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Blythe City Officials Push for Solutions Amid Financial Crisis at Palo Verde Hospital

BLYTHE, CA — With the future of emergency care in Blythe uncertain, the City is taking urgent steps to protect access to life-saving hospital services, partnering with regional and state leaders to stabilize [Palo Verde Hospital](#) operations. The City's decisive actions are in an effort to ensure the long-term viability of local emergency care for residents and address the ongoing financial crisis affecting the Palo Verde Health Care District (District)

Prompted by growing community concern earlier this year, city officials began investigating the hospital's fiscal challenges and advocating for urgent intervention. Representatives from the City have been actively participating in Palo Verde Health Care District Board meetings, posing critical questions and demanding transparency. Simultaneously, outreach to Riverside County and State agencies has focused on identifying collaborative solutions and securing vital support.

Mayor Joseph DeConinck formed an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez and Council Member Sam Burton, to coordinate these efforts and chart a path toward sustainable hospital operations.

"The people of Blythe deserve access to reliable, high-quality emergency medical care," said Mayor DeConinck. "Our City is fully committed to doing everything in our power to protect that access, working hand-in-hand with our partners at the County, State and Federal levels."

As part of this effort, the City formally requested a Municipal Service Review (MSR) from the [Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission \(LAFCO\)](#). The MSR, which will be presented at the LAFCO Board meeting on September 25, is expected to include key findings and recommendations aimed at helping the District overcome its financial obstacles and pursue a stable future.

[Riverside County](#) has emerged as a vital partner in these efforts, leading the organization of multiple working groups to support hospital operations, displaced staff and the broader community. The County's Housing and Workforce Team has already hosted a rapid response event and is working closely with the District to assist affected employees.

Further bolstering these efforts, [U.S. Senator Alex Padilla](#) recently announced the allocation of federal funding to support financially at-risk hospital districts, including Palo Verde. This funding — tied to the reinstatement of withheld Medi-Cal and Medicare payments — will improve the District's immediate cash flow. However, long-term recovery will require continued investment and strategic support.



In addition, a request for \$4 million in emergency State funding has been submitted to the Governor's Office. While this request is under consideration, State budget limitations mean the timing and availability of funds remain uncertain.

The City of Blythe reaffirms its dedication to preserving local emergency services and will continue to engage with residents, partner agencies and elected representatives to ensure a well-funded, functional hospital system for the future.

For continued updates and ways to get involved, follow the City of Blythe on social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

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About the City of Blythe

Blythe is a dynamic community known for its rich history and strategic position as a gateway between California and Arizona. The city is committed to fostering sustainable growth, economic development, and maintaining a high quality of life for its residents.