

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

10901 GOLD CENTER DR., SUITE 400
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
(916) 322-4336 FAX (916) 322-1441



October 14, 2021

Mr. Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Agency
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 250
San Diego, CA 92193

Dear Mr. Parr:

This letter is in response to San Diego County's 2018 emergency medical services (EMS) plan submission to the EMS Authority on June 28, 2019.

The EMS Authority has reviewed the EMS plan, based on compliance with statutes, regulations, and case law. It has been determined the plan meets all EMS system components identified in Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 1797.103 and is approved for implementation pursuant to HSC § 1797.105(b). Based on transportation documentation provided, please find enclosed the ground exclusive operating areas status, as compiled by the EMS Authority.

In accordance with HSC § 1797.254, please submit an annual EMS plan to the EMS Authority on or before October 14, 2022. If you have any questions regarding the EMS Plan review, please contact Ms. Lisa Galindo, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Duncan".

Dave Duncan, MD
Director

Enclosure

dd:lg

Poway		X	Non-Competitive	X				X		X				
Ramona Municipal Water District		X	Non-Competitive	X				X						
Rincon Indian Reservation			Exempt											
Sycuan Indian Reservation			Exempt											
Valley Center FPD		X	Competitive	X				X		X				
Viejas Indian Reservation			Exempt											
Vista		X	Non-Competitive	X				X		X				



County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE
AGENCY DIRECTOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
6255 MISSION GORGE ROAD, MAIL STOP S-555
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120-3599
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NICK YPHANTIDES, MD, MPH
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

June 24, 2019

Dr. Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP
Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority
10901 Gold Center Drive, Suite 400
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) PLAN UPDATE

Dear Dr. Backer:

In accordance with California Health and Safety Code §1797.254 and §1797.258, San Diego County's Local EMS Agency (LEMSA), the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, submits the FY 2017-2018 EMS Plan Update for the EMS Authority's review.

San Diego's EMS system remains robust and effective, while continuously aiming for improvement of services in the form of quality, timely, and evidence-based emergency medical care to our community.

Thank you for the hard work and multiple efforts your agency makes on a regular basis to assist our staff in advancing our goals. Should you or anyone in your agency have any questions regarding the attached plan update, please contact me at (619) 285-6524 or email andrew.parr@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Parr".

Andy Parr, EMS Administrator
County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services

AP:gl
Attachments

cc: Tom McGinnis, Chief, EMSA EMS Systems Division

County of San Diego
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Fiscal Year 2017-2018 EMS Plan Update Executive Summary

Overview

Serving one of the largest and most geographically diverse counties in California, San Diego County's Local EMS Agency (LEMSA), the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, supports the provision of quality, timely, and evidence-based emergency medical services to San Diego County's 3.3 million residents, as well as visitors to our region. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are provided in our ground ambulance service areas, via agencies that include cities, fire districts, federal agencies, tribal organizations, a water district, and two County Service Areas (CSAs). Additional response by private providers, including two air ambulance service operators, presents our mature and complex EMS system with both challenges and enormous potential. Our goal during this period was to improve and maximize the performance of our local EMS system through leadership, growing technology, and building upon new systems organization.

Technology

During the period of this plan, our LEMSA's most significant quality improvement project was to continue development of our system-wide EMS data collection and records management system, known locally as the County of San Diego Local Emergency Medical Services Information System, or CoSD LEMSIS. Using the ImageTrend platform, our LEMSA has successfully implemented an entirely electronic (and largely online) process for credentialing of personnel, permitting of ambulances, and collection of patient care data. This robust system promises to expand our quality improvement/quality assurance capabilities and we continue to reach out to providers and encourage them to leverage this system and join us in unifying our data gathering processes. Implementation of CoSD LEMSIS continues in the upcoming fiscal year, including implementing strategies to overcome challenges with producing targeted data reports.

An additional technology improvement has involved the collection of Ambulance Patient Offload Times (APOT) for our Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances. Partnering with a response time data monitoring service, our LEMSA has incorporated a "Transfer of Care" module, independent of CoSD LEMSIS, that tracks when a patient care is turned over to Emergency Department staff. The responsibility for using an application to mark this transfer time is shared between the hospital and the EMS provider, as both parties have a stake in reducing offload times. In addition to the required reporting of this data to EMS Authority, our goal is that analysis of the information will assist the entire system in our effort to reduce "wall times". The data collected and resulting improvements have been encouraging thus far, this trend is expected to continue into the upcoming fiscal year.

Hospital Designation Modifications to Describe Actual Hospital Capabilities

In prior years Scripps Green Hospital has been listed as a receiving hospital, when in fact they do not have receiving capability and/or an Emergency Department (they do have an Urgent Care Center). In addition, Veterans Administration Hospital has an emergency department, but only provides "stand-by" care as compared to their "Basic Emergency" status in the prior plan.

Systems Organization

In order to have our EMS Plan truly reflect the breadth of EMS providers in San Diego County, we have identified several operating areas that were not included in past plans. Within this LEMSA, three large military bases provide basic and advanced life support transport to members of the military, their families, civilian workers, and visitors. Largely due to the significant mutual aid provided by these military fire

agencies, they have voluntarily chosen to integrate within the existing EMS system. These agencies are great partners in the community and we wish to recognize their efforts by adding them to our list of exempt operating areas, reflected with their own individual Ambulance Zone Summary forms.

Our LEMSA has also begun the process of realignment of EMS service delivery in San Diego County's backcountry areas. Despite changes to population patterns and service needs, this vast area of land, which is more than half the geographic size of the county, has had a relatively unchanged EMS service delivery system for over 25 years. Recommendations that were approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to pursue the "Unified Service Area" model were further refined during this plan period. This model seeks to better position ambulance services in this area to: use a more global approach toward resource availability, including integration with fire services; better leverage resources during peak times, weather events, or surges in visitor populations such as those during holiday periods; and bolster efforts to reduce response times. The competitive process for procurement of ambulance service for this significant portion of the county is expected to begin with the release of RFPs in late spring of 2019.

As a part of this overall review and realignment of operating areas, several sections of the County that are not currently part of an existing operating area are being re-organized. Following a significant effort to gather community feedback, these pockets of the County are being added to existing exclusive operating areas and then folded into the "Unified Service Area" or being designated as a non-exclusive operating area. This project is nearing completion and will be reflected in next year's EMS Plan Update.

TABLE 1

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			
1.02	LEMSA Mission		X			
1.03	Public Input		X			
1.04	Medical Director		X			
Planning Activities:						
1.05	System Plan		X			
1.06	Annual Plan Update		X			
1.07	Trauma Planning		X			
1.08	ALS Planning		X			
1.09	Inventory of Resources		X			
1.10	Special Populations		X			
1.11	System Participants		X			
Regulatory Activities:						
1.12	Review & Monitoring		X			
1.13	Coordination		X			
1.14	Policy & Procedures Manual		X			
1.15	Compliance w/Policies		X			
System Finances:						
1.16	Funding Mechanism		X			
Medical Direction:						
1.17	Medical Direction		X			
1.18	QA/QI		X			
1.19	Policies, Procedures, Protocols		X			