

# Sutter Waits on State for Santa Cruz Hospital License

Hospitals - Sutter Hospital

**F**ollowing a February 20 survey of Sutter Health's newly constructed hospital in Santa Cruz, state evaluators will reportedly finish a preliminary report of their findings this week, according to Joyce Lanphere of the California Health Department's Facilities Licensing Division.

While the state surveyors could have licensed the hospital upon completion of the initial site inspection, Lanphere said that state regulators needed additional time to file their report outlining the deficiencies they found. Then, Sutter officials will have an opportunity to prepare a plan of correction addressing each of the stated

deficiencies.

"Generally if they give us an acceptable plan of correction and if there isn't [outstanding] deficiencies, we would license them at the time we got the plan of correction," reported Lanphere.

Lanphere was not able to comment on the deficiencies discussed in the survey report because the report had yet to be made final.

Because the \$23 million facility is new, inspectors look to hospital administrators to present proposals concerning operating standards, proposals that must meet state health and safety codes. Included in the inspection is a review of employee records to assure that hospital

staff meet state credentialing requirements.

Once certified by the state for occupancy, the hospital will be inspected again at the end of the six month provisional licensing period.

Sutter Health of Sacramento officially opened the 60,000 square foot limited acute care center on January 25, almost 18 months after the center's groundbreaking. However, Sutter must have a state license before admitting patients. Sutter also owns the Santa Cruz Medical Clinic, which has offices open from Santa Cruz to Watsonville and is the largest multi-specialty physicians practice in the county. □