



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: January 9, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Nicholas Clay, Emergency Medical Services Agency Director
805-681-5394
SUBJECT: Agreement for Emergency Air Medical Transport Services with REACH Air Medical Services LLC D/B/A CALSTAR

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes
Other Concurrence: Risk Management
As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of an Independent Contractor with REACH Air Medical Services LLC D/B/A CALSTAR to provide non-exclusive emergency air ambulance transport services within the County of Santa Barbara for term of November 1, 2023 through October 30, 2028 (Attachment A) with the County receiving \$156,960 for quality improvement, monitoring, and oversight; and
- b) Determine that the recommended action is not a “Project” with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and is exempt per CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended action is a government fiscal activity which does not involve commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to execute an Agreement with CALSTAR to provide non-exclusive air ambulance transport services. All Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies that use air ambulance services are mandated by state regulations to set minimum standards for the integration of EMS aircraft and personnel into the local prehospital patient transport system. The EMS Agency is required to enter into an agreement with all Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers providing services as part of an organized

EMS system. This Agreement with CALSTAR is for a non-exclusive air ambulance service area, serving the entire County of Santa Barbara.

Background:

Helicopter programs play a significant role in EMS systems delivering critical patients to acute care centers and severely injured trauma victims to trauma centers. We currently are fortunate to have two types of helicopter services in Santa Barbara County. CALSTAR is a licensed air ambulance service and Santa Barbara County's Aviation Program operate Rescue Aircraft. These services are defined as:

1. Air Ambulance – “[A]n aircraft specifically constructed, modified, or equipped and used for the primary purposes of transporting critically ill or injured patients whose medical flight crew has at a minimum two (2) attendants accredited or licensed to provide advanced life support.” (22 CCR § 100280.)
2. Rescue Aircraft – “[A]n aircraft whose usual function is not prehospital emergency patient transport, but which may be utilized in compliance with local EMS policy, for prehospital emergency patient transports when use of an air or ground ambulance is inappropriate or unavailable. Rescue aircraft includes Advanced Life Support rescue aircraft, Basic Life Support rescue aircraft, and Auxiliary rescue aircraft.” (22 CCR § 100281.)

CALSTAR has operated as an air ambulance under an Agreement with Santa Barbara County since October 1, 2006. CALSTAR is a regional helicopter company with base flight operations in Santa Barbara County, located at the Santa Maria Airport. The CALSTAR flight crew consists of a Pilot and two (2) critical care Flight Nurses (RNs) or one (1) critical care Flight RN and one (1) locally accredited Paramedic. The local EMS agency (LEMSA) requires CALSTAR to meet specific industry standards and best-practices through accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS).

The Agreement includes a detailed scope of operations with defined performance requirements. CALSTAR agrees to comply with Santa Barbara County EMS Policies and Procedures. CALSTAR also agrees to only provide air medical transport services and patient care when requested through Santa Barbara County Public Safety Communication Center in accordance with Santa Barbara County EMS Agency's Air Medical Transport policy.

Performance Measure: Exhibit A of this Agreement contains multiple performance measures including maintaining current certification with CAMTS, certification and licensing of staff, adhering to LEMSA Policies and Procedures and following hospital flight guidelines.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes **Fiscal Analysis:** By executing this Agreement CALSTAR agrees to pay the County \$28,406 for the first year of the Agreement and an additional 5% for the second year through FY 2027-28 to cover the costs of system oversight. The amount of \$28,406 is included in the FY 2023-24 Public Health Department Recommended Budget.

There is no increase in the use of the County's General Fund resources as a result of executing this Agreement.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

There are no staffing impacts.

Special Instructions: Please execute two (2) original Agreements with CALSTAR and retain one (1) original Agreement and one (1) Minute Order for pick up by the department. Please email the PHD Contracts Unit at PHDGROUPEContractsUnit@sbcpd.org when available for pick up.

Attachments:

A. CALSTAR Air Medical Services Agreement

Authored by:

Andy Hofmeister, Emergency Medical Services Agency