



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:** December 8, 2020  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Van Do-Reynoso, MPH, PhD, Director  
Director(s) Public Health Director  
Contact Info: Nick Clay, 681-5394  
Emergency Medical Services Agency Director  
**SUBJECT:** California Mutual Aid Region I and VI Inter-Region Cooperative Agreement for  
Emergency Medical and Health Disaster Services/Personnel/Equipment/Supplies

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

Consider recommendations regarding the California Mutual Aid Region I and VI Inter-Region Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Medical and Health Disaster Services, Personnel, Equipment, and Supplies, as follows:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the California Mutual Aid Region I and VI Inter-Region Cooperative Agreement that will allow for reciprocal exchange of services with California Region I and VI counties for the provision of medical and health services, personnel, equipment, and supplies (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine the above action is not a "Project" within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines because it is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. .

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to authorize the Chair to execute the California Mutual Aid Region I and VI Inter-Region Cooperative Agreement to participate in mutual aid for emergency medical and health disaster services, personnel, equipment, and supplies. The original Inter-Region Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Medical and Health Assistance was approved in 1997. Similar to the 1997, this Agreement brings 11 counties together to ensure that when mutual aid is sent to a Requesting County,

the responsibilities, including financial responsibilities are established in advance of the need. In light of numerous recent events across both regions, the participating jurisdictions determined updates to the agreement are needed to ensure clarity of the parties' responsibilities, obligations, and duties in order to avoid conflict and ensure payment of mutual aid costs.

**Background:**

Prior to implementation in 1997, mutual aid agreements were generic and did not address how mutual aid would be provided and funded following an event. The original Inter-Region agreement addressed many of these issues, providing more clear direction. As years have passed and mutual aid has been more heavily utilized, it became evident that more clear direction is required to define parties' operational and fiscal responsibilities.

The medical and health support infrastructure across the State follows the regional boundaries outlined by the California Office of Emergency Services (OES), combining neighboring counties, and city health districts, into regions. Santa Barbara County is a part of Region I, including Los Angeles, Orange, San Luis Obispo, and Ventura counties. Region VI includes Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. While not included in either Region, this agreement includes neighboring counties to both Regions (Kern and Monterey), to ensure a more complete regional support structure. This structure ensures medical and health disaster assistance for response and rapid recovery from natural and man-made emergencies, and public health threats.

California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5. Emergency Medical Services, Chapter 3 State Administration, Article 4 Medical Disasters, Section 1797.153(a), allows the county health officer and the local emergency medical services (EMS) agency administrator in each operational area to act jointly as the medical health operational area coordinator (MHOAC). If the county health officer and the local EMS agency administrator are unable to fulfill the duties of the MHOAC they may jointly appoint another individual to fulfill these responsibilities. If an operational area has a MHOAC, the MHOAC in cooperation with the county office of emergency services, the Public Health Department including Environmental Health Services, Behavioral Wellness, the EMS agency, the local fire department, the regional disaster and medical health coordinator, and the regional office of the Office of Emergency Services, is be responsible for ensuring the development of a medical and health disaster plan for the operational area. (Health & Saf. Code § 1797.153(a).) In addition, under the Agreement, the MHOAC is responsible for medical and health disaster planning and for the provision of medical and health mutual aid within the Operational Area.

Provisions in the recommended Agreement, which is similar to the original 1997 Agreement, set forth how resources would be coordinated within one or more of the Region I and VI counties, including Kern and Monterey or Statewide. Conversely, if Los Angeles County is impacted by a disaster and needs mutual aid assistance, the other counties may be asked to provide such assistance. The Agreement may be terminated by any County or City upon a 30-day prior written notice to the other participating Counties and Cities.

**Performance Measure:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

The County’s financial obligation is limited to the cost of personnel and services and supplies requested from another county during disaster conditions, most of which could potentially be reimbursed through State and Federal disaster funds. In the event that the County provides personnel, and services and supplies to another county that has suffered a disaster, the County is obligated to bill the requesting county within 180 days of the services provided. The requesting county is obligated to pay such bill within 180 days of receipt.

**Key Contract Risks:**

There are two primary risks with this agreement, one is untimely or failure to reimburse, and the other is mutual indemnity. Risks are mitigated because the Agreement allows a County to provide mutual aid to the extent it is reasonably available and by the 30 termination clause. This agreement is not a guarantee of mutual aid being provided by any party.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**

0

**FTEs:**

0

**Special Instructions:**

Please execute two (2) original Inter-Regions Cooperative Agreements and retain one (1) original Agreement and one (1) Minute Order for pick up by the department. Please email [Kelly.lazarus@sbcphd.org](mailto:Kelly.lazarus@sbcphd.org) when available for pick up.

**Attachments:**

- A. California Mutual Aid Region I and VI Inter-Region Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Medical and Health Disaster Services, Personnel, Equipment, and Supplies

**Authored by:**

Nicolas Clay, Emergency Medical Services Director