



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: CEO and Public Health
Department No.: 012 & 041
For Agenda Of: 10/9/07
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 50 minutes
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: 9/25/07
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Director(s) Dr. Elliot Schulman, Director/Health Officer, Public Health
Contact Info: Nancy Lapolla, EMS Director, Public Health, 681.5264
SUBJECT: Maddy Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Fund Ballot Measure

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Select_Other

As to form: Select_Concurrence

Recommended Actions:

- (A) Adopt the attached resolution giving notice of a special tax election to determine whether to impose a special parcel tax to fund the Countywide Trauma System and Emergency Medical Services Network.
- (B) Adopt the attached resolution requesting that the special election for a parcel tax measure to fund the Countywide Trauma System and Emergency Medical Services Network be consolidated with the Presidential Primary election to be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2008.

Summary Text:

The Board of Supervisors, during its September 25, 2007 meeting, considered potential funding options for a tax measure related to the Maddy Emergency Medical Services Fund. The Board decided that a ballot measure that would fund the trauma care and emergency medical services network system via a special tax of \$35.15 on parcels located throughout the County would be placed on the February 5, 2008 election. The action before the Board today is to adopt the resolution, including the corresponding ballot measure language, that will allow said measure to be included as part of the February 2008 election.

Background:

The Maddy Fund refers to a funding mechanism that assesses penalties on motor vehicle and criminal fines and forfeitures to partially compensate health care providers and hospitals for otherwise uncompensated emergency medical services to the uninsured, underinsured and to improve access to emergency medical and trauma care for all residents of the County. This funding is set to expire on January 1, 2009. The Board of Supervisors is placing a ballot measure before the voters in accordance with the spirit of the current legislation pertaining to the Maddy Fund (Assembly Bill 2265), which

states that the State Legislature “*expects that the County of Santa Barbara shall place an appropriate proposed tax ordinance as a county measure on the ballot for or before the November 2008 election that will ensure the collection of sufficient funds to fully support the trauma center.*”

The ballot measure being placed before the voters in February 2008 will place an annual special tax of \$35.15 (\$34.15 plus \$1 administrative fee) on each parcel to replace the existing Maddy EMS Fund and to “preserve, complete and support Santa Barbara County's Trauma System and Emergency Medical Services Network in order to provide rapid emergency medical and trauma care to all people residing in the County.” The term parcel refers to all Assessor parcels on the secured assessment roll with an assessment greater than zero after applying all relevant exemptions and exclusions. Based on this definition, there are approximately 117,147 parcels that would pay this special tax, which would generate about four million dollars a year to compensate health care providers and hospitals for the services rendered related to emergency medical services and trauma care. The ballot measure requires approval of 2/3 of the electorate in order to pass. If the measure should pass, the special tax would be placed on the 2008-09 secured tax bills, which are mailed in October 2008. The first installment of the tax would be due on 12/10/2008 and the second installment would be due on 4/10/2009.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: The cost associated with placing a ballot measure on the ballot for the February 2008 election is estimated at \$300,000-400,000. It is anticipated that funding for the election would come from the General Fund; however, the cost of the election would be recouped if a ballot measure is enacted.

Currently the County is allowed to collect an additional \$5 per every \$10 of base fines on criminal violations and \$2.50 for every parking violation to provide revenue for a Maddy EMS Fund, which *partially* compensates healthcare providers and hospitals for the uncompensated emergency medical and trauma care services they provide. However, when the Maddy EMS Fund sunsets on January 1, 2009, the additional penalties imposed on fines will be eliminated and the County will lose the approximately \$1.6 million a year that has been generated by these penalties toward the Maddy EMS Fund. The ballot measure being placed before the voters would generate approximately \$4 million a year and be used to maintain all aspects of the Countywide Trauma System and Emergency Medical Services Network; to provide partial compensation to healthcare providers for uncompensated trauma and emergency medical services; to pay for the costs of Trauma Center designation and to ensure system standards are maintained; to pay for the costs of Emergency Medical Services, including physician and other personnel costs; to defray administrative expenses related to the foregoing, including the payment of salaries and benefits of Public Health Department Emergency Services Agency personnel and other incidental expenses; and to recover the costs of the special election and the reasonable costs incurred by the County in spreading, billing and collecting the special tax.

Without the passage of a local financing mechanism, the County’s healthcare providers may lose the \$1.6 million generated annually via the Maddy EMS Fund when it sunsets in 2009. However, if a ballot measure fails, the County may still pursue options via the State Legislature to extend or remove the current Maddy sunset date.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

FTEs:

N/A

N/A

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

- (1) RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AND GIVING NOTICE OF A SPECIAL TAX ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008 FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE TRAUMA SYSTEM AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES NETWORK
- (2) RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING ELECTION AND NOTICE OF ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER A PARCEL TAX SHOULD BE IMPOSED TO SUPPORT THE COUNTYWIDE TRAUMA SYSTEM AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES NETWORK, AND CONSOLIDATING THE ELECTION WITH THE STATE-WIDE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2008

cc: Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer
Michele Mickiewicz, Deputy Director, and Nancy Lapolla, Director, EMS Agency, Public Health Department
Celeste Andersen, County Counsel
Victor Zambrano, Administrative Analyst, County Executive Office
Mark Paul, Division Chief, and Ed Price, Division Chief, Auditor-Controller
Joe Holland, County Clerk-Recorder-Assessor
Cliff Berg and Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates, Inc.