



**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: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: October 10, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Contact Info: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Wade Horton, Assistant County Executive Officer

DocuSigned by:
Nancy Anderson
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SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution Establishing the Emergency Medical Care Committee In the County of Santa Barbara

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- a) Approve and adopt a Resolution establishing the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) in the County of Santa Barbara; and
- b) Find that the proposed action is an organizational and administrative activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment, and is therefore not a "project" as defined for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5).

Summary Text:

This Board item establishes the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) of the County of Santa Barbara. The Board recently made changes to the County's Ambulance Ordinance with the goal of enhancing the County's Emergency Medical Services System to further serve and protect the health and safety of medical patients in the County. The creation of an EMCC is contemplated in the County Ambulance Ordinance to play an essential role in enhancing coordination and communication among the emergency medical care stakeholders.

As set forth in the resolution, the EMCC will be tasked with serving in an advisory capacity to both the Board of Supervisors and the Santa Barbara County Local Emergency Medical Services Agency. By statute, the EMCC's primary responsibilities will involve providing annual reports and

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recommendations on ambulance services, emergency medical care, and first aid practices within the County. Additionally, the EMCC will be entrusted to fulfill other duties set forth in the County Ambulance Ordinance, and as specified by the Board of Supervisors.

Background: On June 20, 2023 your Board adopted an Ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 5 of the Santa Barbara County Code related to policies and regulations for permitting and regulating the provision of nonexclusive ambulance services within Santa Barbara County. The Ordinance states that an EMCC shall review new or expanded ambulance service permit applications submitted on or after March 1, 2024 and make findings and recommendations to the Board for approval. Similarly, under the Ordinance the EMCC shall review and provide the Board reports and recommendations on all Local EMS Agency plans for the County's EMS system. The Ordinance also provides that the EMCC will serve as the appellate body for decisions on ambulance service permit renewal applications.

The Board has the authority to prescribe the membership and appoint the members of the EMCC. Some of the voting members included in the recommended Resolution are required by Health and Safety Code section 1797.273 if the County develops a community paramedicine or triage to alternate destination program. Alternate destinations to an emergency department are mental health facilities, sobering centers, and local veteran's administration emergency departments. Other voting members are included in the Resolution based on the County's current membership of the Ambulance Contract Compliance Committee, and industry practice in other jurisdictions. A breakdown of recommended voting members and how they would be nominated for Board appointment is provided below.

Voting Members Required by HSC §1797.273

- One Emergency medicine physician and surgeon practicing at an emergency department within Santa Barbara County nominated by the Hospital Association of Southern California.
- One Emergency Department registered nurse practicing within Santa Barbara County nominated by the Hospital Association of Southern California.
- One licensed paramedic practicing within Santa Barbara County and employed by a public agency nominated by the director of the Public Health Department.
- An acute care representative nominated from each hospital system with an emergency department that operates within Santa Barbara County. (Note that HSC requires a representative from one hospital, but a representative from all three hospital systems in-County (Cottage, Marian, and Lompoc Valley) is included in the Resolution).

Voting Members based on Current Contract Compliance Committee Members

- One representative who is from a local City Manager's office nominated by the Santa Barbara County Operational Area Emergency Services Council. One representative nominated by the Fire Chiefs Association.
- One consumer representative designated by the Director of the Public Health Department.

Voting Members Recommended and Included in Resolution

- A representative from each District appointed by the Board of Supervisors members. (Note that the Contract Compliance Committee has one representative from a Board of Supervisors office).
- The Director of the Santa Barbara County Public Health department, or designee.
- The County Executive Officer, or designee.

Next Steps

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Once the EMCC is established by Resolution (Attachment A), staff will return to the Board of Supervisors in early December for Committee appointments. The seated Committee, in coordination with the Local EMS Agency and County Executive Office, would then be tasked with creating bylaws to govern the Committee in February 2024, to thereafter be approved by the Board. The bylaws will provide more in-depth guidance on the governance of the Committee than provided in the Resolution establishing the EMCC. Areas that will be discussed in the bylaws include, but are not limited to, committee vacancies, meeting structure, standards and ethics, and amendments to the bylaws should they be necessary in the future. Once the bylaws have been established by the initial members of the EMCC, it will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Attachments: Attachment A – Resolution

Authored by:

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