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| PROJECT | HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER EXPANSION AND SURGERY AND EMERGENCY FACILITY REPLACEMENT |
| CLIENT | COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS |
| LOCATION | LOS ANGELES, CA |
| INDUSTRY | HEALTHCARE |
| SERVICES | ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING |
| WEBSITE | WWW.HUMC.EDU/ |

THE CHALLENGE

When Harbor-UCLA Medical Center planned to expand its surgery and emergency facilities with a new building, surface parking and helipad, they needed an experienced and responsive environmental planning team to help bring their project plans to life, and navigate the environmental regulations that apply to new construction and modifications to existing structures. FirstCarbon Solutions' (FCS) expertise in environmental planning and quality documentation made us the ideal candidate to assist with the environmental planning aspects.

Harbor-UCLA's Expansion Project sought to increase the capacity of their Medical Center by expanding and optimizing existing facilities. The new building additions would provide greater efficiencies through a more organized layout and separation of inpatient and outpatient services, resulting in a better patient experience and enhanced level of care.

The Medical Center would also have the ability to perform more patient procedures with the expanded Surgery and Emergency Facilities. As such, a temporary and subsequent permanent helistop near residential areas was needed. During construction the county had the opportunity to add a parking structure on campus. FCS was called upon to assist with environmental clearance through the preparation of an addendum to the mitigated negative declaration (MND). The parking structure would accommodate staff, patients and visitors.

The Surgery and Emergency Facility Replacement Project planned to relocate the existing emergency and surgery departments of the hospital into a new, state-of-the-art Emergency and Surgery Building. The new building would include an operating suite with 15 operating rooms; post-anesthesia recovery areas; outpatient surgery preparation and recovery areas on the second level; Emergency Department services for adults and pediatrics on the first level; as well as relocation of the existing Central Sterile Processing Department. The benefit to the patients would be a more organized and more effective facility that was easier to access and navigate.

These two construction projects had potential impacts on the local environment, therefore subjecting the project to government regulations, such as California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). How could Harbor-UCLA Medical Center best adhere to these often-challenging environmental requirements to move construction forward quickly?

OUR SOLUTION

FCS provided Harbor-UCLA Medical Center with expert environmental consulting services and CEQA documentation in the form of an MND for the Surgery and Emergency Facility Replacement Project. This included preparation of an air quality, noise and traffic/parking technical report. Our responsive team provided CEQA knowledge and pre-construction recommendations to identify potential issues and alternative solutions, such as the environmental parameters associated with the helistops. Our history in environmental planning allowed for the safe implementation of the temporary and permanent helipad, increasing Harbor-UCLA's emergency response bandwidth.

With the relocation of the Surgery, Emergency and Central Sterile Processing Departments to the new building, approximately 45,600 square feet of space within the existing hospital will be vacated. This vacated space will be remodeled and used to consolidate and expand other departments, including portions of cardiology/cardiac rehabilitation, echocardiology/electrocardiography, intravenous administration/chemotherapy, laboratory blood bank, neurodiagnostic/EEG and radiology.

THE FCS ADVANTAGE

FCS helped Harbor-UCLA Medical Center balance the goals of enhancing patient care through new facilities while complying with environmental regulations that apply to new construction. Our expert environmental planning services allowed Harbor-UCLA Medical Center to proceed with the best development plan that fully complied with regulatory and environmental requirements in a seamless and cost-effective manner, while improving the patient experience. Across the healthcare spectrum, FCS provides affordable expert services that allow these facilities to plan for enhanced patient care through better organization, ultimately leading to increased profitability.

DELIVERABLES AND RESULTS

Expert CEQA guidance

Timely pre-construction environmental consulting services

Guidance on construction placement to minimize environmental and residential impacts