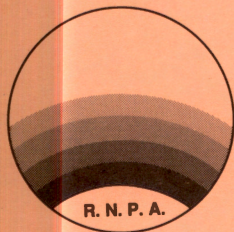
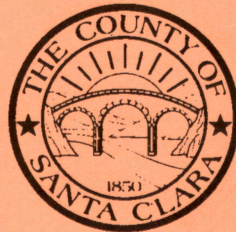


Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Registered Nurses
Professional Association



and



County of Santa Clara

AUGUST 7, 2000 THROUGH NOVEMBER 10, 2002

AGREEMENT
between
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
and
REGISTERED NURSES PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 7, 2000 THROUGH NOVEMBER 10, 2002

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PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into by the County of Santa Clara (hereinafter referred to as the County) and the Registered Nurses Professional Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association). This Memorandum of Agreement incorporates by this reference all appendices attached.

ARTICLE I - RECOGNITION

The County recognizes Registered Nurses Professional Association as the exclusive bargaining representative for all classified and unclassified nurses in coded classifications within the Registered Nurses bargaining unit.

For the purpose of this Agreement, a nurse shall be defined as a person employed in a coded classification in a bargaining unit covered by this Agreement.

The following classifications are included in the Registered Nurses bargaining unit.

S11 Assistant Nurse Manager
S1V Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist
S89 Clinical Nurse I
S76 Clinical Nurse II
S75 Clinical Nurse III
S35 Clinical Nurse Specialist
S04 Infection Control Nurse
S39 Nurse Coordinator
S59 Nurse Practitioner
S58 Psychiatric Nurse I
S57 Psychiatric Nurse II
S38 Staff Developer

ARTICLE 2 - NO DISCRIMINATION

Section 2.1 - Employment

Neither the County nor the Association shall discriminate (except as allowed by law) against nurses because of race, age, sex, color, physical disability, creed, national origin, religion, Association activity, affiliations, political opinions, or sexual preference.

Section 2.2 - Association Affiliation

Neither the County nor the Association shall interfere with, intimidate, restrain, coerce or discriminate against any nurse in the nurse's free choice to participate or join or refuse to participate or join the Association.

Section 2.3 - Affirmative Action

The County and the Association agree to cooperate to achieve equitable representation of women, minorities and disabled at all occupational levels designated by Federal, State and County Affirmative Action goals and timetables, as adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

ARTICLE 3 - ASSOCIATION SECURITY

Section 3.1 - Relationship Affirmation

The intent and purposes of this Agreement are to encourage harmonious relationships between the County and the Registered Nurses it employs who are subject hereto; to promote and improve that relationship subject to their joint duties to the community and to the high standards of patient care; to clarify certain rights and privileges of the parties; to set forth and define rates of pay, economic benefits and other conditions of employment that shall apply to such nurses; and to establish amicable processes for collective bargaining. The Association agrees that it will cooperate with the County and support its efforts to assure efficient operation, to serve the needs of the community, and to meet the highest of professional standards in such services.

Section 3.2 - Dues Deductions

a) Maintenance

Nurses covered by this Agreement who have authorized Association dues deductions as of date of signature of this Agreement shall continue to have such deductions made by the County during the term of this Agreement, except that such nurses may terminate such dues deductions during the month of February pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Section.

b) Condition of Employment

Each person employed during the term of this Agreement shall at the time of employment and as a condition of employment execute an authorization for the payroll deduction of Association dues or of a service fee equivalent to Association dues on a form provided by the Association and shall continue said authorization in effect, except that such nurses may terminate such dues deductions pursuant to paragraph (c) of this Section.

c) Revocation

A nurse may terminate authorization for Association dues or service fee deduction by giving notice thereof to the County Controller by individual letter deposited in the U.S. Mail (1) within the last ten (10) working days in the month of February prior to the expiration of the Agreement, or (2) within the first ten (10) working days following the date of first employment, whichever applies. If the canceled letter is not postmarked, it must be received and date stamped within the time limits specified in (1) or (2) above.

The County shall promptly forward a copy of the letter of revocation to the Association.

A nurse who revokes deductions during the month of February shall have the deduction removed on the first pay period in April.

A nurse who revokes deduction within ten (10) working days following the date of first employment shall have the deduction removed following the receipt of the notification by the County.

d) No Fault

The Association agrees to indemnify, defend and hold the County harmless from any and all claims, demands, suits, or any other action arising from the provisions of this Section or from complying with any demand for termination or revocation hereunder.

e) Leaves of Absence

Upon return from leaves of absence, the County shall reinstate the payroll deduction of Association dues for those nurses who were on dues check-off immediately prior to taking leave, provided the employee has not authorized cancellation of dues check-off in accordance with the prescribed provisions.

Section 3.3 - Other Deductions

The County shall deduct other deductions for insurance programs from pay checks of nurses under reasonable procedures prescribed by the County for such deductions which may include nurses not within the recognized bargaining unit of the Association in accordance with procedures that may be established between the parties.

Section 3.4 - Association Notices and Activities

a) Bulletin Boards

The Association, where it represents nurses of a County Department, shall be provided by that Department use of adequate and accessible space on designated bulletin boards for communications.

The glass covered, locked bulletin board purchased by the Association and installed by Valley Medical Center will be maintained in the cafeteria hallway at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

b) Distribution

The Association may distribute material to nurses in its representation unit through normal channels.

c) Visits by Association Representatives

Any Representative of the Association shall give notice to the Department Head or designated representative when entering departmental facilities. The Representative shall be allowed reasonable contact with nurses on County facilities provided such contact does not interfere with the nurse's work. Solicitation for membership or other internal nurse organization business shall not be conducted during work time. Prearrangement for routine contact may be made on an annual basis.

For this purpose rest periods are not work time.

d) Facilities

County buildings and other facilities shall be made available for use by the Association or its Representatives in accordance with administrative procedures governing such use.

e) Names and Addresses of Covered Nurses

The County shall supply the Association with a bi-weekly data processing run of names and addresses and classifications of work of all nurses within the representation unit. Such list shall be supplied without cost to the Association except that addresses shall not be supplied of those nurses who request the County in writing to not provide such information. A copy of such request shall be forwarded to the Association.

f) Notification of Association Coverage

When a person is hired in any classification covered by a bargaining unit represented by the Association, the County shall notify that person that the Association is the recognized bargaining representative for the nurses in said unit and present that person with a copy of the present Agreement, and a copy of the purpose and objectives of RNPA as approved.

g) Report of Transactions

The County shall supply the Association a data processing run covering the following nurse transactions as are currently available on the system: newly hired nurse, reinstatement, re-employment, return from leave, return from military leave, miscellaneous, promotion, return to former class, voluntary demotion, disciplinary demotion, transfer, title change, suspension, temporary military leave, injury or illness leave, other leave, indefinite military leave, resignation, probationary resignation, probationary release, provisional release, miscellaneous release, dismissal, retirement, death, layoff.

Section 3.5 - New Nurse Orientation

The Association shall be allowed a Representative at County-wide orientations for new nurses or departmental orientations where they are held in place of County-wide orientations. Such Representative shall be allowed twenty (20) minutes to make a presentation and answer questions to nurses in classifications represented by their organization. The Association may present packets to represented nurses at orientation, such packets being subject to review by the County. The County or department, where appropriate, will notify the Association one (1) week in advance of such orientation sessions.

Section 3.6 - Printing of Agreement

The parties agree to share equally the cost of printing bound copies of this Agreement. The Association shall reimburse the County for the actual cost of copies ordered by the Association. The design and format of the printed Agreement shall be jointly determined by the parties. It is agreed that the contract will be printed not more than one hundred and twenty (120) days after final agreement on all language.

ARTICLE 4 - OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

Section 4.1 - Official Representatives

a) Notification of Official Representatives

The Association agrees to notify the County of their Official Representatives for its representation unit and changes in such Representatives. It may also designate alternates to such Official Representatives for purposes of specific meetings by advance notice to the appropriate level of Management.

b) Release Time

Up to three (3) Official Representatives at any given time shall be allowed thirty-two (32) hours of release time each pay period. Effective November 10, 2002, up to three (3) Official Representatives at any given time shall be allowed release time. The total combined time may not exceed eighty (80) hours per pay period and the total for one (1) individual shall not exceed thirty-two (32) hours per pay period. Hours of release time may accumulate up to a maximum of one hundred and twenty-eight (128) hours. This provision shall cover all shifts and must be taken in a minimum of one (1) hour increments. This time shall be scheduled in advance by mutual agreement between the Association and Management.

c) Release Time Log

RNPA Representatives who are on their shift during approved release time will log the time they leave their work assignments and the time they return on a form provided by the County.

Section 4.2 - Negotiating Committee

There shall be five (5) Official Representatives for the Registered Nurses Unit. The County agrees to release five (5) persons upon such request where required.

a) Compensatory Time

Those negotiators who are on their own time during the meetings will not be granted compensatory time.

b) Resource People

Resource people for negotiations shall be allowed on their own time, leave without pay, PTO, or compensatory time off to attend scheduled negotiation meetings for this Association to provide information to the committee on specific items on an as needed basis and as mutually agreed, prearranged and scheduled by the committee. The County shall facilitate arranging time off for resource people attending negotiations.

ARTICLE 5 - LAYOFF

Section 5.1 - Seniority Defined

For purposes of layoff, seniority is defined as the total length of continuous employment from the first date of hire within the bargaining unit. First date of hire shall be adjusted for all time on suspension or leave without pay which extends beyond one full pay period, but shall not be adjusted for all time on Maternity Leave, Worker's Compensation Leave and Military Leave. If an employee resigns and is subsequently reinstated within 12 months of the resignation, the seniority shall be restored for the period of time previously served within the bargaining unit.

The County will provide the Union with a copy of the appropriate current seniority list prior to the issuance of notices described below in Section 5.8.

Section 5.2 - Transfer of Prior Agency Service

If a function of another agency is transferred to the County, the seniority of nurses who transfer with the function shall be computed, based upon application of the definition of Section 5.1, to each nurse's prior service with the other agency.

Section 5.3 - Changes to Classes

The County and the Association agree that to the extent possible, nurses should not lose their rights under this Article because classes have been revised, established, abolished or retitled.

Section 5.4 - Order of Layoff and Reassignment

When the County determines that bargaining unit positions will be reduced or eliminated which results in a layoff, the order of layoff shall be based on seniority as applied to each classification. The order shall be: a) provisional nurses in inverse seniority; b) nurses on original probation in inverse seniority; c) permanent nurses in inverse seniority.

The provisions of Appendix B "Classifications and Areas of Competency" shall apply for purposes of layoff and reassignment as a result of layoff.

Employees will be retained within their current assigned work unit on the basis of seniority. The employees for whom no position exists at the same code status within the current assigned work unit will be reassigned in order of seniority:

- a) to a vacant position in the same code status and classification within the related competency area; or if no such position exists,
- b) to a position held by the least senior individual in the same code status and classification within the related competency area; or if no such position exists,
- c) to a vacant position in the same code status and classification within another competency area; or if no such position exists,

d) to a position held by the least senior individual in the same code status and classification within another area of competency; or if no such position exists,

e) to a position of the next lower code status within the same classification, following the sequence "a" through "d" above until all successive code statuses are exhausted; or if no such positions exist,

f) to a position in the next lower classification applying the sequence "a" through "e" above until all lower classifications are exhausted;

Nurses in full-time status who are assigned to less than a full-time position as a result of layoff will retain full-time benefits pursuant to section 7.4b of this agreement.

Employees who are currently part-time cannot assert seniority to claim a position with more hours than currently held.

Section 5.5 - Reassignment from a Lower Classification

After all nurses within an affected classification have been afforded the opportunity to be reassigned according to Section 5.4 and a vacancy remains in that classification, that vacancy shall be filled by reassignment of the most senior nurse in the next lower classification from the vacancy's related area of competency and then another area of competency as identified in Appendix B.

Section 5.6 - Competency Standards

The classifications, the work units, and the areas of competency for layoff purposes are listed in Appendix B. The County shall establish written competency standards for each area of competency. These standards shall not be greater than the hiring standards.

Section 5.7 - Employee Competency Profile

Prior to the issuance of layoff notice, the employee will be provided the opportunity to complete an Employee Competency Profile or add any information to an existing profile which might qualify the employee for an area of competency. Failure to respond will be construed as acceptance of the information on file.

Section 5.8 - Notice of Layoff

a) Notice to the Association of Intent to Reduce or Eliminate Bargaining Unit Positions

The County will notify the Association of the decision to reduce or eliminate bargaining unit positions which would result in a layoff. At a minimum, the notice shall include the total proposed reduction. Upon request, the Association shall be afforded an opportunity to meet with the County prior to layoff notices being issued to discuss the circumstances requiring the layoff and any proposed alternatives.

b) Notice to Employee

The County shall provide a written layoff notification to any nurse whose employment is being terminated, whose code status is being reduced, or whose classification is being changed as a result of layoff.

Additionally, employees shall receive a notice of reassignment due to layoff. The notice shall be provided at least 20 working days before the effective date. The Association will receive concurrent notices.

Section 5.9 - Training Opportunities

Nurses who are reassigned as a result of layoff according to Section 5.4 will be provided orientation training and skills upgrade, up to a maximum of four weeks, if needed.

Section 5.10 - Layoff

In the event that a nurse is not reassigned as a result of layoff as in Section 5.4, the nurse shall be laid off, unless the employee has a right to return to a former classification in another bargaining unit. If a nurse refuses the reassignment pursuant to Section 5.4 "a" through "d" or refuses to return to a former class in another bargaining unit, the nurse may be deemed to have been offered and to have declined such work.

Section 5.11 - Re-employment List

- a) The names of such probationary and permanent nurses reassigned or laid off in accordance with this Article shall be entered upon a re-employment list in inverse order of seniority. The County shall maintain re-employment lists by classification and code status. At the time of a nurse's placement on a re-employment list, the County will inform the nurse in writing of the employee's responsibility to leave the address and/or telephone number where the employee can be contacted.

- b) When a vacancy exists which the County intends to fill, the most senior nurse on the appropriate re-employment list shall be offered appointment, provided the required competencies are met. Nurses on re-employment lists shall retain the right to take promotional exams and/or receive promotional preference on exams.
 - 1. If the County is able to contact the nurse to communicate the offer of re-employment, the nurse will be encouraged to respond within forty-eight (48) hours, but, if requested, will be allowed up to four (4) working days to respond.
 - 2. If the County is unable to make contact, the County will send the offer by certified mail, return receipt, to the last known address. The nurse must respond to the offer within ten (10) working days from the date of mailing.
 - 3. If no response is received within the above time limits, the nurse will be deemed to have been offered and to have refused such work.

