



News Release

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For Immediate Release:

## **Judge Presented With Evidence That the California Nurses Association Was Properly Removed from Fremont Rideout Hospitals**

**Yuba City, Calif.** — A judge at a National Labor Relations Board hearing in Marysville was presented with evidence this week, that Fremont-Rideout Health Group (FRHG) properly withdrew recognition from the California Nurses Association after a majority of union members submitted a signed petition to the Hospitals to remove the union as their representative.

The struggle by independent employees to oust the union that began a year and a half ago now awaits the Judge's decision and any subsequent appeals. Independent employees have been trying to obtain a vote on decertifying CNA since the fall of 2007 when they filed a petition for another election to oust the union that was voted in to represent nurses in September 2006. But CNA repeatedly filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board, blocking that election.

About 450 nurses work for Fremont-Rideout. In mid-September, the group Employees for Self-Representation predicted it had achieved the number of signatures needed to oust CNA without an election. In November of 2008, FRHG received a petition signed by a majority of nurses at Rideout Memorial Hospital and Fremont Medical Center to remove the California Nurses Association as their bargaining representative.

"We honored the rights of our employees who have decided they no longer want to be represented by CNA," said Tresha Moreland, Fremont-Rideout's vice president of human resources.

Contract negotiations between Fremont-Rideout and CNA had been at a standstill since the final offer was made by hospital administration in January, 2008, and the nurses' union voted to reject it, delaying wage and benefit increases for the nurses. After the withdrawal of recognition, FRHG was able to institute increased pay and benefits to nurses that all other employees had begun to enjoy nearly a year ago. Those benefits include wage and benefit increases, a reduction in premium costs for employees, and an employer match to the retirement plan.

"FRHG's mission includes providing an open, supportive work environment for all our employees," Moreland added. "We have made great progress since the nurses chose to work in partnership with us, and we are hopeful that we can continue building on our success."