

Dear Sutter Health CEO Sarah Krevans,

I am writing to urge you to meet with Berkeley leaders to discuss all options to save Alta Bates and keep a full service acute and emergency care hospital in Berkeley.

Having grown up in Berkeley, and now as the CEO of Sutter Health, you know first hand how important Alta Bates is to the well-being of local residents, Cal students, and to communities throughout the East Bay.

The COVID-19 crisis is a wake-up call, reminding us of the dangers of too-few emergency and intensive care beds. Wise public health measures and the cooperation of our community have kept infection rates manageable - so far - but with devastating economic impacts. The new surge in COVID infections is filling up hospitals once again, and capacity is threatened even in communities like ours, that have successfully implemented public health protocols.

In addition to the current crisis, Berkeley and the entire East Bay are bisected by the Hayward fault and vulnerable to earthquakes and catastrophic fires. If Alta Bates were to close, how many might be left without care in the next disaster?

The closure of Alta Bates would compromise access during an emergency, and even under normal circumstances would negatively impact healthcare for all East Bay residents, in particular the elderly, working families, and communities of color.

Our community has come to Alta Bates for decades - to deliver babies and receive emergency and other important care. In return, we ask that you accept the City of Berkeley's invitation, and work together to ensure the future of Alta Bates as a full service acute and emergency care hospital serving Berkeley and the larger East Bay community.

Sincerely,

