

# Public Comment

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August 28, 2019

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Santa Barbara EMS System considerations as they relate to the Ground Ambulance Provider contract review.

Having served in the field of Emergency Medicine in Santa Barbara County since 1980, I have had the opportunity to see the EMS System evolve to meet the needs of Patients in our County by providing Physician Management Services to the Santa Barbara, Santa Ynez, Lompoc, and Santa Maria Hospitals. I served, for over eight years; as the EMS Medical Director for our County and was appointed EMS Commissioner for the State of California. I also published several articles and presented innovations that were researched here in Santa Barbara County at the local, regional, and national Level.

We were able, during my tenure, to introduce the use of Fire Medics throughout the County to improve response times to more quickly care for patients in distress. Additionally, we were able to coordinate a Hospital Base Station System, as well as, the Reverse 911 System. These improvements were only possible by having a collaborative and transparent approach to our considerations of the Contracted Ground Ambulance Provider. This included Proposals from qualified Ground Ambulance Providers including local Fire Services. This process is common across California and the Nation. I recognize that this is often mired with Political and Financial considerations, however, from a "Patient Care" and "Consumer" point of view, the opportunity to hear competitive proposals, enhances innovation, and ensures our County citizens the highest possible level of care. This approach assures, with the growth of our County and its ever-increasing complexity, a true "SWOT" analysis, and elucidates the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

It is important for all organizations and systems to periodically be fully reviewed, and assess if reengineering is required. As you know, our patients are not static in their needs. The concentrations of our population and age have evolved, and demographics have changed as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angel L. Iscovich".

**Angel L. Iscovich, M.D., FACEP**

Montecito Fire Protection District Medical Director  
Former Santa Barbara County EMS Medical Director  
Former State of California EMS Commissioner  
Former Board Member Cottage Health System  
Recent Past Board Chair Direct Relief