

# ✓ Ceremony for new hospital

Hospital - Watsonville  
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WATSONVILLE — After more than five years of planning and the purchase of the 207,000-square-foot Seagate property, Watsonville Community Hospital will break ground for its future home Thursday at Nielson Road and Airport Boulevard.

The ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m.

The new health center will have 100 beds, with an emphasis on private rooms, enhanced outpatient services and community outreach programs. In addition, the center will include space for a medical office complex and room for expansion.

The decision to relocate and rebuild the hospital followed an extensive engineering study of damage at its current Green Valley Road location after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

John Friel, president and chief executive officer of the hospital, said plans for the new facility are the result of joint efforts coordinated by Wayne Runestand, project manager for the hospital. Partner companies include architects Anderson Debartolo Pan, Turner Construction, Construction Management and Sugimura & Associates.

"We are committed to the people who rely on us for their care," Friel said. "The new integrated health care center, with its enhanced services and equipment, will put health care in Watsonville at the forefront of health care delivery in our country."

According to papers filed this week with the county recorder's office, the Seagate property sold for \$18,930,000.

The hospital employs more than 700 with a medical staff of 75 physicians.