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Should Southern California receive less water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to preserve threatened fish like the Delta smelt?

Yes.

No.

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Posted date: 11/19/2007

CyberKnife Cancer Treatment Center Opens North County Office

Alvarado Hospital Contract Includes Raises for Nurses

By JAIMY LEE

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL STAFF

Less than two years after CyberKnife Centers of San Diego Inc. opened its first local office, the cancer treatment center launched its second location in mid-November.

The new Encinitas center is one of seven in California and 83 worldwide. The new site, located on the first floor of 477 El Camino Real, will provide the same robotic radiosurgery system that the Ruffin Road center in San Diego offers.

The opening of the new location was prompted by the 25 percent of patients who were commuting from North San Diego County for treatment, said Douglas Myking, executive director and chief financial officer for Radiation Medical Group Inc.

CyberKnife Centers was created from a partnership between Radiation Medical Group, Radiosurgery Medical Group Inc. and Western Cancer Center Inc. The technology, which is considered unique because it can treat nearly all forms of tumors non-invasively with little to no sedation, was developed in 1987 by Sunnyvale-based Accuray Inc.

In the next three months, Myking said the centers hope to be treating five patients per day at both locations. Treatment lengths vary for each patient, with an average of 3.1 visits depending on the type of cancer.

The center sees mainly prostate, lung and brain cancer patients at an average cost of \$16,000 for a single treatment, which is usually less expensive than surgeries or typically lengthier and more traditional radiation treatments, according to Myking.

For example, a prostate cancer patient will have four CyberKnife treatments during a one-week period, as opposed to 43 traditional radiation treatments spanning eight weeks. The center reported that it treated 15 cases during the past 12 months and, with the new site, it hopes to treat 46 cases total per year.

Eight employees were added to the current staff of more than 120 for the opening of the Encinitas center; the for-profit organization does not release data on revenues.

...

Hospital, Union Announce Nurses' Agreement: A four-year agreement that allows for raises, additional benefits and a commitment to safe staffing for the 350 registered nurses employed at Alvarado Hospital was announced Nov. 9.

The contract was in negotiations for several months between the San Diego-based

private hospital and the California Nurses Association.

It includes raises and wage steps up to 7 percent for the first year and an 11 percent average during the first two years; improved holidays, tuition reimbursement; and a hospital and union commitment to making safety for patients and nurses a priority.

"These are significant areas that allow us to ... offer a competitive wage and benefits package," said

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Diving for Dollars

First they swam. Now they crawl. The little underwater vehicles made by SeaBotix Inc. are diving deeper and taking on new tasks, while generating revenues for their San Diego builder.

Local Financial Services Industry Laying Off By The Hundreds

Financial services, a growth industry for the local economy in recent years, has been cutting staff at a faster rate this year as the upheaval in the mortgage-lending sector continues.

Chula Vista First Stop for U.K. Food Giant Tesco

The only grocer happy about Tesco's arrival here is Tesco, according to Lloyd Greif of Los Angeles-based investment bank Greif & Co.


Deep Sea Treatment for Superbug Holds Promise, Comes With Challenges

Scientists have long suspected that the sea holds the potential to

Harris Koenig, who has been the hospital's chief executive officer since Jan. 1. "We intend to extend our success and remain competitive."

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