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For immediate release

## **‘Entire’ Hotel Marysville ‘currently an asbestos danger zone’**

As the City of Marysville tries to identify the owners behind the limited liability company holding the deed to the structurally compromised Hotel Marysville, getting a final cost to brace or demolish the building has been complicated by the existence of cancer-causing asbestos throughout the five-story structure.

According to a report commissioned by the City of Marysville and dated Tuesday, June 25, from Adam Labs Inc., of Sacramento, “the entire building is currently an asbestos danger zone. The areas inside and the debris on sidewalk outside the building shall be treated as asbestos contaminated.”

Adams Lab conducted a visual inspection and took samples for lab testing on Monday of last week. It released its report in the form of a plan to protect workers and the public from the asbestos if the city demolishes the building. The plan is available to the property owners if they choose to hire a contractor.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to abate the threat to public safety, but demolition may not be the only option. The city has hired structural engineers to conduct an inspection to determine whether it could be shored up.

The questions of how to safely deal with the asbestos and whether the building’s owner will take responsibility for abating the threat posed by its post-fire condition are two factors complicating the city’s ability to predict how soon normal traffic patterns can return to state highway 70 and the city’s surface streets.

Following the June 15 fire that roared through all five floors, a June 18 engineering report commissioned by Aaron Iskovitz (a representative of Urban Smart Growth, which at the time was believed to be the owner of the company) determined the building, “is at risk of failure given normal wind loading and current gravity loads.” The failures may be “catastrophic...with little to no warning time,” the report continued, and recommended an area 105 feet around the entire building be cleared and secured.

The City of Marysville has declared a state of local emergency and is working to identify the people behind the limited liability company Feather River Plaza LLC, which owns the hotel, according to Yuba County property records. An attorney who says he represents Feather River Plaza LLC has provided no clarification on who the owner is. The company is registered in Rhode Island.

The city has told the attorney that the property owners need to abate the safety problem posed by the condition of the hotel. The city is preparing for the worst in the event it has to abate the problem itself if the owners do not act.

To prepare for a possible demolition, the city has been seeking estimates from demolition companies, but companies have not been able to provide accurate cost estimates without knowing what procedures will be necessary to follow when abating the asbestos.

“We contacted the California Environmental Protection Agency and they were here Thursday with an inspection team,” said City Manager Jim Schaad. “They are meeting with the City and Cal OES on Monday that will help us understand how to manage the asbestos. Also on Monday, we have an engineering company arriving to conduct an inspection to determine structural stability and whether it is possible to abate the public threat and re-open to normal traffic patterns without having to demolish it.

“Getting this information now helps prepare us to abate the safety hazard ourselves if the owners fail to act,” Schaad said. “We can’t make any decisions without knowing what CalEPA says about the asbestos removal and whether the owners are going to abate the threat to public safety themselves. We’ll know a lot more next week.”