

Medical office project begins

BY ROGER VINCENT

Construction is under way on a medical office complex at Douglas Park, a commercial real estate development site next to Long Beach Airport that was once used for aircraft manufacturing.

Urbana Development has broken ground on Douglas Park Medical Office Park, which will consist of two buildings with a combined total of 90,000 square feet. It will cost more than \$30 million to complete.

"We worked with local doctors to develop medical office space that responds to their needs," said Richard Lewis, an executive of Urbana Development.

"The response has been very strong, with interested tenants ranging from pediatric care to ambulatory surgery, imaging and many other medical specialties," Lewis added.

Separate physicians' groups will independently own each building. Tenants in Medical Office Building One will be Long Beach Gastroenterology Associates and Greater Long Beach Endoscopy Center/Surgical Care Affiliates ambulatory surgery center.

Medical Office Building Two will be home to Laser Skin Care Center Dermatology Associates. Agreements with additional tenants are pending, Lewis said.

Ware Malcomb Architects designed the buildings at 3833 Worsham Ave., Long Beach.

The buildings are expected to be occupied by early next year.

The 260-acre Douglas Park development was approved by city leaders in 2004. It was intended to revive the site of the defunct Boeing Co. aircraft manufacturing plant, built by Douglas Aircraft Co., which once employed about 50,000 people.

Aviation entrepreneur Donald Douglas founded the company that merged with McDonnell Aircraft Corp. in 1967 to form McDonnell Douglas Corp., which was acquired by Boeing in 1997.