Section 5.12 - Extra-Help and Per Diem Work for Laid Off Nurses

Interested nurses who are placed upon the re-employment list due to layoff and who elect to be available for extra-help or per diem work shall be given preference for any work in their former Department/Agency for which they are currently qualified. The election to be available for extra-help and per diem work must be made in writing at the time of

layoff. Employees may decline to be available for extra-help and per diem work or may decline such work itself without affecting any rights under this Article.

Section 5.13 - Names Dropped from Re-employment List

No name shall be carried on a re-employment list for a period longer than two (2) years, and the names of persons re-employed in a permanent position within the same classification shall, upon such re-employment be dropped from the list. Refusal to accept one of two offers of re-employment within the same classification, shall cause the name of the person to be dropped from the re-employment list.

Section 5.14 - Rights Restored

Upon re-employment of a nurse from a re-employment list, all rights acquired by a nurse prior to the nurse's placement on such list shall be restored; including but not limited to PTO accrual rates, seniority as defined in Section 5.1, salary step and time-in-step placement, and educational leave.

Section 5.15 - Temporary Layoff

In the event of a decrease in census of any unit requiring a temporary reassignment of work areas or layoff of Registered Nurses for less than thirty (30) calendar days, the appointing authority shall:

- a) Attempt to float any affected nurse to any unit which the nurse has been oriented.
- b) As an educational opportunity, allow a nurse to request an orientation to an unfamiliar unit.
- c) Request volunteers to take time-off by using PTO, comp. time or leave without pay.
- d) Implement a layoff of nurses by inverse seniority, if there are insufficient volunteers. This subsection, however, shall not apply to any classification of nurses that are designated as FLSA exempt.

It is agreed that this provision shall be applied by unit and shift. It is also understood that the hospital will not assign extra-help, per diem or registry RN to the unit on that shift when this section is implemented.

ARTICLE 6 - PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Section 6.1 - Probation

- a) Each new nurse shall serve a probationary period of nine (9) months. Upon successful completion of such probationary period, the nurse shall be deemed a permanent employee. A leave of absence without pay shall not be credited toward completion of the nurse's probationary period. The parties agree that probationary nurses shall have all rights in this Agreement, unless otherwise specified, including full and complete access to the grievance procedure. Any nurse released during the probationary period shall, upon request, be provided with a statement of the reasons for the release. Consistent with County Charter Section 704(e), probationary nurses may not grieve suspensions, demotions, or dismissals.
- b) Probationary nurses shall have the right to request and receive Department/Agency administrative review of disciplinary action taken during probation. Such review must be requested in writing within ten (10) working days of the disciplinary action or it is waived. The review process shall consist of two (2) steps, the first step (where possible) being at a level above the immediate supervisor; and the second step being at the Department/Agency level. The review process shall proceed promptly after a request is received. The first step decision shall be in writing within fifteen (15) days of the hearing. If the nurse wishes to pursue second step review, a written request shall be made within ten (10) working days of the first step decision or it is waived. The Department/Agency Head, or designated representative, shall hear and make a decision in writing within fifteen days of the hearing at the second step.

Section 6.2 - Disciplinary Action - Unclassified Nurses

Unclassified nurses who have completed a period equal to the probationary period for a comparable classified position may grieve disciplinary action on the grounds that such discipline was not for cause. Such grievance shall comply in all respects with Article 16 of this Agreement.

Notice of disciplinary action must be served on the nurse in person or by certified mail prior to the disciplinary action becoming effective. Notice shall be included in the nurse's personnel file and a copy sent to the Association and shall include:

- a) Statement of the nature of the disciplinary action.
- b) Effective date of the action.
- c) Statement of the cause thereof.
- d) Statement in ordinary and concise language of the act or omissions upon which the causes are based.

- e) Statement advising the nurse of the right to appeal from such action and the right to Association representation.

Section 6.3 - Personnel Files

The County shall maintain a personnel file for each nurse. The Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System may also maintain a personnel file for each nurse. Nurses shall have the right to review their personnel file(s) or authorize review by their representative. No material will be inserted into the nurse's personnel file(s) without prior notice to the nurse. Nurses may cause to be placed in their personnel file(s) responses to adverse material inserted therein and a reasonable amount of correspondence originating from other sources directly related to their job performance.

Materials relating to disciplinary actions recommended but not taken, or disciplinary actions overturned on appeal, shall not be retained in a nurse's personnel file.

Section 6.4 - Disciplinary Action - Permanent Classified

The County may take disciplinary action for cause against any permanent classified nurse by suspension, demotion or discharge by notifying the nurse in writing. Notice of disciplinary action must be served on the nurse in person or by certified mail prior to the disciplinary action becoming effective. The notice shall be included in the nurse's personnel file(s) and a copy sent to the Association and shall include:

- a) Statement of the nature of the disciplinary action.
- b) Effective date of the action.
- c) Statement of the cause thereof.
- d) Statement in ordinary and concise language of the act or omissions upon which the causes are based.
- e) Statement advising the nurse of the right to appeal to the Personnel Board from such action and the right to Association representation.

Such nurse shall be given either five (5) days' notice of discharge, or demotion, or five (5) days' pay, except where circumstances require immediate action.

In cases of questionable gross negligence or incompetence as defined in the Nurse Practice Act, the nurse, at the sole election of the appointing authority or their designee, may be placed on administrative leave with pay, not to exceed fifteen (15) working days, pending an investigation. If circumstances permit, a nurse will be advised in writing that they are being placed on administrative leave under this provision.

Section 6.5 - Counseling and Unfavorable Reports

a) Counseling

In the event that a nurse's performance or conduct is unsatisfactory or needs improvement, informal counseling shall be

provided by the nurse's first level supervisor. Documentation of such counseling shall be given to the nurse as it is developed. Such documentation shall not be placed in a nurse's personnel file(s) and when the situation allows counseling, counseling shall be used prior to any unfavorable reports being issued.

b) Unfavorable Reports on Performance or Conduct

If upon such counseling a nurse's performance or conduct does not improve and disciplinary action could result, a written report shall be prepared by the supervisor including specific suggestions for corrective action, if appropriate. A copy shall be given to the nurse and a copy filed in the nurse's personnel file(s). No unfavorable reports shall be placed in a nurse's file(s) unless such report is made within ten (10) working days of the County's knowledge of the occurrence or incident which is the subject of this report. Provided no additional report has been issued during the intervening period, each report shall be removed from the nurse's file(s) at the end of two (2) years. Upon resignation, any such reports shall be removed from the nurse's file(s). Nurses shall have the right to grieve the factual content of such reports or attach a written response to the report for inclusion in their personnel file(s).

Section 6.6 - Return to Former Class

As an alternative to appointment from any employment list, any current regular nurse, upon recommendation of the appointing authority and approval by the Director of Personnel, may be appointed without further examination to a position in any class in which regular status had formerly been acquired, or to any related class on a comparable level with the former class.

Section 6.7 - Unclassified Appointment

No nurse, while holding a position in the unclassified service, shall be assigned to or occupy any classified position.

Section 6.8 - Rights Upon Promotion to Classified or Unclassified Service or Transfer to Unclassified Service

Any permanent nurse who receives a provisional or probationary promotion, or who is transferred or promoted to a position in the unclassified service shall retain all rights and benefits as a permanent nurse of the nurse's former class while in such provisional, probationary, or unclassified status. These include the right to participate in promotional examinations and the right to return to the nurse's former class if released while in such status. All such service shall count toward seniority credits in the nurse's former class in the event the layoff procedure is involved.

Any permanent nurse who receives a provisional promotion, or who is transferred or promoted to a position in the unclassified service, the duration of which is known to be for less than six (6) months, shall be considered to be on leave from the nurse's permanent position and departments are authorized to make substitute appointments to such vacated positions.

Section 6.9 - Transfers and Job Opportunities

Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System shall establish a system to facilitate transfers and career mobility of Registered Nurses.

- a) All transfer opportunities and all special assignment positions created within existing job specifications, which the County intends to fill shall be posted on the work unit where the vacancy exists for a period of five working days. This five-day posting requirement may be waived if it is assured that all nurses in the work unit have been surveyed and have properly indicated their interest or lack of interest in the position.
- b) The manager shall offer the position to the most qualified nurse from within the work unit, merit and ability being adequate. In the event that two or more interested nurses are equally qualified (as determined by the manager), the most senior nurse shall be offered the position. Seniority shall be defined in accordance with Section 5.1 of the County's MOU with RNPA.
- c) If a vacant position exists after exhausting the above provisions, management shall post a notice of the vacancy for ten calendar days. The vacancies will be posted on a bulletin board outside the Nursing Office and the Cafeteria at Valley Medical Center at least bi-weekly. In addition, the list shall be distributed to designated individuals in non-hospital locations for posting in nursing areas.
- d) Responses to all postings by interested nurses shall be in writing. These responses must be received by the manager within the designated posting period. Nurses may arrange for interviews during work time with prior notification to their direct supervisor. Managers shall interview all interested candidates. Nurses on leave or vacation may make prior arrangements to receive notification of specific openings.

ARTICLE 7 - PAY PRACTICES

Section 7.1 - Salaries

Effective on the dates listed all salaries shall be as listed in Appendix A attached hereto and made a part hereof. The parties agree that the rates of pay established by this Agreement are commensurate with those prevailing throughout the County for comparable work as required by the Charter for the County of Santa Clara.

Section 7.2 - Basic Pay Plan

The Basic Pay Plan consists of the salary ranges and the assignment of classes to such ranges as provided in this Section. Each nurse shall be paid within the range for the nurse's class according to the following provisions.

a) Step One

The first step in each range is the minimum rate and shall normally be the hiring rate for the class. In cases where it is difficult to secure qualified personnel or a person of unusual qualifications is engaged, the Director, with the approval of the County Executive, may approve appointment at the second or third step, and with the approval of the Board of Supervisors at the fourth or fifth step. If a nurse is hired under the difficult-to-secure-qualified-personnel clause, the County will move those nurses within that same class to the same salary step as that being received by the new nurse. The Association will receive a monthly listing of positions by class and department which lists positions hired above the first salary step.

b) Step Two

The second step shall be paid after the accumulation of six (6) months of competent service at the first step.

c) Step Three

The third step shall be paid after the accumulation of twelve (12) months of competent service at the second step.

d) Step Four

The fourth step shall be paid after the accumulation of twelve (12) months of competent service at the third step.

e) Step Five

The fifth step shall be paid after the accumulation of twelve (12) months of competent service at the fourth step.

Recognizing the current shortage of nurses, the County agrees to establish the following additional salary steps:

f) Longevity Pay - Step Six

Effective August 7, 2000 a sixth step is established at approximately five percent (5%) above step five for the existing classifications of Clinical Nurse III, Psychiatric Nurse II, Nurse Coordinator, Staff Developer, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Infection

Control Nurse, and Nurse Practitioner. The sixth step shall be paid after the accumulation of thirty-six (36) months of competent service at the fifth step. Beginning November 12, 2001 eligibility for sixth step shall be extended to the classifications of Assistant Nurse Manager and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.

g) Longevity Pay - Step Seven

Effective August 7, 2000 a seventh step is established at approximately five percent (5%) above step six for the existing classifications of Clinical Nurse III, Psychiatric Nurse II, Nurse Coordinator, Staff Developer, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Infection Control Nurse and Nurse Practitioner. The seventh step shall be paid after the accumulation of one hundred and thirty two months (132) of competent service subsequent to attainment of step five of the nurse's current classification.

Effective August 7, 2000, former Clinical Nurse IVs and Clinical Nurse Vs, who are currently Clinical Nurse III's and had their salaries frozen, shall be eligible to be paid at step seven.

h) Time for Salary Adjustments

Salary adjustments shall be made on the first day of the pay period in which the required accumulation of months of competent service occurs.

Section 7.3 - Effect of Promotion, Demotion or Transfer on Salaries

a) Promotion

Upon promotion, a nurse's salary shall be adjusted as follows:

1. For a promotion of less than ten percent (10%) the salary shall be adjusted to the step in the new range which provides for a corresponding percentage increase in salary.
2. For a promotion of ten percent (10%) or more the salary shall be adjusted to the step in the new range which provides for ten percent (10%) increase in salary or to the first step in the new range, whichever is greater.

Any other promotion will be in accordance with regular County procedure.

b) Demotion

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 7.2, upon demotion of a nurse with permanent status in the nurse's current class, the nurse's salary shall be adjusted to the highest step in the new class not exceeding the salary received in the former class.

c) Transfer

Upon transfer, the salary shall remain unchanged.

d) No Loss of Time-In-Step

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 7.2, no salary adjustment upon promotion, demotion, or transfer shall effect a

loss of time acquired in the former salary step, and such time as was acquired in the former salary step shall be included in computing the accumulation of the required months of service for eligibility of the employee for further salary increases.

e) Voluntary Demotion

In the event of a voluntary demotion required by a work-connected illness or injury and a resulting disability, the salary of the nurse shall be placed at the step in the salary range which corresponds most closely to the salary received by the nurse as of the time of injury. In the event that such voluntary demotion would result in a salary loss of more than ten percent (10%), the nurse's new salary shall be set at the rate closest to, but not less than ten percent (10%) below the nurse's salary as of the time of injury.

f) Lateral Transfers

When making a lateral transfer or demotion to another class, an application review by the Personnel Director shall be deemed as an appropriate qualifying examination for nurses in instances where a qualifying examination is required. If otherwise qualified under this provision, and the only prohibition to lateral transfer is the salary of the new class, it shall be deemed to be a lateral transfer if the move from one classification to another does not exceed ten percent (10%) upward range movement.

Section 7.4 - Part-Time Salaries

a) Salary Ranges

The salary ranges provided in the attached Appendix are for full-time service in full-time positions, and are expressed in dollars per the number of working days in a bi-weekly pay period. If any position is established on any other time basis, the compensation for such position shall be adjusted proportionately.

b) Benefits

Beginning with the 1996 open enrollment period, part-time nurses may elect to be covered by either the County's health care package (medical, dental, vision, and life) or medical coverage only and shall authorize a payroll deduction for the appropriate prorated cost.

Nurses who become part-time nurses as a result of a layoff from full-time will continue to receive full-time benefits until such time as they are offered a full-time position in their current classification or higher.

