State paves the way for new Kaiser Hospital in Hillsboro

by Bend Weekly News Sources

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) on Thursday issued a proposed order to Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, Inc., granting a certificate of need for a 138-bed general acute care hospital to be located in Hillsboro at 19400 N.W. Evergreen Parkway. This 15-acre site is the current location of Kaiser's Sunset Medical Office Building. The capital expenditure for this project is estimated to be $280 million.

Project approval is contingent on two conditions:

Â· Kaiser must make reasonable efforts to make it widely known to the general public that the emergency department at the hospital is open and fully accessible to all members of the public regardless of their ability to pay, and;

Â· Kaiser must fully participate on the tri-county EMS and hospital systems planning teams. This includes incorporating and implementing the protocols and policies necessary to ensure full participation in the county emergency management plan and pre-hospital emergency care delivery system.

The order issued Thursday is a proposed order. Any affected party who takes exception to the proposed order may ask the ODHS Public Health Division to hold an informal hearing. If no request for a hearing is received by Feb. 5, 2007, the proposed order automatically will become final. State law charges DHS officials with reviewing proposals for new hospitals and nursing facilities to ensure health-care consumers don't pay for the cost of unnecessary facilities.