

# PASADENA STAR-NEWS OPINION

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## YOUR VIEW

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plan": As someone who has been consistent in supporting sound proposals to re-open King/Harbor, I find UC Provost Hume's comments very interesting. But, unlike Supervisors Burke and Yaroslavsky, I don't think those comments amount to a resounding commitment to re-open the beleaguered facility.

On the contrary, I interpret Hume's comments that they stand ready to continue to lend their expertise and analytical support to the decision-making process — one of preferring to act in an advisory role, and not in that of an administrative role.

Without a strong and competent administrative arm as part of the equation, I'm afraid all attempts to re-open King-Harbor will be met with failure.

Also, if the running of King-Harbor is piece-mealed out to various parties, this could lead to an even more untenable position for this facility, as it will be run in all likelihood by committee, and this is rarely a formula for success.

Perhaps it's time for the board to consider ceding, if not the entire county hospital/clinic system to an independent health authority, to at least create a health authority to re-open and oversee King-Harbor.

This way, the operator could have a free hand to take all possible measures to reopen and run King-Harbor successfully, and in return we can see how a miniature version of health authority would operate, thus laying the groundwork to develop a functioning health authority for all of Los Angeles County.

**Geneviève M. Clavreul, RN, Ph.D.**  
PASADENA

### **Independent authority**

Re "University ponders King-Harbor

# University ponders King-Harbor plan

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The University of California is considering undertaking the monumental task of re-opening an inner-city public hospital that was largely shut down after years of negligence and patient deaths.

Built to serve the poor and minorities in the wake of the 1965 Watts riots, Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital in South Los Angeles has provided only outpatient services since August 2007.

In the face of dire community need, the state's public university system met with local administrators and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger Tuesday and agreed to consider a county proposal to open the

facility, which is derisively known as "Killer King."

"The University of California has shown an interest in working with the county and other health care partners to address the health care needs of this community," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

University of California Provost Wyatt Hume said quality of care, financial and legal issues must be considered before the school makes any decision.

"We stand ready to continue to lend our expertise and analytical support to the decision-making process concerning the hospital's future," said Hume, who is also executive vice president for academic and health affairs.

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