Nurses may withdraw from the insurance package at any time. Nurses may enroll in the insurance package upon entering part-time, upon changing from any increment of part-time to any other increment of part-time or to full-time, or once per year during the County-wide insurance window.

Any nurse in a part-time status who pays for medical benefit coverage will be reimbursed in the following pay period the additional pro-rated premiums consistent with any hours worked

above their code status the previous month. This shall begin with changes coinciding with the 1996 open enrollment period.

c) Split Codes

The County shall provide a minimum of fifty (50) full-time codes to be filled on a half-time basis at any one time. The location and choice of these codes will be determined on a departmental basis. Requests for split codes shall not unreasonably be denied. Reasonable denial shall include, but not be limited to, demonstration that the work is not divisible, demonstration that qualified partners, if needed, are not available, or that the fifty (50) available codes are filled. Nurses shall make a written request for a split code to their immediate supervisor. If the request is denied, it shall be reviewed by their Department Head and they shall receive a written response.

Section 7.5 - Work Out of Classification

a) Pay

When a nurse is temporarily assigned work out of classification to a vacant position or a position where the incumbent is unavailable for work due to an authorized leave, the nurse will receive pay consistent with the promotional pay procedure as set forth in Article 7.3 only when the assignment is made for a period of fifteen (15) consecutive calendar days or more. When such payment for higher level duties is appropriate under these terms and conditions, it will commence on the first day of the assignment and continue throughout the duration thereof. Any nurse assigned work out of classification must meet the minimum qualifications of the classification to which the nurse is assigned. The Association will be notified in writing of any work out of classification pay which continues beyond three (3) months.

b) Application to Holiday and Sick Leave

Upon eligibility for pay in accordance with Section 7.5(a), a nurse temporarily assigned work out of classification shall receive the pay for:

1. Holidays when the nurse is assigned work out of classification the day prior to and following the holiday.
2. Sick leave absences when the nurse is assigned work out of classification and while absent is not relieved by the incumbent or by another nurse assigned work out of classification in the same position.

c) Vacant Regular Codes

Work out of classification may be assigned to cover vacant regular codes after ordinance code provisions for filling such vacancies have been followed and with approval of the Director of Personnel. The appointing authority shall consider appointment of nurses under work out of classification provision before making a provisional appointment.

Section 7.6 - Paychecks

a) Night Employees

The County agrees to provide paychecks for night nurses by 12:01 a.m. on payday.

b) Shortage Errors

Cash advance by the Controller's Department to cover a shortage error in a nurse's paycheck shall be provided to the nurse within one (1) working day after written notification of discrepancy to Finance. This provision is to cover only those discrepancies above a net twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

c) Overpayment Errors

When a net twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) or more overpayment error occurs, the nurse will repay the overpayment in the same amount and within the same number of pay periods in which the error occurred. In cases that necessitate pay back of overpayments totaling more than \$200.00, the County shall notify the Association prior to implementing repayment action.

Section 7.7 - Automatic Check Deposit

The County shall continue to maintain an automatic check deposit system for nurses' use during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 8 - HOURS OF WORK, OVERTIME, PREMIUM PAY

Section 8.1 - Hours of Work

Eight (8) hours work shall constitute a full day's work and forty (40) hours work shall constitute a full week's work unless otherwise provided by law, code or other agreement. Nurses assigned to an eight (8) hour shift which is shortened to seven (7) hours due to daylight savings time shall be paid for eight (8) hours, and nurses assigned to an eight (8) hour shift which is lengthened to nine (9) hours due to daylight savings time, shall be paid overtime one (1) hour as defined in Section 8.2(b).

Section 8.2 - Overtime Work

a) Overtime Defined

1. Exempt Nurses

Overtime is defined as time worked beyond eighty (80) hours on a bi-weekly pay period, or beyond eight (8) hours in any work day except as mutually agreed upon between the County and the Association. Time for which pay is received but not worked such as vacation, sick leave, and authorized compensatory time off, will be counted towards the base period. The County Executive shall determine by administrative order those classes and positions which shall be eligible for overtime work and for cash payment.

2. Non-exempt Nurses

For non-exempt nurses all provisions regarding overtime shall be as set by the Fair Labor Standards Act. All disputes regarding that Act shall be within the sole jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Labor and shall not be subject to grievance or arbitration under this contract. At least five (5) working days prior to filing any complaint regarding the Act with the U.S. Department of Labor, the Association shall give the County written notice. Such notice shall contain specific information so that the County can prepare a response.

b) Rate of Pay

When overtime work is assigned and is authorized by the appointing authority to be worked, compensation for such time worked shall be time off with pay computed as noted in 1. and 2. below, except that such overtime work shall be paid in cash for nurses where required by State or Federal law or when specifically authorized by administrative order of the County Executive.

1. Regular Overtime - one and one-half (1 1/2) hours for every hour of overtime worked.
2. Continuous Shift - one and one-half (1 1/2) hours for the first four (4) hours of overtime contiguous to their regular shift of a minimum of eight (8) hours and two (2) hours for any additional hours worked.

All compensatory time off must be taken within twelve (12) months of the date the overtime was worked, and failure to take the compensatory time off shall be deemed a waiver of the compensatory time by the nurse. In the event the appointing authority does not provide compensatory time off during the mandatory time period, the nurse may take compensatory time off as a matter of right immediately before the end of the pay period in which the compensatory time would be lost. Compensatory time balances shall be paid in cash on separation. A nurse may elect in advance to receive compensatory time-off credit in lieu of cash compensation for overtime where compensatory time off is allowed, if the appointing authority agrees.

- c) Distribution of Overtime
In situations where the need for overtime work exists, coded nurses in the applicable work unit shall first be offered the overtime work. Overtime work shall be distributed among nurses in the applicable work unit as equally as practicable.

Section 8.3 - Meal Periods

- a) Length
Nurses shall be granted a meal period not less than thirty (30) minutes nor more than one (1) hour, scheduled at approximately the mid-point of the work day. Nurses required to be at work stations for eight (8) or more consecutive work hours shall have their meal during work hours.
- b) Overtime Meals
If a nurse is assigned two (2) or more hours of overtime work contiguous to the nurse's regular work shift or is called in within three (3) hours of the nurse's scheduled quitting time and then works two (2) or more hours of overtime work, the County will reimburse the cost of the meal actually purchased and consumed by the nurse on the nurse's own time to a maximum amount of nine dollars (\$9.00). Nurses shall be provided additional meals as above for every seven (7) hour period of overtime completed thereafter. Nurses must present their claim for the reimbursement within fourteen (14) calendar days following the shift it was earned or the meal reimbursement is waived.
- c) County Facilities
Whenever the duties or responsibilities of any County nurse require the nurse to be present and on duty during the serving of meals in a County facility and where such duty or responsibility occupies that nurse's meal period, such individual shall be entitled to that meal without charge.
- d) Meal Rates
In each County dining facility where meals are served to nurses at the nurse's expense, the Department Head in charge of the operation of that facility shall prescribe the rates to be charged. The rates so prescribed shall, as a minimum, be sufficient to defray the costs of the food served.

Section 8.4 - Rest Periods

All nurses shall be granted and take a rest period of fifteen (15) minutes during each half shift of four (4) hours of work. Rest periods shall be considered as time worked for pay purposes.

Section 8.5 - Clean-Up Time

All nurses whose work causes their person or clothing to become soiled shall be provided with reasonable time and adequate facilities for wash-up purposes.

Section 8.6 - On-Call Pay

a) Definition

On-call is defined as the requirement to remain immediately available to report for duty to perform an essential service when assigned by the appointing authority, subject to approval by the County Executive. On-call duty is in addition to and distinct from the normal work week. This Section is only applicable to those situations where nurses are recalled to work when previously placed on an on-call status.

b) Classifications Eligible

Each Department Head, subject to approval by the County Executive, shall designate which class(es) of nurse(s) shall be subject to on-call duty.

c) Rates of Pay

Nurses assigned to on-call duty shall receive, in addition to their regular salary, one half (1/2) of their regular base rate of pay for each hour of assigned call duty. Nurses who are called into work while on-call will receive one and one-half (1 1/2) times their regular base rate of pay for each hour worked. Shift differentials shall be paid in accordance with Section 8.8.

d) Beepers

Beepers shall be provided to all nurses when placed on on-call status.

Section 8.7 - Call-Back Pay

If overtime work does not immediately follow or precede the regular work shift, a minimum of four (4) hours call-back time shall be credited the nurse. Call-back pay is subject to all provisions of Article 8, Section 2, Overtime Work.

The O.R. Nurse or Recovery Room Nurse may elect to receive compensatory time off credit in lieu of cash compensation for call-back time worked.

An O.R. Nurse or Recovery Room Nurse shall be granted a day charged to Paid Time Off, leave without pay, or compensatory time, on the O. R. or Recovery Room Nurse's normal work day following five (5) or more hours of call-back time.

Nurses will be credited for each call-back during a scheduled shift.

Section 8.8 - Shift Differentials

a) Definition of shifts:

1. DAY shift -- any scheduled shift of at least eight (8) hours beginning on or after 6:00 a.m. and ending on or before 6:00 p.m.
2. EVENING shift -- any scheduled shift of at least eight (8) hours beginning on or after 2:00 p.m. and ending on or before 2:00 a.m.
3. NIGHT shift -- any scheduled shift of at least eight (8) hours beginning on or after 10:00 p.m. and ending on or before 10:00 a.m.

b) Part Time/Overlapping Shifts:

1. For shifts of fewer than eight (8) hours, a differential will be paid on the hours worked only if at least half the hours fall between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
2. For shifts which fall across the shifts as defined above, a differential will be paid if at least half the hours fall between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
3. For shifts which fall across both the evening and night shifts as defined above, the differential will be paid according to which shift contains the majority of hours worked. If the split is half and half, the night shift differential will be paid.

c) Pay Rates:

1. The hourly rate for evening shift differential is \$2.25.
2. The hourly rate for night shift differential is \$3.75
3. The above differentials are paid on productive hours worked only.

Section 8.9 - Split Shift Pay

A nurse who is performing services upon a split shift shall be paid an additional three dollars (\$3.00) per day. "Split Shift" is defined as eight (8) hours of work which are not completed within any nine (9) consecutive hours in a work day.

Section 8.10 - Charge Nurse Differential

A Clinical Nurse I, II, or III, and Psychiatric Nurse I, or II who is assigned as a charge nurse shall receive an additional two dollars (\$2.00) per hour.

Section 8.11 - Weekend Off Provision

The County will attempt to grant every other weekend off and each nurse will not be required to work more than two (2) consecutive weekends in a

row. The County guarantees that nurses will not be required to work more than twenty-six (26) weekends per year. If the County requires a nurse to work more than two (2) consecutive weekends, or more than twenty-six (26) required above, the nurse will receive time and one-half for work in excess of that required. These penalties shall not be duplicated for the same weekend worked. Work as used in this section shall mean productive time. Weekend work required shall be prorated for newly coded nurses and for any nurse who is off the payroll due to an authorized leave of absence.

The above weekend off provisions may be waived on the written request of the individual nurse.

Section 8.12 - Weekend Shift Differential

A weekend differential of one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) per hour will be paid to Registered Nurses for productive time worked on a Saturday and/or Sunday. For the Night Shift only, the weekend will begin at the start of the RN's regularly scheduled Saturday shift (i.e., 11:00 p.m. on Friday) and terminate at the end of his/her regularly scheduled shift on Sunday (i.e., 7:30 a.m. on Sunday).

This differential shall not be pyramided with other penalty premiums or paid on overtime shifts. The value of the weekend differential does not increase regardless of hours worked or rates of pay, etc.

Section 8.13 - Float Differential

- a) Each nurse will only float within areas as follows:
1. Medical-Surgical Units (2M/4 West, 3C, 4C)
 2. Newborn ICU
Pediatrics
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
 3. Adult Intensive Care Units (MICU, CCU, SICU)
Burn Unit
Cardiac Cath Lab
 4. Rehabilitation Unit 1
Rehabilitation Unit 2
Transitional Care Unit 1 Center
 5. Labor and Delivery
Pep Lab
 6. MICC
 7. Operating Room (relief only)
 8. PACU
Ambulatory Surgery Unit
 9. Transitional Care Unit
Neurosurgery

10. Drug and Alcohol
 11. Psychiatric Inpatient
Emergency Psychiatric Service
 12. Children's Shelter and Custody Health Services
 13. Ambulatory Care Clinics
 14. Emergency Department (not to float except in emergency)
Express Admission Unit
 15. Renal Care Center
 16. Resource Nurse
Support Nurse
 17. Endoscopy
 18. Urodynamics Laboratory
- b) If a float assignment outside like areas is necessary, Management shall attempt to send volunteers from the unit to be floated from prior to making an involuntary assignment. If a nurse is required to float outside of one of the like areas, the nurse shall receive one dollar (\$1.00) per hour for such assignment. A nurse who requests to float in order to broaden the nurse's experience may put the nurse's name on a list, maintained in the Nursing Office, indicating where the nurse requests to float. In this case, a differential shall not be paid.
- Except in emergencies (emergency is defined as a situation when reasonable efforts to float from like areas fails), no nurse will be assigned to an area without having adequate orientation to that area. Adequate orientation will be determined by the Director of Nursing with input from the Nurse Manager, and Staff Developer.
- Assignments shall include only those duties and responsibilities for which competency has been validated. A registered nurse with demonstrated competencies for the area shall be responsible for the nursing care, and shall be assigned as a resource to the RN who has been assigned to the unlike area and who has not completed competencies for that area.
- This Section will not apply when one of the units is temporarily closed.
- c) The County will attempt to expand the float pool at Valley Medical Center. Coded Floats, Resource Nurses, and Support Nurses will be paid the current differential.

Section 8.14 - Temporary Work Location

When a nurse is assigned to work at a location different from the nurse's regularly assigned work location, the nurse shall be allowed to

travel on County time to that work location. Time allotted for travel and mileage paid shall be based on actual miles traveled. Actual miles traveled shall be defined as all miles driven on County business. However, no mileage reimbursement shall be paid for miles traveled to the first field or work location of the day from the nurse's place of residence or from the last field or work location of the day to the nurse's place of residence, unless the miles traveled exceeds the distance normally traveled by the nurse during their normal home-to-work commute. In that case, the nurse may claim reimbursement for only the added mileage which exceeds their normal home-to-work location.

The County will either supply transportation for such travel or shall pay mileage based on the above distances. The County assumes no obligation to the nurse who for self-convenience voluntarily reports to other than the regularly assigned work location.

Section 8.15 - Bilingual Pay

On recommendation of the appointing authority and the Director of Personnel, the County may approve payments of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month to a bilingual nurse whose abilities have been determined by the Director of Personnel as qualifying to fill positions requiring bilingual speaking and/or writing ability. Bilingual skill payments will be made when:

- a) Public contact requires continual eliciting and explaining information in a language other than English; or
- b) Where translation of written material in another language is a continuous assignment; or
- c) The position is the only one in the work location where there is a demonstrated need for language translation in providing services to the public.

The County shall review positions covered by this Agreement not less than annually to determine the number and location of positions to be designated as requiring bilingual abilities. The County will post the names and language skills by work unit of those employees who are being paid a bilingual differential.

Differential may be removed when the criteria ceases to be met.

Section 8.16 - Hazard Duty

- a) The work places covered and included in this Section are the JPD Ranches and the locked/secured sections of the following facilities:
 - The Main Jail
 - Elmwood
 - North County Jail
 - JPD Hall
 - Psychiatric Inpatient
 - Emergency Psychiatric Services
- b) A premium for Hazard Duty of seventy-five cents (\$.75) per hour shall be paid to coded classifications while in paid status whose

entire assignment for the County is in a work place described in paragraph a). This payment shall be made irrespective of classification, pay level, overtime status, holiday work, or other wage variations. This hazard duty premium shall be included in the pay status time of the coded classifications described in this paragraph b).

- c) A premium for hazard duty of seventy-five cents (\$.75) per hour shall be paid to coded classifications, whose entire assignment is not in a work place described in paragraph a), for only the hours assigned and worked in a work place described in paragraph a). This payment shall be made irrespective of classification, pay level, overtime status, holiday work or other wage variations. This hazard duty premium shall not be included in the pay status time of the coded classification described in this paragraph c). A nurse must work a minimum of thirty (30) consecutive minutes per entry into a work place described in paragraph a) prior to being eligible for the hazard duty premium. Coded classifications shall receive an additional full hourly premium for time worked of more than six (6) minutes in any hour after the first hour of work.
- d) The hazard duty premium shall not be allowed in computing payments at the time of termination.

Section 8.17 - Alternate Work Schedules

A nurse may elect to work an alternate work schedule based on eighty (80) hours per two (2) week period. Time worked in excess of eighty (80) hours bi-weekly shall be subject to overtime pay provisions of this Agreement. This schedule shall be a voluntary/optional alternative to a previous eight (8) hour per day schedule with mutual agreement of the nurse and management. A nurse working a regularly scheduled ten (10) or twelve (12) hour shift shall be compensated for each hour worked at the regular hourly base pay. Hours worked in excess of ten (10) or twelve (12) hours of a regularly scheduled ten (10) or twelve (12) hour shift, shall be subject to overtime provisions of Article 8, Section 2 (Overtime Pay).

Shift differential shall be paid for all hours worked as specified in Article 8, Section 8 (Shift Differentials).

Section 8.18 - Changes in Schedules

Except for emergencies, changes in a nurse's scheduled work unit, scheduled regular shift or scheduled regular number of hours in the work day will not be made unless the nurse is given advance notice of the change and is provided the opportunity to discuss the proposed change with the appropriate supervisor.

Section 8.19 - Additional Shift Work

Prior to posting of the final work schedule, nurses in part-time codes will be given preference over Per Diem and Extra-Help nurses for available, additional shifts in their work unit.

Section 8.20 - Voluntary Reduced Work Hours Program

- a) The County agrees to establish a Voluntary Reduced Work Hours Program for full-time nurses represented by the Association. The purpose of the Program is to reduce work hours and a commensurate amount of pay on a voluntary basis.
- b) Nurses may elect a two and one-half percent (2 1/2%), five percent (5%), ten percent (10%) or twenty percent (20%) reduction in pay for a commensurate amount of time off for a six (6) month period. Admission into the plan will be at six (6) month intervals.
- c) All nurses in the Program will revert to their former status at the end of six (6) months. If a nurse transfers, promotes, demotes, terminates, or in any other way vacates or reduces the nurse's present code, the nurse will be removed from the Program for the balance of the six (6) month period.
- d) Compensatory time shall accrue as earned and shall not be scheduled on any day considered as a County holiday. Nurses may use the reduced hours time in advance of accrual and will reimburse the County for hours taken in advance of accrual upon early termination from the Program.
- e) Participation in this Program shall be by mutual agreement between the nurse and the Department/Agency Head. At no time will approval be given if it results in overtime. Restrictions by Department/ Agencies within work units shall be uniformly applied.
- f) It is understood by the County that due to this Program there may be lower levels of service.
- g) All nurses will be notified in writing regarding the Program specifics and the sign-up options. Such written notice to be mutually agreed upon by the parties.
- h) Full and timely disclosure of actual sign-ups and any analysis developed will be made available to both the County and the Association.
- i) This agreement governs as to the Voluntary Reduced Work Hours Program, but will in no way alter the meaning of the Association and County Agreements currently in effect. This will include any departmental, sideletter agreements, etc.

ARTICLE 9 - PAID TIME OFF

Section 9.1 - Purpose

Paid Time Off was developed to allow more flexibility in the use of nurse's time off. The following were taken into consideration in establishing the amount of time accrued each pay period:

3	Personal leave days
11	Holidays
1	Birthday
	Vacation

Section 9.2 - Paid Time Off Accrual

a) Each nurse shall be entitled to annual Paid Time Off. Paid Time off is earned on an hourly basis. For purposes of this section, a day is defined as eight (8) work hours. Prior to December 28, 1998, the provisions of the prior contract will apply to PTO total yearly accrual, accrual factor, hourly accrual factor per pay period and maximum allowable balances.

Effective December 28, 1998, the accrual schedule shall be as follows:

<u>SERVICE YEARS & WORK DAY EQUIVALENT</u>	<u>TOTAL YEARLY ACCRUAL IN WORK DAYS</u>	<u>ACCRUAL FACTOR PER HOUR</u>	<u>HOURLY ACCRUAL FACTOR PER PP</u>	<u>MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE BALANCE</u>
1st year 1st through 261 days	26	.099616	7.969	78 work days
2nd through 4th year 262 through 1044 days	28	.107279	8.582	84 work days
5th through 9th year 1045 through 2349 days	32	.122605	9.808	96 work days
10th through 14th year 2350 through 3654 days	34	.130268	10.421	102 work days
15th through 19th year 3655 through 4959 days	36	.137931	11.034	108 work days
20th through thereafter 4960 days	38	.145593	11.647	114 work days

Section 9.3 - Pre-Scheduled Usage

Paid Time Off may be used for any lawful purpose by the nurses; the time requested shall require the approval of management with due consideration of nurse convenience and administrative requirements. All Paid Time Off hours must be exhausted before Leave Without Pay may be

used with the exception of leaves of absence where there are no earnings in one (1) full pay period. A nurse may be granted Leave Without Pay for less than one (1) pay period upon the approval of the appointing authority or their designee.

Section 9.4 - Paid Time Off Carry Over

In the event the nurse does not take all the paid time off to which he/she is entitled in the succeeding payroll year (twenty-six (26) or twenty-seven (27) pay periods), the nurse shall be allowed to carry over the unused portion, provided that the nurse may not accumulate more than three (3) years' earnings except:

- a) When absent on full salary due to work-related compensation injury which prevents the nurse from reducing credits to the maximum allowable amount, or
- b) In the case of inability to take paid time off because of extreme emergency, such as fire, flood or other similar disaster, an additional accumulation may be approved by the County Executive.

Section 9.5 - Paid Time Off Pay-Off

Upon termination of employment a nurse shall be paid the monetary value of the earned Paid Time Off balance as of the actual date of termination of employment.

Section 9.6 - Nurse's Exit from Paid Time Off Program

In the event that a nurse covered by this section ceases to be covered by this section, the nurse shall revert back to Ordinance Section A25-693 "Vacations", A25-688 "Bereavement Leave", A25-694 "Sick Leave" and A25-664 "Holidays", or superseded agreement with a recognized employee organization. Any balance of paid time off shall be reconverted to vacation leave, and any paid time off accumulated over an amount allowed without reference to this section shall be credited as compensatory time off which must be used within one (1) year. Any balance in the Sick Leave Bank shall be converted to Sick Leave.

Section 9.7 - Annual Cash Out of PTO

A nurse's eligibility for cash out is determined by the number of occurrences of unscheduled absences, including sick leave, in the payroll year (twenty-six or twenty-seven pay periods). The period for cash out eligibility for 2000 begins December 27, 1999 and ends December 24, 2000. The period for cash out eligibility in 2001 begins December 25, 2000 and ends December 23, 2001.

Cash out of PTO may be requested by the nurse during the month of February for the previous payroll year. Forms will be supplied and processed by Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System Human Resources.

PTO may be cashed out annually on the following basis (prorated for nurses other than full time on the basis of code status):

- a) If a nurse has no more than two (2) occurrences of unscheduled absences, the nurse may cash out up to eighty (80) hours of PTO.

- b) If the nurse has no more than four (4) occurrences of unscheduled absences, the nurse may cash out up to forty (40) hours of PTO.

Section 9.8 - Sick Leave Conversion to PTO

A nurse's eligibility for sick leave conversion is determined by the number of occurrences of sick leave usage. Sick leave use attributed to Worker's Compensation shall not be counted as an occurrence. The period for 2000 sick leave conversion eligibility begins December 27, 1999 and ends December 24, 2000. The period for 2001 sick leave conversion eligibility begins December 25, 2000, and ends December 23, 2001. The conversion of sick leave to PTO will be for those nurses meeting the eligibility requirements below and upon the nurse's request to the Health and Hospital Systems Human Resources Department. A nurse must identify any sick leave use attributed to Worker's Compensation with the request in order for such leave to be disregarded as an occurrence. Requests for sick leave conversion for 2000 must be submitted in February 2001 and conversion to PTO shall be credited on March 5, 2001 (paycheck of March 23, 2001). Requests for sick leave conversion for 2001 must be submitted in February 2002 and conversion to PTO shall be credited on March 4, 2002 (paycheck of March 22, 2002).

Sick leave may be converted annually on the following basis (prorated for nurses other than full time on the basis of code status):

- a) If a nurse has no sick leave usage, seven (7) days of sick leave will be converted into PTO.
- b) If a nurse has one (1) occurrence of sick leave usage, six (6) days of sick leave will be converted into PTO.
- c) If a nurse has two (2) occurrences of sick leave usage, five (5) days of sick leave will be converted into PTO.
- d) If a nurse has three (3) occurrences of sick leave usage, two (2) days of sick leave will be converted into PTO.
- e) If a nurse has four (4) occurrences of sick leave usage, one (1) day of sick leave will be converted into PTO.
- f) If a nurse has five (5) or more occurrences of sick leave usage, no sick leave shall be converted to PTO.

Section 9.9 - Usage of Paid Time Off on Holidays

- a) The following shall apply to all holidays listed below:
 1. Holiday falls on regularly scheduled day to work and nurse does not work -- Charge maximum eight (8) hours PTO.
 2. Holiday falls on regularly scheduled day to work and nurse works -- Charge maximum eight (8) hours PTO and pay time and one-half for all hours worked.

3. Holiday falls on scheduled day off and nurse does not work -- Nothing is charged as holidays are in PTO accrual rate.
4. Holiday falls on scheduled day off and nurse works -- No charge to PTO Bank and pay time and one-half for all hours worked.
5. Half-time nurses who do not work the holiday may elect in advance to charge four (4) hours to PTO and the remainder to leave without pay.

b) The following shall be observed as legal holidays:

1. January 1st
2. Third Monday in January
3. Third Monday in February
4. Last Monday in May
5. July 4th
6. First Monday in September
7. Second Monday in October
8. Veteran's Day to be observed on the date State of California workers observe the holiday
9. Fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day)
10. The Friday following Thanksgiving Day (Day After Thanksgiving)
11. December 25th
12. Other such holidays as may be designated by the Board of Supervisors.

All previous informal time off practices are eliminated and unauthorized.

c) Nurses shall enjoy the same number of holidays, regardless of variations in work weeks. For nurses who are assigned to positions which are not normally staffed on the weekends (Saturdays and Sundays, such as the clinics and Staff Development), holidays which fall on Sunday are observed on the following Monday and holidays which fall on Saturdays shall be observed on the preceding Friday. For employees who are assigned to positions which normally work on weekends (such as the Medical Units, ICU's, Institutional Units, etc.) the holiday shall be observed on the actual day listed in (b), supra.

- d) A nurse may elect in advance to receive compensatory time off credit in lieu of cash compensation.
- e) A nurse may elect in advance to use compensatory time off for a holiday in lieu of charging PTO.

Section 9.10 - Call Back From PTO

When a nurse is called back from PTO, which has been scheduled at least five (5) calendar days in advance of the first day of PTO, the nurse shall be paid at 1 1/2 times the nurse's base hourly rate.

ARTICLE 10 - SICK LEAVE PROVISIONS

Section 10.1 - Sick Leave Bank Usage and Accrual

Each nurse shall be entitled to sick leave. Such leave may be used for personal illness or for medical consultation to preserve the nurse's health. Except for emergencies, all absences for medical consultation must be approved by the nurse's supervisor. Such leave shall be earned on an hourly basis and computed at the rate of ninety-six (96) hours per year and may be accrued without limitation. The accrual factor per hour is .045977 and the accrual factor per full pay period is 3.678.

Section 10.2 - Sick Leave Usage for Care of Immediate Family

A nurse who has acquired a sufficient right to sick leave with pay may be granted permission to use same not to exceed three (3) working days of such leave in order to care for a sick or injured member of the nurse's immediate family requiring care. "Immediate family" shall mean the mother, father, grandmother, grandfather of the nurse or of the spouse of the nurse and the spouse, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, brother, sister, grandchild, brother-in-law or sister-in-law of the nurse or any person living in the immediate household of the nurse.

Section 10.3 - Doctor's Notes

Request for sick leave with pay in excess of three (3) working days must be supported by a statement from a licensed medical practitioner who is eligible for third party reimbursement. Management may require such a supporting statement for absences of less than three (3) days.

