The 138-bed Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital opened on April 20, 1953 with 100 employees and 45 physicians. The then-modern facility offered medical and surgical patient floors, pathology and radiology labs, operating rooms, a fracture room, a physical therapy unit, and a pediatric unit with a nursery and a “pacing room” for fathers-to-be.

California Senate Bill 1953 required that all California hospitals meet stringent earthquake safety standards by the year 2013. Of the 15 buildings on the Salinas Valley Memorial campus, only the original facility needed additional structural reinforcement to meet the latest earthquake seismic safety code standards. The other 14 buildings, which were built after 1972, already conformed to the seismic regulations and would be operational to 2030 and beyond.

Prior to embarking upon an expansion to Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, hospital officials mandated extensive seismic upgrades. These “make ready” upgrades were divided into a series of incremental projects. The seismic retrofit would bring the original hospital structure into compliance with state earthquake safety mandates.

In order to accomplish this major retrofit project, some buildings attached to the main structure were removed. Several departments and areas within the hospital required relocation. Hensel Phelps Construction Company contracted LVI Environmental Services Inc. to perform asbestos abatement throughout various areas of the hospital. Work consisted of the removal and disposal of asbestos containing floor tile, floor mastic, soil and lead containing paint from structural steel in a fully operational hospital. This work was done using full negative containments through out all floors of the hospital.

The crew size ranged from two superiors and at least twelve workers depending on how many areas of work we performed for Hensel Phelps. LVI started in the basement removing asbestos containing pipe lagging and floor tile to make way for the relocation of HVAC systems.

Included in the basement was the removal of floor tile and asbestos containing soil for the building of new footings for concrete shear walls. Work in the upper floors consisted of removal of plaster from steel beams and columns to remove lead base paint for welding of new steel for seismic up grade. This work was performed successfully in an occupied healthcare facility with zero injuries and no first aid.

Project Managed By LVI Environmental Services Inc., a California-based subsidiary of LVI Services Inc. | Client Contact Jason Master, Hensel Phelps Construction Company, (408) 452-1800