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NEWS BRIEFS

Multiple bids for Petaluma hospital

The Petaluma Health Care District, the public entity which owns Petaluma Valley Hospital, has received “multiple bids” from companies interested in leasing or even purchasing the hospital, said Ramona Faith, district CEO.

The transition would take place when a current, 20-year lease with St. Joseph Health expires in 2017. Faith confirmed that St. Joseph is among the bidders, but declined to share the names or number of other interested parties, citing a concern that doing so would potentially reduce the competitiveness of the process or ward off other potential operators.

Faith was complementary of the work of St. Joseph, which also operates Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital and Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa. Yet the bidding process, including the consideration of proposals to buy the hospital, was part of a goal to attract the highest level of service at Petaluma’s only hospital for the next two decades.

The district is expected to reveal its top candidates within the next two months, and will soon after embark on a series of public workshops for input on the selection of an eventual front-runner, Faith said. Area voters will be tasked with approving that selection in 2016.