Section 10.4 - Bereavement Leave

Leaves of absence with pay shall be granted nurses in order that they may discharge the customary obligations arising from the death of a member of their immediate family. "Immediate family" shall mean the mother, father, grandmother, grandfather of the nurse or of the spouse of the nurse and the spouse, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, brother, sister, grandchild, brother-in-law or sister-in-law of the nurse or any person living in the immediate household of the nurse. Up to forty (40) hours pay shall be granted which will consist of sixteen (16) hours not charged to any accumulated balance followed by twenty-four (24) hours chargeable to sick leave, if necessary. An additional twenty-four (24) hours, sixteen (16) chargeable to sick leave and eight (8) not charged to any accumulated balance, is authorized if out-of-state travel is required.

Section 10.5 - Sick Leave Bank Pay Off

For purposes of this paragraph, a day is defined as eight (8) work hours.

Upon death or retirement, up to sixty (60) days of accrued sick leave shall be paid off at a rate of fifty percent (50%) of the equivalent cash value. All accrued balances beyond sixty (60) days shall be paid off at the rate of twelve and one-half percent (12 1/2%) of the accrued cash value (one hour's pay for one day of accrual).

Upon resignation in good standing, nurses with ten (10) or more years' service shall be paid up to sixty (60) days of accrued sick leave at the

rate of twenty-five percent (25%) of the equivalent cash value. All accrued balances beyond sixty (60) days will be paid off at the rate of twelve and one-half percent (12 1/2%) of the accrued cash value.

Section 10.6 - Reinstatement Pay Back

Nurses receiving a sick leave bank payoff in accordance with Section 10.5 may, if reinstated within one (1) year, repay the full amount of sick leave bank payoff received and have the former sick leave bank balance restored. Repayment in full must be made prior to reinstatement.

Section 10.7 - Sick Leave Conversion

A portion of unused sick leave may be converted to PTO in accordance with Section 9.8.

ARTICLE 11 - LEAVE PROVISIONS

Section 11.1 - Leave Without Pay

a) Reasons Granted

Leaves of absence without pay may be granted to nurses for up to one (1) year. Extensions to leaves approved for less than one (1) year shall not unreasonably be denied provided adequate advance notice is given. If a nurse wishes to return to work early from a leave of absence, the nurse shall provide reasonable advance notice to the appointing authority. Leaves beyond one (1) year may be granted due to unusual or special circumstances. The following are approved reasons for such leaves:

1. Illness beyond that covered by sick leave.
2. Education or training which will benefit the County, including advancement in nursing.
3. Other personal reasons which do not cause inconvenience on the department.
4. To accept other government agency employment.
5. Paternity leave, not to exceed six (6) months.

b) Leave for Association Business

Upon thirty (30) days' advance notice, a long term leave without pay to accept employment with the Association shall be granted by the appointing authority for a period of up to one (1) year. No more than three (3) nurses shall be granted a leave at any one time. A leave may only be denied if:

1. The notice requirement is not met.
2. The number of nurses on leave has reached the maximum of three (3).
3. The nurse has specialized skills and abilities which are necessary and could not be replaced.

With notice no less than thirty (30) days prior to the conclusion of the leave, such leave may be extended up to one (1) year upon approval of the appointing authority.

c) Revocation

A leave may be revoked by the Director of Personnel upon evidence that the cause for granting it was misrepresented or has ceased to exist.

d) Seniority Rights

Maternity leaves of more than thirteen (13) pay periods; leaves of absence of more than two (2) pay periods; and suspensions shall not be counted as time spent in a salary step in computing

eligibility of the nurse for further salary increases. All time spent on industrial injury leave shall be counted.

Section 11.2 - Family Leave

a) Maternity and Adoptive Leave

1. Length

Upon request, maternity leave without pay shall be granted to natural or adoptive parents by the appointing authority for a period of up to six (6) months. With notice no less than one (1) month prior to the conclusion of the leave, such leave may be extended up to one (1) year upon approval of the appointing authority. A request for extension can only be denied for good cause. A nurse who is pregnant may continue to work as long as her physician approves with concurrence from the Department.

2. Sick Leave Use

If, during the pregnancy leave or following the birth of a child, the nurse's physician certifies that she is unable to perform the duties of her job, she may use her PTO or accumulated sick leave during the period certified by the physician. The authorized PTO or sick leave shall be charged either prior to or at the termination of the leave.

b) Paternity Leave

Upon request, paternity leave without pay shall be granted to natural or adoptive parents not to exceed six (6) months. All provisions of Section 11.1 shall apply to this paternity leave provision.

c) Other Family Leave

Upon request, family leave shall be granted for the placement of a foster child, or to attend to the serious illness of a family member in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act, and for the serious illness of a same sex domestic partner, for a period of up to six (6) months.

Section 11.3 - Leaves to Perform Jury Duty or to Respond to a Subpoena

a) Response to Summons

A nurse shall be allowed to take leave from the nurse's County duties without loss of wages, PTO, sick leave or nurse benefits for the purpose of responding to summons to jury selection or serving on a jury for which the nurse has been selected, subject to the limitation that a nurse shall receive paid leave to serve on a jury for which the nurse has been selected not more than once during a calendar year and provided that the nurse executes a written waiver of all compensation other than the mileage allowance, for which the nurse would otherwise receive compensation by virtue of the nurse's performance of such jury duty. No nurse shall be paid more than the nurse's regular shift pay or regular work week pay as a result of jury duty service. The nurse is required to notify the nurse's appointing authority when the nurse has received a jury summons and when the nurse's jury service is completed.

b) Jury Duty

Nothing in this Section shall prevent any County nurse from serving on a jury more than once per calendar year, provided, however, that such additional periods of absence from regular County duties as a result thereof shall be charged, at the option of such nurse, to either accrued Paid Time Off (PTO) or leave without pay.

c) Response to a Subpoena

No nurse shall suffer loss of wages or benefits in responding to a subpoena to testify in court if that nurse is not a party to the litigation.

d) Release Time

In the event a nurse is called to court under the above provision, the following shall apply:

1. Swing or PM shift shall have release time the day of court attendance; time spent in court shall be deducted from the regular shift on that day with no loss of wages or benefits.
2. Night or graveyard shift shall have release time on the shift prior to court attendance; and that nurse shall suffer no loss of wages or benefits.
3. When a nurse, whose regularly scheduled hours includes two (2) full shifts (16 hours) of scheduled duty between 11:00 p.m., Friday to 3:00 a.m., Monday, is selected for a jury and is required to be in Court during his/her regular days off, the department will make every effort to provide the following Saturday or Sunday as a regularly scheduled day off. The weekend cannot count as a weekend worked for weekend off provisions.

e) Return to Work

For the purpose of this Section, a nurse who responds to a summons to jury duty and who is not selected as a juror shall not be deemed to have performed jury duty and shall return to work as soon as possible.

Section 11.4 - Compulsory Leave

a) Physical Examination

If any non-probationary nurse is required by the appointing authority to take a physical examination not connected with preexisting or existing industrial injury to determine if the nurse is incapacitated for work, the following provisions will apply and will be given to the nurse in writing:

1. Before making a decision, the physician designated by the appointing authority will consult with the nurse's personal physician and will advise the nurse of this procedure.

2. If the nurse's personal physician agrees with the decision of the physician designated by the appointing authority, the decision is final.
3. If the physicians disagree, and the nurse so requests, they will select a third physician whose determination will be final. Cost for such examination by the selected physician will be equally shared by the nurse and the appointing authority.

b) Court Related

The appointing authority may require a nurse who has been formally charged in a court of competent jurisdiction with the commission of any felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, provided said crime is related to the nurse's employment status, to take a compulsory leave of absence without pay pending determination by way of a plea, finding or verdict at the trial court level as to the guilt or innocence of such nurse.

1. Determination of Innocence

If there is a determination of innocence or the charges are dropped, the nurse shall be reinstated to the nurse's position with return of all benefits, including salary, that were due for the period of compulsory leave if the nurse was available for work during this period. Despite reinstatement, the nurse remains subject to appropriate disciplinary action if warranted under the circumstances. Any such disciplinary action may be imposed effective as of the commencement date of the compulsory leave imposed under this Section.

2. Determination of Guilt

If there is a determination of guilt, the appointing authority may take appropriate disciplinary action. If the action is a suspension and the suspension is for a shorter duration than the compulsory leave, the nurse shall receive the difference between the compulsory leave and the suspension in salary and all benefits.

Section 11.5 - Military Leave

a) Governing Provision

The provisions of the Military and Veterans Code of the State of California and the County ordinance code shall govern the military leave of nurses of the County of Santa Clara.

b) Physical Examination

Any regular or provisional nurse shall be allowed time off with no loss in pay for the time required to receive a physical examination or re-examination as ordered by provisions of a national conscription act or by any branch of the National or State military services.

Section 11.6 - Educational Leave for Registered Nurses

- a) Each July 1 a credit of forty (40) hours per year shall be granted for educational leave for all full-time nurses. Educational leave will be accumulative to a maximum of eighty (80) hours. Educational leave for part-time nurses will be prorated. There shall be a three (3) month waiting period for all nurses hired after the execution of this contract. However, each nurse who uses any time earned between three (3) and six (6) months must sign a note which states that the nurse will authorize a deduction from the nurse's last paycheck for the time used if the nurse leaves County employment within one (1) year of the date of hire.
- b) The individual nurse shall decide the educational program in which they shall participate. It is understood that all use of educational leave shall be principally related to nursing practices within the County.
- c) Details in the written application for educational leave shall include but not be limited to the course, institute, workshops or classes, subjects, hours, faculty and purpose of taking the course, seminar, etc. The application shall be received by the Administration no less than ten (10) working days prior to the requested date of leave of absence. At least five (5) working days prior to the commencement of the leave of absence date, the Administration shall respond in writing to the nurse. When notification of a course is received less than ten (10) working days prior to the course date, Administration may consider approval.
- d) In all instances set forth above, the leave request shall be subject to approval by the Department. Such leaves shall not unduly interfere with staffing requirements for patients' care or duplicate comparable training offered by the Department. The Department agrees that it shall not unreasonably withhold approval.
- e) Proof of attendance may be requested by the Department. The nurse may be requested by the Department to report such activity in writing.
- f) Every effort shall be made to arrange scheduling for the individual nurse's use of educational leave time.
- g) If the educational leave falls on the nurse's day off, the nurse shall select one of the following:
1. The day will be charged to educational leave and the nurse will have a day added to the nurse's Paid Time Off balance, or
 2. The day will be charged to educational leave and the nurse will be given another day off during the pay period, or
 3. The day will not be charged to educational leave.

- h) Participation in the Registered Nurses Unit educational leave program shall not alter the RN's right to benefits included in the Professional Development Fund Section of this Agreement.
- i) The County shall provide three (3) courses approved by the Board of Registered Nursing for continuing educational credit, provided qualified instructors are available and interested. The County is under no obligation to hire additional instructors.

ARTICLE 12 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Section 12.1 - Professional Development Fund

a) General

1. The County will fund, on a matching basis, up to sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) per fiscal year for group and individual professional development, California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) Registered Nurse licensure, certification and recertification in a nursing specialty, and for education, as described in sections "b" and "c". An additional amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) per fiscal year shall be funded for the use by nurses in the classifications of Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist for individual claims that are beyond the \$300 annual matching limits. Funds not used for any period shall be carried over for use in the next period.

b) Individual

1. Funded on a matching basis: fifty percent (50%) by the nurse and fifty percent (50%) by the County, up to a maximum County contribution of three hundred dollars (\$300) for nurses in the classifications of Clinical Nurse I, II, & III, Psychiatric Nurse I & II, Nurse Coordinator, Staff Developer, Infection Control Nurse, Assistant Nurse Manager, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist per fiscal year. For nurses in the classifications of Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist the matching cap is eight hundred dollars (\$800) per fiscal year.
2. The requested expenditure must relate to the nurse's job or one to which the nurse could reasonably aspire within County service.
3. Requests will be processed on a "first come, first served" basis, but priority will be given to first requests by an individual for the current year.
4. At least five (5) working days must be allowed for prior approval in the amount of the estimated County contributions for authorized expenses other than licensure reimbursement.
5. Allowable expenses shall include but not be limited to: certifications and recertifications in a nursing specialty; conference and seminar registration fees; actual cost of California BRN Registered Nurse licensure fees; tuition not reimbursed under the tuition reimbursement program; books and materials required for a conference, seminar or course; expenses for travel out of the county to attend a conference, seminar or course, including transportation, meals, lodging, car rental, etc., per County reimbursement policy, procedures and schedules.

6. An itemized statement of expenses for programs shall be submitted by the nurse for reimbursement or accounting as the case may be.
7. All nurses whose BRN licenses expire during the term of the agreement must present a receipt or other proof of payment and/or the renewed BRN license within sixty (60) calendar days after expiration of the BRN license in order to receive reimbursement. Requests must be submitted on a form provided by the County.
8. Substitute courses may be approved when approved courses are found to be unavailable.

c) Group

1. Funded on a matching basis: twenty-five percent (25%) by the participating nurses and/or the Association, and seventy-five percent (75%) by the County.
2. The Association will plan and budget group programs for review and approval by the County/Association Committee. Each proposed program will be considered separately on its own merits.
3. The Association will administer the approved programs, making all the necessary arrangements, etc.

d) Quarterly Financial Statement

A quarterly financial statement shall be forwarded to the Association on the status of the fund no later than two (2) weeks after the end of each quarter.

Section 12.2 - Tuition Reimbursement

a) Fund

The County shall maintain a tuition reimbursement program for the term of this Agreement. The total monies in this program will be administered at the County level. The fund will consist of ninety-five thousand dollars (\$95,000) per fiscal year. Effective July 1, 2001, the fund will increase to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per fiscal year. One quarter (1/4) of each year's fund will be available on the following quarterly dates.

