



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

November 8, 2013

**VA to Build Major Health Care Facility in Loma Linda**

**LOMA LINDA, Calif.** – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has awarded a major contract to the Walsh Construction Company, a Chicago-based general contracting and design-build firm. Walsh Construction, a member of The Walsh Group, was selected through a competitive bid process to build a 271,000 square-foot Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) for the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System (VALLHS).

“The ACC will drastically improve the patient experience,” said Barbara Fallen, director of VALLHS. “The ACC will not only give us ample space for Primary Care, Dental, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, it will also free up space at the existing Medical Center campus to expand inpatient units, specialty clinics and the emergency room. The new facility will also add more than 2,000 parking spaces, putting one of our most consistent problems behind us.”

Under the terms of the build-to-suit contract, Walsh Construction will receive a lump-sum payment for construction followed by a guaranteed 20-year-lease with VA. This new facility will be located on Redlands Boulevard in Loma Linda, between Mountain View Avenue and California Street.

Shuttle service will ensure that Veterans with medical appointments at the new outpatient ACC as well as the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center will be able to move between the two campuses, which are approximately two miles apart. Services that remain at the existing medical center will be primarily inpatient care and specialty clinics such as oncology, audiology and surgery.

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## **AMBULATORY CARE CENTER 2/2/2**

The project will incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) design elements and water-wise landscaping. The LEED Green Building Rating System, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), provides a suite of standards for environmentally sustainable construction reviewed by more than 10,000 membership organizations.

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The Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center is the centerpiece of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System. Opened in 1977, it is located ½ mile from its major affiliate, Loma Linda University. The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System is one of the top 25 employers in the Inland Empire. With approximately 2,500 employees and more than 1,000 volunteers, it serves more than 67,000 Veterans who entrust their health care needs to VA for a wide variety of services through inpatient and outpatient care. VA provides primary care and mental health at outpatient clinics located in Blythe, Corona, Palm Desert, Murrieta, Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville.