

NEWS | SAN DIEGO

Hospital project reaches milestone

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The steel is going up at one of the largest hospital projects in the country -- Palomar Medical Center West in Escondido. Soon, commuters driving on Interstate 15 and state Route 78 will be able to see the steel framework of Palomar Pomerado Health's Hospital of the Future project across the North County skyline.

The steel project is so large, it will require nearly 900 trucks to deliver the materials purchased from mills in Arkansas, Luxembourg, Germany and Canada.

"This is by far the largest steel project in California," said Gerry DeWulf, project director for *DPR Construction*. "Steel going up makes the project so real as you begin to see the shape of the new hospital. When it comes out of the ground, it becomes alive."

The official groundbreaking of Palomar Medical Center West was held in December 2007. Since then, construction crews have poured more than 4,000 cubic yards of concrete and have used more than a million pounds of rebar to complete a 100,000-square-foot basement for the "Hospital of the Future."