Fiscal Year 00-01

- 1st quarter - July 1, 2000
- 2nd quarter - October 1, 2000
- 3rd quarter - January 1, 2001
- 4th quarter - April 1, 2001

Fiscal Year 01-02

- 1st quarter - July 1, 2001
- 2nd quarter - October 1, 2001
- 3rd quarter - January 1, 2002
- 4th quarter - April 1, 2002

Fiscal Year 02-03
1st quarter - July 1, 2002
2nd quarter - October 1, 2002

Funds not used for any period shall be carried over for use in the next period. Funds shall be encumbered to fifteen percent (15%) above the amount allotted for each funding period for the first one and one half fiscal years including any unused amount carried over from the prior funding period. This additional amount for encumbrance for the last one half fiscal year of this Agreement may be decreased based on the actual usage pattern. No amount may be approved or expended beyond funds available for the term of the Agreement.

b) Eligibility

Nurses are eligible to participate in the program provided:

1. The nurse is not receiving reimbursement from any other government agency or private source. (This applies to reimbursement only.)
2. The training undertaken is related to the nurse's occupational area or has demonstrated value to the County.
3. The application was filed with the appointing authority or their designee prior to the commencement of the course. Applications requiring time off must be filed with the appointing authority at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the course.
4. Substitute courses may be approved when approved courses are found to be unavailable.
5. There are sufficient funds available in the program.

c) Disapproval

Management may disapprove an application for tuition reimbursement provided:

1. Notice of disapproval is given to the nurse within ten (10) working days of the application.
2. The County alleges disapproval is necessary because any of the provisions above have not been met. When a nurse disagrees with the disapproval and files a grievance, they shall be allowed to continue the course with time off as provided for in this Section, except for denial based on paragraph b(5) above. If a final determination is made against the nurse, time off shall be made up by working, charging Paid Time Off (PTO) or comp time, or payroll deduction, and tuition reimbursement shall not be paid. If a final determination is made supporting the nurse, they shall be fully reimbursed in accordance with this Section.

d) Reimbursement

Total reimbursement for each nurse participating in the program will not exceed seven hundred dollars (\$700) per fiscal year. Effective July 1, 2001, the total reimbursement for each nurse participating in the program will not exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750). Mileage and subsistence will not be authorized unless the training is required of the nurse. Within the above limit, nurses shall receive full immediate reimbursement for tuition and other required costs (including textbooks) upon presentation of a receipt showing such payment has been made.

e) Deduction Authorization

The nurse shall sign a note which states that, upon receipt of reimbursement, they authorize:

1. Deduction from their wages in the event they do not receive a passing grade of C or better.
2. Deduction of fifty percent (50%) of the amount of reimbursement if they leave County employment within one (1) year after satisfactory completion of the course.
3. Deduction of the full amount of reimbursement if they leave County employment before completion of the course.
4. Any monies deducted from nurses under this Section will be redeposited into the Tuition Reimbursement Fund.

f) Make-Up Time

Nurses taking a course only available during working hours must make up fifty percent (50%) of the time away from the job. Make-up time may be deducted from the nurse's accrued educational leave, Paid Time Off (PTO) or compensatory time balance. Make-up time will not be allowed when it results in the payment of overtime. The department will make every effort to allow the nurse time off except where the payment of overtime will result. A nurse and the appropriate level of management may mutually rearrange the duty shift beyond eight (8) hours but within the eighty (80) hour pay period for purposes of participating in non-duty education and/or training deemed by the County to be to the benefit of the nurse and the County and such arrangement will be considered a waiver of Section 8.2.

g) Quarterly Financial Statement

A quarterly financial statement shall be forwarded to the Association on the status of the fund no later than two (2) weeks after the end of each period.

ARTICLE 13 - BENEFIT PROGRAMS

Section 13.1 - Workers' Compensation

a) Eligibility

Every nurse shall be entitled to industrial injury leave when the nurse is unable to perform services because of any injury as defined in the Workers' Compensation Act.

b) Compensation

A nurse who is disabled as a result of an industrial injury shall be placed on leave, using as much of the nurse's accumulated compensable overtime, accrued sick leave, and PTO time as when added to any disability indemnity payable under the Workers' Compensation Act will result in a payment to the nurse of not more than the nurse's full salary unless at the time of the filing of the Supervisor's Report of Injury the nurse indicates on the form provided by the supervisor that he/she does not want such integration of payments to take place. This choice shall be binding for the entire period of each disability unless the employee later requests in writing that the Workers' Compensation Division begin integration. In such case, integration shall be implemented at the beginning of the next pay period.

If integration occurs, the first three (3) days are to be charged to the nurse's accrued but unused sick leave. If the temporary disability period exceeds fourteen (14) calendar days, temporary disability will be paid for the first three (3) days.

c) Industrially Injured Workers - Temporary Modified Work Program

The County has established a program to return workers with temporary disabling occupational injuries or illnesses to modified duty within the County as soon as medically practical. Pursuant to the program, the County will make every reasonable effort to provide meaningful work assignments to all such workers capable of performing modified work. The maximum length of such work program shall not exceed twelve (12) weeks. With the approval of the Worker's Compensation Division, a temporary modified work assignment may be extended to no more than 16 weeks.

There are three kinds of "Temporary Modified Work" shown in order of preference:

1. Return to the worker's same job with some duties restricted.
2. Return to the same job, but for fewer hours per day or fewer hours per week. To be used if an injured worker cannot return on a full time basis.
3. Return temporarily to a different job. This is the least desirable and will only be attempted if the regular job cannot be reasonably modified to meet the injured worker's medical limitations.

d) Clothing Claims

Loss of, or damage to, a nurse's clothing resulting from an industrial injury which requires medical treatment will be replaced by the County through the following:

The Department will review and make a determination on all such incidents as submitted in writing by the nurse. Reimbursement will be limited to the lesser of:

1. Seventy-five percent (75%) of proven replacement cost, or
2. The repair cost.

However, both of the above are limited by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) maximum. (Nothing in this Section is intended to replace or supersede Article 13.2 which provides for replacement of items damaged, lost or destroyed in the line of duty.)

e) Tracking of High Incidents of Industrial Injury

The County shall design and initiate a study/analysis of on-the-job injury/illness incidents to identify whether there are areas of unusually high injury and/or illness. The County may submit the report to the County-wide Safety Committee. The parties agree to review and determine what course of action, if any, may be required based on the findings.

Section 13.2 - Repair/Replace Claims

County shall provide the necessary protective clothing to nurses and classifications pursuant to such requests by the nurses affected as provided by law under Cal-OSHA, Title 8, Article 10. The County shall pay the cost of repairing or replacing the uniforms, clothing and equipment of County nurses which have been damaged, lost or destroyed in the line of duty when the following conditions exist:

- a) The clothing, uniform or equipment is specifically required by the department or necessary to the nurses to perform the nurse's duty; and not adaptable for continued wear to the extent that they may be said to replace the nurse's regular clothing; or
- b) The clothing, uniform or equipment has been damaged or destroyed in the course of making an arrest, or in the issuance of a citation, or in the legal restraint of persons being placed in custody or already in custody, or in the service of legal documents as part of the nurse's duties or in the saving of a human life; and
- c) The nurse has not, through negligence or willful misconduct, contributed to such damage or destruction of said property.

Claims for reimbursement shall be reviewed and approved by the Department in accordance with procedures set forth by the County Executive.

Section 13.3 - Insurance Premiums

a) Medical Insurance

The County agrees to fully pay medical coverage for nurses and dependents on the lowest cost medical plan. The lowest cost medical plan will be either Kaiser, or Health Net. Up to the same maximum contribution will be made to other plans (i.e., Kaiser, Health Net and Valley Health Plan).

The parties agree that effective November 1, 1999, Kaiser coverage will be the Kaiser S Plan with a \$5 co-payment for office visits and a \$5 co-payment for prescriptions. The parties also agree that the Valley Health Plan and the Health Net Plan shall continue under the current coverage in effective on July 12, 1999.

The parties agree that effective November 1, 1999, hearing aid coverage, up to \$1000 for 1 to 2 devices every 36 months, is added to all health plans.

In addition, the County agrees to pay any inflationary increases added during the term of the Agreement.

Dual Coverage

Effective November 1, 1999, married couples and same sex domestic partners who are both County employees shall be eligible for coverage under one medical plan only with the County paying the full premium for dependent coverage. Married couples and same sex domestic partners who had one dependent coverage and one single coverage will have the single coverage dropped effective November 1, 1999. If both employees have single coverage, one will be converted to dependent coverage. County employee couples are not eligible to participate in the Health Plan Bonus Waiver Program.

New Hire Medical Insurance

All newly hired nurses shall be limited to enrollment in either the Valley Health Plan or Health Net Plan. This limitation shall continue until the next open enrollment window after the nurse has been employed for twelve (12) months. This enrollment limitation shall not apply if the nurse is already with Kaiser on their date of hire.

Medical Premiums during Medical, Family, Maternity or Industrial Injury Leave of Absence

The County shall pay the nurse's premium subject to applicable co-payments in this Section as follows:

1. While on medical, maternity or industrial injury leave of absence without pay, up to thirteen (13) pay periods of employee only coverage. A portion of the leave may include dependent coverage in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act, The California Family Rights Act and the County's Family and Medical Leave Policy.

2. For a nurse on family leave without pay, in accordance with the County's Family and Medical Leave Policy, up to twelve (12) weeks of dependent coverage.

Same Sex Domestic Partner Coverage

The County will continue same sex domestic partner coverage.

b) Dental Insurance

The County agrees to contribute the amount of the current monthly insurance premium to cover the nurse and full dependent contribution and to pick up inflationary costs during the term of this Agreement. The existing Delta Dental Plan coverage will be continued in accordance with the following schedule:

Basic and Prosthodontics:	75-25 - no deductible. \$2,000 maximum per patient per calendar year.
Orthodontics:	60-40 - no deductible. \$2000 lifetime maximum per patient (no age limit).

The County will continue to provide an alternative dental plan. The current alternate dental plan is Pacific Union Dental. The County will contribute up to the same dollar amount to this alternative dental plan premium as is paid to the Delta Dental Plan.

c) Life Insurance

The County agrees to increase the existing base group Life Insurance Plan to twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per nurse for the term of the Agreement.

d) Social Security

Effective October 12, 1981, the County did cease payment of the nurses' portion of Social Security.

e) Vision Care Plan

The County agrees to provide a Vision Care Plan for all nurses and dependents. The Plan will be the Vision Service Plan - Plan A with benefits at 12/12/24 month intervals with twenty dollar (\$20.00) deductible for examinations and twenty dollar (\$20.00) deductible for materials. The County will fully pay the monthly premium for nurse and dependents and pick up inflationary costs during the term of the agreement.

f) County-wide Benefits

The parties agree that, during the term of this Agreement, County-wide changes in benefits, such as medical, dental, life insurance or retirement, shall be applied to nurses in this Unit.

Section 13.4 - Training for Disabled Nurses

a) Vocational Rehabilitation

When a nurse is determined by the County to be unable to return to the classification in which the nurse held permanent status because of a work-connected illness or injury and does not elect a disability retirement, that nurse will be offered vocational rehabilitation.

b) Lateral Transfer/Demotion Openings

If the nurse meets all the qualifications for a particular position (this would take into account the nurse's medical limitations, prior work experience and skills) and an opening exists that involves a lateral transfer or demotion, the position shall be offered to the nurse.

c) Salary Level

In accordance with Chapter VI, Article 5, Section A25(e) of the Personnel Practices, "...the salary of the nurse shall be placed at the step in the salary range which corresponds most closely to the salary received by the nurse as of the time of injury. In the event that such a demotion would result in a salary loss of more than ten (10) percent, the nurse's new salary shall be set at the rate closest to but not less than ten percent (10%) below his/her salary as of the time of injury."

d) Training Program

In those cases where the nurse may not have the necessary prior experience or all the required skills but there is reasonable assurance that the nurse will be capable of obtaining them through a designated formal on-the-job training program, the County will make reasonable efforts to place the nurse in a training program.

e) Placement Review

If, after a period on the job, it is demonstrated that the nurse is unable to develop the required skills, knowledge and abilities and/or cannot meet the physical requirements to handle the new position, the nurse will be placed on a leave of absence and the placement process begins again.

f) Promotions

Any position which involves a promotion will call for the normal qualifying procedures, written and/or oral examination. However, if it is found that a nurse meets all the qualifications for a higher paying position and an eligibility list is already in existence, the nurse shall be allowed to take a written and/or oral examination, and, if the nurse qualifies, the nurse's name will be placed on the eligibility list commensurate with his/her score.

g) Referral to Accredited Rehabilitation Agency

In those cases where the County is unable, for one reason or another, to place a nurse in any occupation, that nurse's case will be referred to an accredited rehabilitation agency as approved by the Division of Industrial Accidents for testing, counseling and retraining at either the County's or State's expense.

h) State Legislation

The provisions of this Section shall not apply if State legislation removes from the County the control of training for disabled employees.

Section 13.5 - Short-Term Disability Program

The County shall provide a short-term disability plan at no expense to the County under the same terms and conditions as provided County-wide.

Section 13.6 - Retirement

The County will continue the present benefit contract with PERS which is the 2% at 55 Retirement Plan.

The County of Santa Clara's increase in contribution to PERS as a result of implementation of the 2% at 55 Plan, as well as the existing employer payment of employee PERS contribution shall be reflected as part of effective wages.

The County shall pay, on behalf of all nurses covered under PERS Miscellaneous, the currently required nurse contribution to the Public Employees' Retirement System.

Medical Benefits for Retirees

a) For Employees Hired before August 12, 1996:

The County shall contribute an amount equal to the cost of Kaiser retiree-only medical plan premium to the cost of the medical plan of employees who have completed five (5) years service (1,305 days of accrued service) or more with the County and who retire on PERS directly from the County on or after December 5, 1983. Retirees over sixty-five (65) or otherwise eligible for Medicare Part B must be enrolled in such a plan, and the County shall reimburse the retiree for the cost of Medicare Part B premium on a quarterly basis. This reimbursement is subject to the maximum County contribution for retiree medical. The surviving spouse or the same sex domestic partner of an employee eligible for retiree medical benefits may continue to purchase medical coverage after the death of the retiree.

b) For Employees Hired on or after August 12, 1996:

The County shall contribute an amount equal to the cost of Kaiser retiree-only medical plan premium to the cost of the medical plan of employees who have completed eight (8) years of service (2,088 days of accrued service) or more with the County and who retire on PERS directly from the County on or after December 5, 1983. Retirees over the age of sixty-five (65) or otherwise eligible for Medicare Part B must be enrolled in such a plan and the County shall reimburse the retiree for the cost of Medicare Part B premium on a quarterly basis. This reimbursement is subject to the maximum County contribution for retiree medical. The surviving spouse or the same sex domestic partner of an employee eligible for retiree medical benefits may continue to purchase medical coverage after the death of the retiree.

Section 13.7 - Deferred Compensation Plan

The County will continue the present deferred income plan. If the County proposes to change the plan, it shall provide appropriate notice to the Association and the parties shall meet and confer pursuant to Article 20 over said changes.

