partners in reaching and promoting current offerings from the hospital to community members if the units are being underutilized. Protecting and preserving these essential services is crucial for new parents' and babies' health and safety. We must prioritize people over profits and ensure that obstetric care remains accessible to all residents of the Santa Clara Valley.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

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Pronouns: she/her + they/them

Pronombres: ella + elle/elles

MICOP's mission is to support, organize and empower the indigenous migrant community in California's Central Coast.

Learn more by visiting us at: mixteco.org



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