



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Blythe Considering Emergency Funding to Keep Palo Verde Hospital Open  
and Calls on Governor Newsom for Long-Term Solution**

**Blythe, CA** — Palo Verde Hospital, the only hospital serving the City of Blythe and surrounding Riverside County region, faces imminent closure at 12 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, unless the hospital secures \$2 million by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 9, according to the Palo Verde Healthcare District (District).

The City will consider bridge funding at an emergency City Council meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, to afford the hospital one more week of emergency operations. This loan is contingent upon a change in hospital management, a defying factor determining if the hospital will remain open.

"We are determined to provide a future pathway for the hospital's operations" said Interim City Manager Mallory Crecelius. "However, we ask for urgent action from the Governor's Office. This is not a request for new funding; it is a plea to release funds the District has already contributed. Palo Verde Hospital is critical for this region, and we cannot afford to lose it."

In December 2025, the District paid its required share into a state Medi-Cal Voluntary Rate Range Program (VRRP). The hospital expected to receive \$9.9 million in return through this program to support patient care.

The District used a short-term working capital loan to make its required intergovernmental transfer. Despite this, the State has not yet decided whether this loan is allowed for the program. As a result, the hospital has not received the expected funding and has fewer than four days of cash remaining.

"This is a public health emergency that is happening in rural communities nationwide," continued Crecelius. "Without immediate state assistance, our community will lose its only hospital overnight."

If the hospital closes, more than 17,000 residents will be left without local access to emergency care. Patients with PPO plans would be forced to travel 50 miles into Arizona to reach La Paz Regional Hospital, while those with HMOs would need to travel 100 miles to John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital in Indio, CA, or other Coachella Valley hospitals. The closure will impact emergency response times, public safety and health equity for the entire community.

The District will hold an emergency meeting at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 9, to discuss the future of the hospital.

With little notice of this significant closure, Blythe calls on Governor Gavin Newsom and the Governor's Office to intervene immediately by authorizing the hospital to access the Medi-Cal VRRP funds it has already paid into the system.

Without state action, closure notices will be issued, patients will be diverted out of state or 100 miles away and Blythe will become one of the largest communities in California without a hospital.

For more information on this health emergency, [visit the City's website](#).