



24035 El Toro Road
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
Ph: (949) 707-2600 • Fax: (949) 707-2614
www.lagunahillsca.gov

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Conversion of the Laguna Hills Inn (formerly Comfort Inn) to a Temporary COVID-19 Facility

LAGUNA HILLS, CA – The City of Laguna Hills has just learned that the County of Orange recently entered into a contract with the owner of the Laguna Hills Inn to temporarily take possession of the 76-bed hotel located at 23061 Avenida de la Carlota for use as a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) housing and medical facility for individuals who are age 65 and over, have underlying medical conditions, and have either already contracted, or are suspected of having contracted, COVID-19.

This hotel is in the northern part of the City just off Lake Forest Drive and is in close proximity to the cities of Laguna Woods, Irvine, and Lake Forest. ***The City has not given any approval for this use by the County of the hotel and only learned of the County's agreement with the hotel owner after the agreement was signed.*** The initial term of the lease is ninety (90) days. The City of Laguna Hills is currently exploring its legal options. More information will be available shortly.

“The City Council is deeply troubled with the County of Orange’s unilateral decision to place individuals afflicted with COVID-19 within 750 feet of a residential neighborhood and about one-third of a mile from the thousands of susceptible, elderly residents of Laguna Woods,” said Laguna Hills Mayor Janine Heft. “Just last week the County backed out of a similar plan to convert the Laguna Woods Ayres Hotel to a COVID-19 facility because of genuine concerns for this same older and more vulnerable population. This new location in Laguna Hills does nothing to solve that problem. I strongly urge the Orange County Board of Supervisors revisit the decision to open this facility.”

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