

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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November 30, 2016

Mr. Jim Clark, EMS Administrator
Merced County EMS Agency
260 East 15th Street
Merced, CA 95341

Dear Mr. Clark:

This letter is in response to Merced County's 2015 EMS Plan Update submission to the EMS Authority on October 27, 2016.

I. Introduction and Summary:

The EMS Authority has concluded its review of Merced County's 2015 EMS Plan Update and is approving the plan as submitted.

II. History and Background:

Merced County received its last full plan approval for its 2014 plan submission, and its last annual plan update for its 2012 plan submission.

Historically, we have received EMS Plan submissions from Merced County for the following years:

- 1993
- 1995
- 1999
- 2001
- 2002
- 2004
- 2006
- 2007
- 2009
- 2010
- 2012
- 2014

Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 1797.254 states:

*"Local EMS agencies shall **annually** (emphasis added) submit an emergency medical services plan for the EMS area to the authority, according to EMS Systems, Standards, and Guidelines established by the authority".*

The EMS Authority is responsible for the review of EMS Plans and for making a determination on the approval or disapproval of the plan, based on compliance with statute and the standards and guidelines established by the EMS Authority consistent with HSC § 1797.105(b).

III. Analysis of EMS System Components:

Following are comments related to Merced County's 2015 EMS Plan Update. Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, HSC § 1797.254, and the EMS system components identified in HSC § 1797.103, are indicated below:

Approved Not
Approved

A. System Organization and Management

B. Staffing/Training

C. Communications

D. Response/Transportation

1. Ambulance Zones

- Based on the documentation provided by Merced County, please find enclosed the EMS Authority's determination of the exclusivity of Merced County's EMS Agency's ambulance zones.

E. Facilities/Critical Care

F. Data Collection/System Evaluation

1. EMS Data - California EMS Information System (CEMSIS)

- Using information submitted by the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA), the EMS Authority shall assess each EMS area or the system's service area to determine the effectiveness of emergency medical services (HSC § 1797.102) as it relates to data collection and evaluation (HSC § 1797.103).

Statewide, there are 21 LEMSAs submitting EMS data. Our records indicate Merced County is not submitting EMS data at

this time. In order for the EMS Authority to meet statutory requirements, please begin submission of EMS data into CEMIS.

G. Public Information and Education

H. Disaster Medical Response

1. System Assessment Form

- Standard 8.10 was identified as not meeting EMSA's Minimum Standard. In the next plan submission, please provide an update on the progress for meeting this standard.

IV. Conclusion:

Based on the information identified, Merced County's 2015 EMS Plan Update is approved.


Pursuant to HSC § 1797.105(b):

"After the applicable guidelines or regulations are established by the Authority, a local EMS agency may implement a local plan...unless the Authority determines that the plan does not effectively meet the needs of the persons served and is not consistent with the coordinating activities in the geographical area served, or that the plan is not concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, or both the guidelines and regulations established by the Authority."

V. Next Steps:

Merced County's next annual EMS Plan Update will be due on or before November 30, 2017. If you have any questions regarding the plan review, please contact Ms. Lisa Galindo, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,



Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Emergency Medical Services Agency

Kathleen Grassi, RD, MPH
*Director of Public Health
LEMSA Director*

Ajinder Singh, MD CPE
EMS Medical Director

James Clark, MICP
EMS Administrator, MHOAC

October 27, 2016

Lisa Galindo
EMS Systems Plans Coordinator
California Emergency Medical Services Authority
10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Merced County 2015 EMS Plan Annual Update

Dear Lisa:

Merced County EMS is pleased to provide you with its 2015 EMS Plan Annual Update. Included is our Executive Summary, System Assessment Form, Tables 1 – 11 and Ambulance Zone Summary Forms.

Also included as part of this EMS Plan Annual Update is a copy of the February 2014 Exclusive Operator of Ground Ambulance Service RFP which was awarded to Sierra Medical Services Alliance (Appendix A), the Subcontract between Sierra Medical Services Alliance and Westside Community Healthcare District (Appendix B) and the Boundary Map of Westside Community Healthcare District (Appendix C).

If you have any questions, please contact me any time.

Sincerely,

James Clark
EMS Administrator

CC: Kathleen Grassi, RD, MPH
Public Health Department Director/LEMSA Director

Encl. Merced County 2015 EMS Plan Annual Update

Merced County EMS Agency



EMS Plan Annual Update

2015

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Merced County EMS Plan Annual Update 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The delivery of emergency health care requires the participation of numerous independent individuals and organizations, including public safety agencies, ambulance services, physicians, and hospitals. Despite their autonomy, these organizations have high degrees of functional interdependence as they work to provide care, sometimes simultaneously, to individual patients. The emergency medical services system should be coordinated in order to ensure close cooperation, to limit conflict, and to ensure that the interests of the patients are primary in the system. Managing interdependence requires planning, standardization, and mutual adjustment. (From: [EMS System Guidelines, Part I, EMS System Planning Guidelines, June 1993, EMSA #101](#)).

One of the primary tasks of a Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) in California is the development of an EMS System Plan. [Section 1797.254 of the California Health and Safety Code](#) requires each LEMSA to submit a 5-Year EMS Plan, and Annual Plan Updates to the [California EMS Authority](#). The purpose of the 5-Year and Annual Plan Update, however, is more than to merely satisfy legal requirements. The Plans should:

- Provide a framework for the planning and implementation of the local EMS system;
- Demonstrate that the local EMS system meets minimum state standards;
- Demonstrate that the local EMS system complies with applicable state laws and regulations;
- Demonstrate that the Local EMS Agency is planning, implementing, and evaluating a system which provides well-managed, patient-oriented emergency health care while coordinating resources with neighboring EMS systems; and
- Be useful to the Local EMS Agency in the development of long and short-range goals and annual work plans.

