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City of Blythe Explores Options to Keep Palo Verde Hospital Open

BLYTHE, CA – The City of Blythe has reaffirmed its commitment to preserving Palo Verde Hospital after the Riverside County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) voted to move forward with steps to dissolve the Palo Verde Healthcare District Board. The hospital, currently operated under the District Board, is at risk of closure following its filing for Chapter 9 bankruptcy.

As part of its decision, LAFCO—led by Riverside County Supervisor Manuel Perez—requested a dissolution plan that includes establishing a successor agency and securing at least one year of operational funding to stabilize and restore services.

To respond to this urgent need, the County of Riverside, in partnership with the City of Blythe, has formed a joint working group tasked with developing the succession plan and ensuring continued access to healthcare for Blythe residents.

“The City’s top priority is ensuring that emergency room services remain available to our residents and that hospital employees remain informed throughout this process,” said Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez. “We will continue working closely with our elected officials at the local, county, state, and federal levels to secure the funding necessary to keep the hospital open and sustainable.”

“I am deeply grateful to the LAFCO Commissioners, Supervisor Perez, County CEO Jeff VanWagenen and County staff for their steadfast support of the Blythe community,” added Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez. “They understand the critical role Palo Verde Hospital plays in our city, and their partnership gives us real hope for a sustainable path forward.”

The next LAFCO meeting will take place on October 16.

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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.