ARTICLE 14 - USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES AND MILEAGE PAYMENT

Section 14.1 - Use of Private Vehicles

a) No Requirement

No nurse shall be required as a condition of obtaining or continuing County employment, to possess or provide a private vehicle for use in connection with her/his County employment. Use of County vehicles shall be in accordance with County policies and regulations.

b) Authorization of Use

Departments may authorize the use of private vehicles by their Department nurses, with each Department maintaining a continuous listing of those nurses authorized to use their private vehicles. Each nurse so authorized shall have completed applicable County authorization requirements governing County driver permits and insurance. Nurses not having completed such requirements and thereby not on the listing shall be neither required nor authorized to use their private vehicles.

c) Damage

Nurses whose vehicle is damaged in a collision with another vehicle while driving a personal vehicle on County business shall, following the approval of the Accident Review Board ESA Claims Division or if denied by ESA and subsequently approved on appeal to the Accident Review Board, be reimbursed for such damage not to exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) provided:

1. The driver of the other vehicle is responsible for the accident as verified by a police report, and the damages shall be unrecoverable from the other party by reason of lack of liability insurance, or
2. The damage is caused by a hit-run or unidentified driver as verified by a police report, and/or
3. The amount of damage to be reimbursed by the County is not recoverable under any policy of insurance available to the nurse. The County shall be subrogated to the rights of recovery from the responsible party.

Section 14.2 - Mileage Reimbursement for Use of Private Vehicle

Effective September 1, 2000, the rate of reimbursement shall be equal to the "standard mileage rate" for auto expenses established by the Federal Government as the maximum tax-exempt mileage rate. Subsequent to September 2000, the County rate of reimbursement shall be adjusted on the first day of the month that any change by the Federal Government "standard mileage rate" is effective.

Section 14.3 - County Business Travel

a) Business Travel Reimbursement

Nurses who are required in the performance of their duties to travel shall receive business travel reimbursement in accordance with Santa Clara County Ordinance Section A31-2 and 11.

b) Claims for Travel Expense

In accordance with County Ordinance Code Section A31-8, receipts for all expenditures for lodging and all other individual expenditures in excess of ten dollars (\$10.00) shall be submitted with claims for travel expenses. All individual expenditures of ten dollars (\$10.00) or less shall be itemized in the claim; however, receipts are not required. It is recognized that individual expenditure of ten dollars (\$10.00) or less may be incurred daily or over the entire period of travel; the ten dollars (\$10.00) limit pertains to the cost of each item rather than the total cost of such item.

Section 14.4 - Disabled Parking Stickers

All nurses determined by the County to be disabled in accordance with standards of the State of California Department of Motor Vehicles will be issued a disabled parking sticker for their private vehicle.

ARTICLE 15 - NURSES IN UNCLASSIFIED POSITIONS

a) Specially Funded Nurses

All nurses in unclassified coded positions within the Association's bargaining unit shall be subject to and protected by this Agreement and departmental agreements, except as otherwise provided.

b) Seniority

Time worked in such positions shall apply to seniority for the purposes of departmental agreements, salary increments and all other matters in the same manner for all other unclassified coded positions.

c) Examinations

Such nurses shall be allowed to participate in examinations in the classified service equivalent to the positions they occupy as well as all open and/or promotional examinations for which they qualify under Merit System Rules.

d) Career Opportunities

It is the County's intention to encourage and promote career opportunities for regular County nurses. In the interest of equitable treatment and to fulfill its contractual commitment, the County will not fill more than fifty percent (50%) of coded vacancies in a classification with unclassified nurses when regular County nurses are certifiable.

e) New Programs

Upon final approval by the County and the granting authority of new special programs funded from State and/or Federal sources which create full-time positions of one (1) year's duration or more, the parties agree to meet and confer on:

1. Coverage of such positions by all or any portion of the terms of this Agreement.
2. The impact the utilization of such positions may have on employees in positions currently covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 16 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

County and the Association recognize early settlement of grievances is essential to sound employee-employer relations. The parties seek to establish a mutually satisfactory method for the settlement of grievances of nurses, the Association, or the County. In presenting a grievance, the aggrieved and/or the aggrieved's representative is assured freedom from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal.

Section 16.1 - Grievance Defined

a) Definition

A grievance is defined as an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of the provisions of this Memorandum of Agreement, Department Memoranda of Agreement and/or Understanding, Merit System Rules, or other County ordinances, resolutions, Policy and/or Procedure Manuals, or alleged infringement of an employee's personal rights (i.e., discrimination, harassment) affecting the working conditions of the nurses covered by this Agreement, except as excluded under Section 16.1(b).

b) Matters Excluded From Consideration Under the Grievance Procedure

1. Disciplinary actions taken under Section 708 of the County Charter except where nurses voluntarily waive their right to appeal such disciplinary actions to the Personnel Board.
2. Probationary release of nurses.
3. Position classification.
4. Merit System Examinations.
5. Items requiring capital expenditure.
6. Items within the scope of representation and subject to the meet and confer process.

Section 16.2 - Grievance Presentation

Nurses shall have the right to present their own grievance or do so through a representative of their own choice. Grievances may also be presented by a group of nurses, by the Association, or by the County. No grievance settlement may be made in violation of an existing rule, ordinance, memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding, nor shall any settlement be made which affects the rights or conditions of other nurses represented by the Association without notification to and consultation with the Association.

The Association shall be provided copies of individual or group grievances and responses to same. Such grievances may not proceed beyond Step One without written concurrence of the Association at each step.

The Association shall have the right to appear and be heard in all individual or group grievances at any step. Upon request by County, the Association shall appear and be heard in such grievances at any step.

Section 16.3 - Procedural Compliance

Association grievances shall comply with all foregoing provisions and procedures. The County shall not be required to reconsider a grievance previously settled with a nurse if renewed by the Association, unless it is alleged that such grievance settlement is in violation of an existing rule, ordinance, memorandum of understanding, or memorandum of agreement.

A grievance is deemed to be presented or filed when it is either received by the Office of Labor Relations if presented in person or by facsimile or by electronic mail; or on the day it is postmarked, whichever occurs first.

A response by the County is deemed to be made when it is either received by the Association when presented in person or by facsimile or by electronic mail; or on the day it is postmarked, whichever occurs first.

Section 16.4 - Informal Resolution/Time Limits

It is agreed that nurses will be encouraged to act promptly through informal discussion with their immediate supervisor on any act, condition or circumstance which is causing nurse dissatisfaction and to seek action to remove the cause of dissatisfaction before it serves as the basis for a formal grievance. Time limits may be extended or waived only by written agreement of the parties.

If either party fails to comply with the grievance time limits, and the matter proceeds to arbitration, the party who missed the time limits, as determined by the arbitrator, shall pay the full cost of the arbitrator.

Section 16.5 - Formal Grievance

a) Step One

Within fifteen (15) working days of the occurrence or discovery of an alleged grievance, the grievance shall be presented in writing to the Office of Labor Relations. The grievance form shall contain information which identifies:

1. The aggrieved;
2. The specific nature of the grievance;
3. The time or place of its occurrence;
4. The rule, law, regulation, or policy alleged to have been violated, improperly interpreted, applied or misapplied;
5. The consideration given or steps taken to secure informal resolution;
6. The corrective action desired; and,

7. The name of any person or representative chosen by the nurse to enter the grievance.

A decision shall be made by the County in writing within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the grievance. A copy of the decision shall be directed to the person identified in (7) above. A copy shall be sent to the Association and this copy shall dictate time limits.

b) Step Two

If the aggrieved continues to be dissatisfied, the aggrieved may, within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of the first step decision, present a written presentation to be directed to the County Executive's designated representative indicating the aggrieved wishes the grievance to be referred to an impartial arbitrator. The arbitrator shall be advised of and agree to the following provisions:

1. Within ten (10) working days of receipt of the grievance at step two, one (1) arbitrator shall be selected from the panel and a hearing scheduled within thirty (30) calendar days.
2. If the selected arbitrator cannot be scheduled within ninety (90) calendar days the parties will mutually agree to either another arbitrator or extend the time limit for the hearing.
3. Arbitration proceedings shall be recorded but not transcribed except at the request of either party or the arbitrator. Upon mutual agreement, the County and the Association may submit written briefs to the arbitrator for decision in lieu of a hearing.
4. The arbitrator's decision shall be rendered within fifteen (15) days of the hearing, receipt of the transcript or the briefs.

The arbitrator's compensation and expenses shall be borne equally by the nurse or the Association and the County. Decisions of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.

Section 16.6 - Arbitrators

For the term of this agreement the County and the Union have agreed to the following panel:

Kenneth N. Silbert
Barry Winograd
Herman Levy
Matthew Goldberg
Christopher Burdick

Alexander Cohn
Bonnie G. Bogue
Barbara Chvany
Wilma Rader

The parties may also mutually agree to choose another arbitrator not on the above list.

Section 16.7 - Arbitration Release Time

The following statement on nurse participation in grievance arbitration hearings is agreed to:

- a) The nurse on whose behalf the grievance has been filed will be granted release time for the entire hearing. Release time to serve as a witness will be granted on a scheduled basis, i.e., when the nurse is scheduled to appear. In the case of a group grievance, release time will be granted for the designated spokesperson for the entire hearing. Release time also will be granted to the appropriate Unit Representative.

- b) Other requests for leave for the purpose of participation in a grievance arbitration hearing will also be granted and charged to the nurse's own leave time - provided the absence does not unduly interfere with the performance of service.

ARTICLE 17 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nurses are to abide by all applicable Federal, State and Local Statutes or contract requirements regarding conflict of interest in outside employment. Nurses intending to engage in outside employment shall file an advance statement of such intent for the approval of the appointing authority.

ARTICLE 18 - NURSING PRACTICE ISSUES

Section 18.1 - Supervision

All Interim Permittees will be directly supervised and will not assume team leader duties. A Clinical Nurse I will not work in charge position except as provided for in Section 8.10 of this Agreement.

Section 18.2 - Conscientious Objector Clause

The rights of patients to receive the necessary nursing care are to be respected. As individuals, licensed nurses hold certain moral, ethical, and religious beliefs and in good conscience may be compelled to refuse involvement with abortions. The licensed nurse must be free to exercise this right without being subjected to ridicule, harassment, coercion, censure, termination, or other forms of discipline. Emergency situations will arise where the immediate nature of the patient's needs will not allow for personnel substitutions. In such circumstances the patient's right to receive the necessary nursing care would take precedence over exercise of the nurse's individual beliefs and rights until other personnel can be provided.

Section 18.3 - Malpractice Protection

The County's obligation to defend and indemnify its officers and employees is prescribed by California Government Code 825 et seq. and 995 et seq. The County shall indemnify and defend nurses in this Unit in accordance with the applicable law when and if they are sued for errors or omissions (malpractice) within the course and scope of their duties, save and except where the applicable law excuses County's obligation to defend (e.g., fraud, malice, etc.). This paragraph and the terms and conditions thereof shall be enforceable, at law in accordance with the applicable law, but shall not be subject to the grievance provision of this Agreement.

Section 18.4 - Inservice Education Program For Nurses

- a) While all nurses are responsible for their own professional growth, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center will maintain a Staff Development Program for nurses, including the following:
1. Provide an organized plan of orienting all newly coded nurses to the objectives, policies, goals, and procedures of the hospital and of nursing service at regularly scheduled intervals.
 2. Provide an organized plan of orienting all nurses to the job descriptions, responsibilities, and work assignments for nursing classifications at regularly scheduled intervals.
 3. Keep the nursing staff abreast on a continuing basis of new and expanding nursing care programs and of new techniques, equipment, facilities and concepts of care.
 4. Each nurse must complete both (1) and (2) above before being permanently assigned to a unit and shift. Until completion of the formal orientation, the nurse will be considered as

still in a structured learning experience and not part of the unit's regular nursing staff.

- b) In each area, a clinical nurse(s) is responsible for coordinating inservice programs with the Nursing Staff Development. These programs shall be relevant to updating and upgrading skills particular to the unit in order to promote optimal nursing care to each patient.

It is understood that the department has the authority to approve all voluntary attendance at inservice education programs.

Section 18.5 - Staff Meetings

Nurses assigned attendance at meetings, lectures, or inservice courses while off shift will be subject to all overtime provisions. Nurses on shift will be compensated at the regular rate.

Section 18.6 - Professional Performance Committee

- a) The Valley Medical Center Professional Performance Committee shall be composed of nurses currently employed by the hospital. The Committee shall have a representative from each nursing unit, one (1) from each satellite clinic, and one (1) Institution Nurse elected by the nurses from that unit and clinic. All appointed and new positions will be filled by election by October 31 of each year.
- b) Nurses employed by the County recognize their obligation to perform the highest level of nursing care for the patients. The Professional Performance Committee shall act as an advisory body to Nursing Service and Administration. The hospital will make a good faith effort to implement recommendations agreed to by the P.P.C. and the Director of Nursing.
- c) The Committee shall not involve itself in grievances as defined and set forth in this Agreement. The purpose and function shall be as set forth in its bylaws and shall include the following:
 - 1. Recommend nursing policies and procedures to the Nursing Administrator.
 - 2. Review nursing policies and procedures prior to implementation, when possible, except in emergencies.
 - 3. Maintain representative on Valley Medical Center Nursing Committees as designated by management.
- d) The Nursing Administrator or representative will meet with the P.P.C. at their regularly scheduled meeting when requested. The Nursing Administrator will respond in writing to all written recommendations within thirty (30) days unless extended by mutual agreement.
- e) Attendance at P.P.C. will be voluntary by the elected representative or an alternate. Committee members will be granted release time to attend the meetings. Those members who attend

during other than duty time will be granted up to four (4) hours of compensatory time.

Meetings will be held monthly for three (3) hours or more as agreed to by the Nursing Administrator.

Section 18.7 - Safety

The County necessarily abides by safety standards established by the State Division of Industrial Safety and pursuant to the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Section 18.8 - Nursing Practice

If a nurse objects to an assignment on the basis that it exceeds the nurse's professional qualifications and the nurse is unable to resolve the objection with the immediate supervisor, the objection will be noted, in writing, by the nurse and delivered to the Director of Nursing's office or the appropriate administrator prior to the nurse leaving at the end of the shift. A written response from the Director of Nursing or designee will be forwarded to the nurse.

Section 18.9 - Performance Evaluation

a) Each nurse shall be subject to a written appraisal of work performance. Performance evaluations are done:

1. Annually;
2. Prior to a promotion;
3. During the probationary period.

Performance evaluations will not be used in the disciplinary process.

b) The evaluation shall consist of comparison of the nurse's performance against written standards established by Management for:

1. Work Unit competencies;
2. Job classification;
3. Unit role expectations;
4. Any appropriate legal or regulatory requirements.

