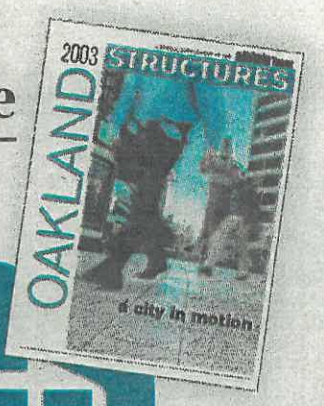
OAKLAND STRUCTURES: East Bay city finds its new groove. **Inside**



San Francisco Business Times

Vol. 18, No. 16
$2.00

SAN FRANCISCO • OAKLAND • EAST BAY • PENINSULA • NORTH BAY

Nov. 28 - Dec 4, 2003

$175M hotel booked for 2006 arrival

InterContinental San Francisco to rise 32 stories over Moscone



BY RYAN TATE
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A pair of development firms are moving forward with plans to develop a 32-story hotel next to the new Moscone West exhibition center.

The hotel, to be known as the InterContinental San Francisco, would be run by InterContinental Hotels Group, which also operates the Mark Hopkins hotel on Nob Hill. The $175 million project, proposed by Hampshire Properties Inc. of Mill Valley and Continental Development of El Segundo, won approval by the Board of Supervisors in a 9-1 vote on Nov. 25.

The four-star hotel would include 554 rooms and 43,000 square feet of meeting space in a tower designed to mimic Moscone West, the 300,000-square-foot, four-level addition to the convention center that opened in June.

The investment represents a vote of confidence in the slow recovery of San Francisco's hotel market. At hotels citywide, occupancy was up for the sixth

See **HOTEL, 26**



NAJIB JOE HAKIM

'EVOLUTION': More than 3,000 businesses, 30 new. "And this is during a bad economy," Hahn says.

Korean business booms

Oakland is epicenter of activity, growth

BY SABRINA KANG AND RYAN TATE
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It took Alex Hahn 16 years to save up for his first grocery store. Since then, he's owned and operated 21 of them, and moved into real estate development.

Today he owns eight commercial and residential buildings in Oakland, and has been instrumental in attracting other Korean businesses to Oakland's Telegraph Avenue.

Hahn, now president of Koreatown Development and the U.S. Korean American Chamber of Commerce, believes Oakland has become the nation's fastest-growing Korean-American business

See **BOOM, 25**

CHW injects cash into hospital, but heart docs beat it

BY DANIEL S. LEVINE
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Catholic Healthcare West has committed $150 million to end uncertainty over the future of Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, but not before the hospital's renowned cardiac-care unit made plans to move to a rival.



'Certainly the cardiac program is **very important** to us.'

Glenna Vaskelis
President, Sequoia Hospital

CHW's board this month voted to commit the funds, half of the estimated $300 million needed to build a replacement for 421-bed Sequoia as mandated by state seismic requirements. It wants the Sequoia Healthcare District, which owns the facility and contracts with CHW for its management, to come up with the rest.

"The vote is very significant," said Glenna Vaskelis, president and administrator of the Sequoia Hospital. "It shows the commitment of CHW to maintain a presence in this community and remain there for many years to come."

But the move comes after news that Palo Alto Medical Foundation, an affiliate of Sutter Health, revealed plans to build a competing hospital in San Carlos.

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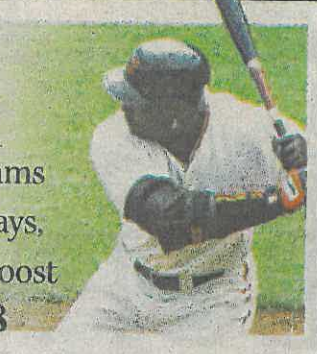

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