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BayMark Health Services' BAART Richmond clinic withdrew its application to the Richmond Planning Commission to relocate its drug treatment facility from 1313 Cutting Blvd. to 3563 San Pablo Dam Road, and is no longer considering the site.

The decision followed opposition by El Sobrante business owners and residents and a pledge by Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia to assist in identifying an alternative location. Gioia confirmed to the *Standard* today that he worked with BayMark to get them to withdraw their application last month.

“The Health Dept, my office and BayMark are working to find a location more appropriate for both patients and the community,” Gioia said.

The withdrawal was announced by city officials at the Richmond Planning Commission meeting on March 15, but celebrated two weeks earlier on the Facebook page, [No El Sobrante Methadone Clinic](#), which is operated by concerned neighbors in El Sobrante. The group credited Gioia for “listening to his constituents.”

The [BAART](#) drug-treatment clinic had aimed to relocate in order to secure a more spacious facility. While the San Pablo Dam Road site is located in the downtown El Sobrante corridor, it remains on land within City of Richmond limits, thus it had to go through the Richmond planning process.

Gioia asked BayMark to consider withdrawing the application after speaking “to many business owners, residents and stakeholders in the El Sobrante Valley,” according to a letter the supervisor penned to Nadine Robbins-Laurent, regional vice president for BayMark, on Feb. 6.

While the supervisor stated in the letter he appreciates the work the clinic performs, Gioia reviewed details of the plans and noted the site at 3563 San Pablo Dam Road was not convenient for patients, would pose traffic challenges on a major county arterial street, raised issues of law enforcement response and wasn’t compatible with nearby land uses.

BayMark responded to Gioia swiftly, leading to a same-day statement that it would work with the supervisor and county to locate to “a more suitable site in West Contra Costa County that better accommodates the needs of the neighboring community and BayMark’s West County patients.”

Gioia added that BayMark’s primary care and drug treatment services “are an indispensable part of helping our West County neighbors and residents who suffer from substance abuse issues.”