ARTICLE 19 - STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS

During the term of this Agreement, the County agrees that it will not lock out nurses and the Association agrees that it will not engage in any concerted work stoppage. A violation of this Article will result in cessation of Association dues deduction by the County.

ARTICLE 20 - FULL AGREEMENT

It is understood this Agreement represents a complete and final understanding on all negotiable issues between the County and its Departments and the Association. This Agreement supersedes all previous memoranda of understanding or memoranda of agreement between the County and its Departments and the Association except as specifically referred to in this Agreement. All ordinances or rules covering any practice, subject or matter not specifically referred to in this Agreement shall not be superseded, modified or repealed by implication or otherwise by the provisions hereof. The parties, for the term of this Agreement, voluntarily and unqualifiedly agree to waive the obligation to negotiate with respect to any practice, subject or matter not specifically referred to or covered in this Agreement even though such practice, subject or matter may not have been within the knowledge of the parties at the time this Agreement was negotiated and signed. In the event any new practice, subject or matter arises during the term of this Agreement and an action is proposed by the County, the Association shall be afforded all possible notice and shall have the right to meet and confer upon request. In the absence of agreement on such a proposed action, the County reserves the right to take necessary action by management direction.

ARTICLE 21 - SAVINGS CLAUSE

If any provision of this Agreement should be held invalid by operation of law or by any court of competent jurisdiction, or if compliance with or enforcement of any provision should be restrained by any tribunal, the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected thereby, and the parties shall enter into negotiations for the sole purpose of arriving at a mutually satisfactory replacement for such provision.

If the State of California notifies the County of Santa Clara that legislation has been implemented which assesses monetary penalties to local governments which settle wages and/or benefits with increases in excess of certain limits, those benefits and/or wages shall not be implemented or continue to be paid. The parties shall immediately enter into negotiations for the sole purpose of arriving at a mutually agreed upon alternative.

The County reserves the right to cease payment or seek repayment of wages and/or benefits upon which the State of California is basing the monetary penalty. The Union reserves the right to contest the legality of the payment cessation or repayment.

It is understood that the purpose of this Section is to ensure that the County does not incur any liability or penalties on either the original agreement provisions, or the negotiated alternate provisions.

ARTICLE 23 - TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall become effective only upon approval by the Board of Supervisors and upon the ratification by the Association, and shall remain in full force and effect to and including, November 10, 2002 and from year to year thereafter; provided, however, that either party may serve written notice on the other at least sixty (60) days prior to November 10, 2002, or any subsequent November 10, of its desire to terminate this Agreement or amend any provision thereof.

DATED: Feb 16, 2001

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE

REGISTERED NURSES
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Archie Lopez

R Henley

Priscilla Hood

Amir Tajiri

Jean P Smith

Nancy Blanchard

Melody Jones

Kathy Stone

[Signature]

Rosemary Knox

Leise Ramos

Aue Ersted

APPENDIX A
RNPA SALARIES

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 7, 2000

JOB CODE	JOB TITLE	SALARY GRADE	LONGEVITY PAY					LONGEVITY PAY	APPROXIMATE MONTHLY SALARY	*EFFECTIVE MONTHLY SALARY	
			STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7	MIN - MAX	MIN - MAX
S11	ASST NURSE MGR	449	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	---	---	5380 - 6542	5905 - 7183
S89	CLINICAL NURSE I	387	1835.12	1927.20	2023.76	2124.80	2230.64	---	---	3976 - 4833	4380 - 5303
S76	CLINICAL NURSE II	399	1946.08	2043.60	2145.68	2252.56	2364.88	---	---	4217 - 5124	4625 - 5623
S75	CLINICAL NURSE III	419	2145.68	2252.56	2364.88	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	4649 - 6230	5101 - 6840
S35	CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST	449	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	5380 - 7213	5905 - 7921
S04	INFECTION CONTROL NURSE	449	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	5380 - 7213	5905 - 7921
S1V	NURSE ANESTHETIST CRNA	513	3393.60	3563.28	3741.52	3928.64	4125.60	---	---	7353 - 8939	8075 - 9819
S39	NURSE COORDINATOR	439	2364.88	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	5124 - 6869	5623 - 7543
S59	NURSE PRACTITIONER	469	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	3495.52	3670.32	5933 - 7952	6513 - 8734
S58	PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I	397	1927.20	2023.76	2124.80	2230.64	2342.00	---	---	4176 - 5074	4580 - 5588
S57	PSYCHIATRIC NURSE II	419	2145.68	2252.56	2364.88	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	4649 - 6230	5101 - 6840
S38	STAFF DEVELOPER	449	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	5380 - 7213	5905 - 7921

*Includes an increase in contribution to PERS as a result of implementation of the 2% at 55 Plan as well as the County Payment of nurse's 7% contribution to PERS.

**APPENDIX A
RNPA SALARIES**

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 6, 2001

JOB CODE	JOB TITLE	SALARY GRADE	LONGEVITY PAY					LONGEVITY PAY	APPROXIMATE MONTHLY SALARY	*EFFECTIVE MONTHLY SALARY	
			STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7	MIN - MAX	MIN - MAX
S11	ASST NURSE MGR	459	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	---	---	5650 - 6869	6202 - 7543
S89	CLINICAL NURSE I	397	1927.20	2023.76	2124.80	2230.64	2342.00	---	---	4176 - 5074	4580 - 5568
S76	CLINICAL NURSE II	409	2043.60	2145.68	2252.56	2364.88	2483.20	---	---	4458 - 5380	4857 - 5905
S75	CLINICAL NURSE III	429	2252.56	2364.88	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	4881 - 6542	5355 - 7183
S35	CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST	459	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	3495.52	5650 - 7574	6202 - 8318
S04	INFECTION CONTROL NURSE	459	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	3495.52	5650 - 7574	6202 - 8318
S1V	NURSE ANESTHETIST CRNA	523	3563.28	3741.52	3928.64	4125.60	4336.16	---	---	7720 - 9395	8479 - 10321
S39	NURSE COORDINATOR	449	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	5380 - 7213	5905 - 7921
S59	NURSE PRACTITIONER	479	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	3495.52	3670.32	3853.84	6230 - 8350	6840 - 9172
S58	PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I	407	2023.76	2124.80	2230.64	2342.00	2459.12	---	---	4385 - 5328	4810 - 5848
S57	PSYCHIATRIC NURSE II	429	2252.56	2364.88	2483.20	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	4881 - 6542	5355 - 7183
S38	STAFF DEVELOPER	459	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	3495.52	5650 - 7574	6202 - 8318

EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 12, 2001

LONGEVITY PAY EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFICATIONS:

JOB CODE	JOB TITLE	SALARY GRADE	LONGEVITY PAY					LONGEVITY PAY	APPROXIMATE MONTHLY SALARY	*EFFECTIVE MONTHLY SALARY	
			STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7	MIN - MAX	MIN - MAX
S11	ASST NURSE MGR	459	2607.68	2738.48	2875.60	3019.44	3170.48	3329.04	---	5650 - 7213	6202 - 7921
S1V	NURSE ANESTHETIST CRNA	523	3563.28	3741.52	3928.64	4125.60	4336.16	4557.60	---	7720 - 9875	8479 - 10849

*Includes an increase in contribution to PERS as a result of implementation of the 2% at 55 Plan as well as the County Payment of nurse's 7% contribution to PERS.

APPENDIX A
RNPA SALARIES

EFFECTIVE MARCH 4, 2002

JOB CODE	JOB TITLE	SALARY GRADE	LONGEVITY PAY					LONGEVITY PAY	LONGEVITY PAY	APPROXIMATE MONTHLY SALARY	*EFFECTIVE MONTHLY SALARY
			STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5			STEP 6	STEP 7
S11	ASST NURSE MGR	465	2684.56	2819.12	2960.16	3108.24	3263.68	3426.88	---	5817 - 7425	6385 - 8154
S89	CLINICAL NURSE I	403	1984.00	2083.28	2187.04	2296.24	2410.72	---	---	4299 - 5223	4715 - 5732
S76	CLINICAL NURSE II	415	2103.76	2208.56	2318.80	2434.32	2556.32	---	---	4558 - 5539	5001 - 6079
S75	CLINICAL NURSE III	435	2318.80	2434.32	2556.32	2684.56	2819.12	2960.16	3108.24	5024 - 6735	5513 - 7395
S35	CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST	465	2684.56	2819.12	2960.16	3108.24	3263.68	3426.88	3598.24	5817 - 7796	6385 - 8562
S04	INFECTION CONTROL NURSE	465	2684.56	2819.12	2960.16	3108.24	3263.68	3426.88	3598.24	5817 - 7796	6385 - 8562
S1V	NURSE ANESTHETIST CRNA	529	3670.32	3853.84	4046.56	4250.72	4467.68	4695.84	---	7952 - 10174	8734 - 11178
S39	NURSE COORDINATOR	455	2556.32	2684.56	2819.12	2960.16	3108.24	3263.68	3426.88	5539 - 7425	9079 - 8154
S59	NURSE PRACTITIONER	485	2960.16	3108.24	3263.68	3426.88	3598.24	3778.16	3967.12	6414 - 8595	7041 - 9442
S58	PSYCHIATRIC NURSE I	413	2083.28	2187.04	2296.24	2410.72	2531.52	---	---	4514 - 5485	4952 - 6020
S57	PSYCHIATRIC NURSE II	435	2318.80	2434.32	2556.32	2684.56	2819.12	2960.16	3108.24	5024 - 6735	5513 - 7395
S38	STAFF DEVELOPER	465	2684.56	2819.12	2960.16	3108.24	3263.68	3426.88	3598.24	5817 - 7796	6385 - 8562

*Includes an increase in contribution to PERS as a result of implementation of the 2% at 55 Plan as well as the County Payment of nurse's 7% contribution to PERS.

APPENDIX B
CLASSIFICATIONS AND AREAS OF COMPETENCY

B.1 - Classifications

Assistant Nurse Manager

Areas of Competency

1. Renal Care Center
2. Critical Care
3. Ambulatory Care
4. Children's Shelter and Custody Health Services
5. Labor and Delivery
6. Maternity
7. Medical/Surgical
8. Pediatrics
9. Operating Room
10. Psychiatry/Mental Health
11. Rehabilitation

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Areas of Competency

1. Enterostomal
2. Nutrition
3. Oncology
4. Psychiatry/Mental Health
5. Rehabilitation
6. Maternal-Child

Staff Developer

Areas of Competency

1. Ambulatory Care
2. Children's Shelter & Custody Health Service
3. Critical Care
4. Maternal/Child Health
5. Medical/Surgical
6. Neonatal/Pediatrics
7. Operating Room
8. Rehabilitation
9. General
10. Psychiatry/Mental Health

Infection Control Nurse

Area of Competency

1. Infection Control

Nurse Coordinator

Areas of Competency

1. HIV/AIDS Services
2. Diabetes Patient Education
3. Operating Room
4. Peritoneal Dialysis
5. Nursing Information Systems
6. Urodynamics
7. Psychiatry/Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol
8. Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program (CPSP)
9. Endoscopy
10. Mobile Intensive Care Nurse (MICN)

Clinical Nurse I/II/III

Areas of Competency

1. Medical-Surgical Units (2M/4West, 3C, 4C)
2. Rehabilitation (1C, 2C, Rehabilitation TCU)
3. Newborn ICU, Pediatrics, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit
4. Adult Intensive Care Units (MICU, CCU, SICU), Burn Unit, Emergency Department, Cardiac Cath Lab, Diagnostic Imaging, Resource Nurse
5. PACU/Ambulatory Surgery Unit
6. Transitional Care Unit (4 West/4 Main), Neurosurgery Unit, Endoscopy, Urodynamics Laboratory, Express Admission Unit
7. Labor and Delivery/Perinatal Evaluation Procedures (PEP) Lab
8. Mother-Infant Care Center (MICC)
9. Operating Room
10. Ambulatory Care
11. Renal Care Center
12. Children's Shelter and Custody Health Services
13. Coded Float - Coded Float Nurses are placed into a Competency Area above based upon the greatest percentage of assignments in the preceding twelve (12) months.

Psychiatric Nurse I/II

Area of Competency

1. Psychiatry/Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol.

Nurse Practitioner

Areas of Competency

1. Family
2. Adult
3. Pediatric
4. Women's Health (OB-GYN)

B. 2. - Areas of Competency Not Covered

If an area is not covered by this appendix, the parties shall meet and confer on the related areas of competency.

B.3 - Certifications and Specialty Skills

County may retain less senior nurses or nurses in a lower class who have certifications or specialty skills as designated:

1. Chemotherapy PUSH on 4C
2. MICN in the Emergency Room
3. TNCC in the Emergency Room
4. Open Heart qualified in SICU
5. Cardiac Cath Lab qualified in the Cath Lab
6. Interventional Radiology qualified in Diagnostic Imaging
7. Spanish-speaking bilingual and one year of Maternity experience as required by state regulations in the Comprehensive Perinatal Services Program

Staff Nurse Involvement in Staffing Sideletter

The County of Santa Clara and the Registered Nurses Professional Association (RNPA) will establish a joint labor-management committee comprised of three (3) representatives appointed respectively by the County and the Association, to provide Nursing Management with written recommendations on the following issues relative to staff nurse involvement in staffing:

- Enhance staff nurse input into staffing decisions;
- Provide feedback to staff nurses regarding input from staff nurses; and
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the process for staff nurse input/feedback.

The committee is charged with the exploration of the issue of staff nurse involvement in staffing decisions and shall not involve staffing issues related to the annual budget allocations. Where the committee identifies staffing problems that are the result of current vacancies, the committee will provide additional recommendations regarding ways for both parties to enhance recruitment and retention of nurses.

The committee will include in its discussions and recommendations each of the following areas; Ambulatory and Community Health Services, In-patient Nursing, Acute Psychiatric Nursing and Custody Health Services.

In addition, the committee will review what changes, if any, will have to be made in core staffing necessary to comply with AB 394.

The committee shall meet at least once a month and shall establish the manner of operation of its meetings. The recommendations will be made available by February 1, 2001. The deadline may be extended by mutual agreement. The parties may designate a facilitator for the process to assist the committee in meeting its goals.

Committee members will be granted release time to attend the meetings if scheduled to work.

The parties further agree to consider applying for a grant from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

This sideletter is not subject to the grievance procedure.

Feb 16, 2001
Date

[Signature]
For the County

[Signature]
For RNPA

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