

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – SACRAMENTO, CA
FEBRUARY 9-11, 2026**

CALIFORNIA SEISMIC STANDARDS FOR HOSPITALS

ISSUE: Under the current law, hospital buildings will be forced to close if they do not meet the state’s seismic standards by January 13, 2030.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group urges leaders in the Legislature and Administration to extend the hospital seismic compliance deadline, providing hospitals with the flexibility to retrofit and rebuild without compromising access to care. California’s health care investments should prioritize patients over infrastructure.

BACKGROUND: In 1994, the California Legislature established two sets of seismic safety standards for hospital buildings to ensure facilities can withstand major earthquakes. The first standard, initially required by 2008 and later extended to 2020, mandates that hospitals remain structurally sound and safe during and after a powerful earthquake, protecting patients, staff, and visitors from harm. As of 2025, nearly all hospitals have met this requirement. The second standard, set to take effect in 2030, goes further by requiring that hospital buildings remain fully operational following a major earthquake. Currently, only about one-third of hospitals are able to meet this more stringent standard.

Billions of dollars have already been spent to retrofit and rebuild facilities for patient care and to protect patients and workers, meeting the 2020 state standard. Only two thirds of the hospitals in California have been unable to meet the 2030 seismic standards requiring hospitals to be “fully operational” after an earthquake. While hospital earthquake safety is assured, lack of a realistic path to compliance threatens access to care. California’s hospitals will need to invest \$160 billion, over the next four years, to meet the required seismic upgrades; despite the fact they are already safe during and after an earthquake.

To meet the current 2030 requirements, hospitals will have to make significant trade-offs that will negatively impact care:

- 66% of California’s hospitals will forgo expansion of needed service lines
- 63% of hospitals will temporarily close certain service lines
- 61% of hospitals will lay off employees
- 58% of hospitals will reduce funding to community partners
- 45% of hospitals permanently close certain service lines, such as labor and delivery, behavioral health and specialty care