This EMS Plan Annual Update identifies overall needs and objectives for the Merced County EMS System, in accordance with [California's EMS System Standards and Guidelines](#).

In all, there are 121 Minimum Standards and Recommended Guidelines which Local EMS Agencies must address in their EMS Plans. The Merced County local EMS System meets most of the Minimum Standards and Recommended Guidelines. However, even though the local EMS System may meet a particular Minimum Standard or Recommended Guideline, there may be room for improvement and objectives may therefore be identified and stated.

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

A. SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

	Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Agency Administration:					
1.01 LEMSA Structure		X	N/A		
1.02 LEMSA Mission		X	N/A		
1.03 Public Input		X	N/A		
1.04 Medical Director		X	X		
Planning Activities:					
1.05 System Plan		X	N/A		
1.06 Annual Plan Update		X	N/A		
1.07 Trauma Planning*		X	X		
1.08 ALS Planning*		X	N/A		
1.09 Inventory of Resources		X	N/A		
1.10 Special Populations		X			X
1.11 System Participants		X	X		
Regulatory Activities:					
1.12 Review & Monitoring		X	N/A		
1.13 Coordination		X	N/A		
1.14 Policy & Procedures Manual		X	N/A		
1.15 Compliance w/Policies		X	N/A		
System Finances:					
1.16 Funding Mechanism		X	N/A		
Medical Direction:					
1.17 Medical Direction*		X	N/A		
1.18 QA/QI		X	X		
1.19 Policies, Procedures, Protocols		X	X		

Merced County EMS Agency
2015 EMS Plan Annual Update

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

A. SYSTEM ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT (continued)

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
1.20	DNR Policy		X	N/A		
1.21	Determination of Death		X	N/A		
1.22	Reporting of Abuse		X	N/A	X	
1.23	Interfacility Transfer		X	N/A		
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support						
1.24	ALS Systems		X	X		
1.25	On-Line Medical Direction		X	X		
Enhanced Level: Trauma Care System:						
1.26	Trauma System Plan		X	N/A		
Enhanced Level: Pediatric Emergency Medical and Critical Care System:						
1.27	Pediatric System Plan		X	N/A		
Enhanced Level: Exclusive Operating Areas:						
1.28	EOA Plan		X	N/A		

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

B. STAFFING/TRAINING

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Local EMS Agency:						
2.01	Assessment of Needs		X	N/A		
2.02	Approval of Training		X	N/A		
2.03	Personnel		X	N/A		
Dispatchers:						
2.04	Dispatch Training		X	X		
First Responders (non-transporting):						
2.05	First Responder Training		X	X		
2.06	Response		X	N/A		
2.07	Medical Control		X	N/A		
Transporting Personnel:						
2.08	EMT-I Training		X	X		
Hospital:						
2.09	CPR Training		X	N/A		
2.10	Advanced Life Support		X	N/A		
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support:						
2.11	Accreditation Process		X	N/A		
2.12	Early Defibrillation		X	N/A		
2.13	Base Hospital Personnel		X	N/A		

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

C. COMMUNICATIONS

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Communications Equipment:						
3.01	Communication Plan*		X	X		
3.02	Radios		X	X		
3.03	Interfacility Transfer*		X	N/A		
3.04	Dispatch Center		X	N/A		
3.05	Hospitals		X	X		
3.06	MCI/Disasters		X	N/A		
Public Access:						
3.07	9-1-1 Planning/Coordination		X	X		
3.08	9-1-1 Public Education		X	N/A		
Resource Management:						
3.09	Dispatch Triage		X	X		
3.10	Integrated Dispatch		X	X		

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

D. RESPONSE/TRANSPORTATION

		Does not currently meet standard	Meets minimum standard	Meets recommended guidelines	Short-range plan	Long-range plan
Universal Level:						
4.01	Service Area Boundaries*		X	X		
4.02	Monitoring		X	X		
4.03	Classifying Medical Requests		X	N/A		
4.04	Prescheduled Responses		X	N/A		
4.05	Response Time*		X	Not Met	N/A	N/A
4.06	Staffing		X	N/A		
4.07	First Responder Agencies		X	N/A		
4.08	Medical & Rescue Aircraft*		X	N/A		
4.09	Air Dispatch Center		X	N/A		
4.10	Aircraft Availability*		X	N/A		
4.11	Specialty Vehicles*		X	X		
4.12	Disaster Response		X	N/A		
4.13	Intercounty Response*		X	Not Met		X
4.14	Incident Command System		X	N/A		
4.15	MCI Plans		X	N/A		
Enhanced Level: Advanced Life Support:						
4.16	ALS Staffing		X	X		
4.17	ALS Equipment		X	N/A		
Enhanced Level: Ambulance Regulation:						
4.18	Compliance		X	N/A		
Enhanced Level: Exclusive Operating Permits:						
4.19	Transportation Plan		X	N/A		
4.20	"Grandfathering"		X	N/A		
4.21	Compliance		X	N/A		

TABLE 1: MINIMUM STANDARDS/RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

4.22	Evaluation		X	N/A		
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