

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

**Agenda Number:**

**Prepared on:** 01-11-02  
**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 02/19/02  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Roger E. Heroux, Director  
Public Health Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Nancy A. Lapolla, Director  
Emergency Medical Services (681-5274)

**SUBJECT:** Agreement with State EMS Authority for AB-430 Trauma Fund Distribution

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the Agreement with the State of California Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Authority for the distribution of \$389,909 in Assembly Bill 430 Trauma Fund monies allocated to the Santa Barbara County Trauma System for the period of July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.
- B. Authorize the Director of Public Health to amend the Trauma Center Designation Agreements with Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital and Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital to accept these funds.
- C. Authorize the Director of Public Health to execute an amendment with the EMS Authority if additional funds become available for the period July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: The recommendation is primarily aligned with:**

- Goal 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community
- Goal 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On August 9, 2001, Governor Davis signed Assembly Bill 430 (Chapter 171) into law. As a result, Sections 1797.198 and 1797.199 were added to the Health and Safety Code creating the Trauma

Care Fund in the State Treasury. Included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2001-02 State Budget was an appropriation in the amount of \$25 million for this fund.

The Trauma Care Fund was created to make funds available to support established trauma systems, and to provide funds to help offset uncompensated trauma care services. With the designation of Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital as a Level II trauma center and Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital as a Level IV trauma center in June, the Santa Barbara County Trauma System became eligible for a portion of these funds. The total volume of trauma patients entered into approved trauma centers trauma registry data systems determines monies allocated to the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency for distribution. Santa Barbara County has been allotted \$389,909.00.

The Health and Safety Code 1797.199(f) provides strict requirements for the disbursement and spending of these funds. The following excerpt from Section 1797.199 (f) identifies the requirements for distribution of these funds:

*(1) To provide to a local EMS agency, the amount that the agency needs to make up the full minimum amount specified in subdivision (i). [\$150,000 per for each Level I/II and \$50,000 for each Level III]*

*It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds distributed to eligible trauma centers be spent on trauma services. The local EMS agency may utilize a grant-based system, a reimbursement-based system, or other appropriate methodology to comply with this section. Local EMS agencies shall take the following factors into consideration when determining the distribution amounts for each trauma center:*

- (1) The volume of uninsured trauma patients treated at the trauma center.*
- (2) The existence of a high percentage of uninsured trauma patients relative to the total number of trauma patients treated at the trauma center.*
- (3) The acuity mix of uninsured trauma patients treated at the trauma center.*

In addition, language addressing Level IV trauma centers is in Section 1797.199 (i):

*Based upon qualifying patient volume figures and the distribution factors established in subdivision (f), a trauma center designated as a Level IV may receive funding as determined appropriate by the local EMS agency.*

The EMS Agency followed these requirements, which allows for the following distribution:

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
1. EMS (1% per legislation)	3,899.00
2. Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital Level II Trauma Center	150,000
3. Discretionary	236,010
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$389,909</b>

The Trauma Advisory Committee was convened to make recommendations to the EMS Agency regarding discretionary funding allocations resulting from the Trauma Care Fund. The recommendations are as follows:

1. \$25,000 to Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital Level IV Trauma Center
2. \$40,000 to improve trauma registry county-wide
3. \$171,010 for uncompensated trauma specialty care provided at designated trauma centers approved before July 1, 2001. This money may be paid to Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, or directly to specialty providers for specialty trauma care provided in these two facilities based on a first come-first paid claim reimbursement basis.

The EMS Agency will develop a reimbursement-based, claiming mechanism as identified in the contract objectives for the distribution of the available funding for uncompensated trauma care.

To the extent that there are funds in the reserves after the State has distributed these funds and the local EMS agency believes that uncompensated care is not fully reimbursed, the Santa Barbara County EMS agency may apply for an amendment to this Agreement for additional money.

**Mandates and Service Levels:** A local EMS Agency wishing to access Trauma Care Funds must meet the requirements as outlined Sections 1797.198 and 1797.199 of the Health and Safety Code.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There is no General Fund contribution or facility impact for distribution of the Trauma Care Funds.

The County acts as fiscal intermediary for the State in the disbursement of the Trauma Care Funds. The Public Health Department will receive \$389,909 of State Trauma Care allocation in FY 2001-02 as an augmentation to pass through to area Trauma Centers and specialty care medical groups. The Public Health Department is allowed and will retain a 1% administrative fee (\$3,899) to offset the costs of administering the program and will retain an additional \$40,000 in funding to improve the county-wide Lancet Trauma Registry computer system. Therefore, \$346,010 will be disbursed to Trauma Centers and for specialty care based upon a claim reimbursement process.

Upon adoption by your Board, a Budget Revision Request will follow in order to amend the adjusted FY 2001-02 Public Health Department budget for this unanticipated revenue. The revenue will be recorded in: Department 041, Fund 0042, Program 6050, Account 4339. Appropriation will be recorded in: Department 041, Fund 0042, Program 6050, Account 7650.

**Special Instructions:** Please return fully executed original Agreements and one (1) Certified Minute Order to the Public Health Department, Emergency Medical Services Agency, Attention: Nancy Lapolla.

**Concurrence:**

Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, Risk Management