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Bay Area Sutter nurses OK strike

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Nurses at [Alta Bates Summit Medical Center](#) campuses in Berkeley and Oakland and at [San Leandro Hospital](#) voted Monday to give their union the authority to call a 10-day strike.

This would be the third [California Nurses Association](#) strike on Bay Area hospitals in the Sutter Health system.

Nurses at 11 Sutter hospitals held two-day walkouts in October and December, citing concerns over breaks, health care benefits and reduced staffing at Sutter facilities.

The union hasn't provided a specific time line for a strike, but must give 10 days' notice before striking.

The union says that the key issue in the strike is "Sutter's refusal to schedule RNs to care for patients when nurses are on legally mandated meal, rest, or bathroom breaks."

Sacramento-based Sutter, on the other hand, is saying the real reason for the strike is that its contracts with CNA do not contain systemwide organizing language similar to the ones the labor group has with others.

The union will hold votes throughout the week at hospitals in the Bay Area.

The union previously held votes at [California Pacific Medical Center](#) in San Francisco and [Sutter Solano Medical Center](#) in Vallejo, where nurses also gave their union authority to call a strike.