



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: June 20, 2017
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Carrie Topliffe, Interim Director
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: John Eaglesham, Emergency Medical Services Director, 681-5394
SUBJECT: Agreement for Emergency Air Medical Transport Services with CALSTAR Air Medical Services LLC (CALSTAR)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board consider the following recommendations:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement for Services of an Independent Contractor with CALSTAR to provide non-exclusive emergency air ambulance transport services within the County of Santa Barbara for term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019 (Attachment A).
- b) Find that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(4) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the Agenda to execute an Agreement with CALSTAR's air ambulance transport services. All EMS agencies that use air ambulance services are mandated by state regulations to set minimum standards for the integration of EMS aircraft and personnel into the local prehospital patient transport system. The EMS Agency is required to enter into an agreement with all Advance Life Support (ALS) providers providing services as part of an organized EMS system. This Agreement with CALSTAR is for a non-exclusive air ambulance service area, serving the entire county.

Background:

Helicopter programs play a significant role in EMS systems delivering critical patients to acute care centers and severely injured trauma victims to trauma centers. We currently are fortunate to have two types of helicopter services in Santa Barbara County. CALSTAR is a licensed Air Ambulance service and Santa Barbara County's Aviation Program operates with Rescue Aircrafts. Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 100280 and 100281 define these services as:

1. Air Ambulance - An aircraft specifically constructed, modified, or equipped and used for the primary purposes of transporting critically ill or injured patients whose flight crew has at a minimum two (2) attendants accredited and/or licensed to provide Advanced Life Support
2. Rescue Aircraft - An aircraft whose usual function is not pre-hospital emergency patient transport, but which may be utilized in compliance with local EMS policy, for pre-hospital emergency patient transports when use of an air or ground ambulance is inappropriate or unavailable. Rescue aircraft includes ALS rescue aircraft, BLS rescue aircraft, and Auxiliary rescue aircraft.

CALSTAR has operated as an air ambulance under an Agreement with Santa Barbara County since October 1, 2006. CALSTAR is a regional helicopter company with base flight operations in Santa Barbara County, located at the Santa Maria Airport. The CALSTAR flight crew consists of a Pilot and two (2) critical care Flight Nurses (RNs) or one (1) critical care Flight RN and one (1) locally accredited Paramedic. Pilots have a minimum of 3,000 hours of turbine helicopter flight time. Flight Nurses have three to five years of experience in either an intensive care unit or emergency room and many have had pre-hospital care experience prior to joining CALSTAR. Prior to commencing flight duties, all Flight RNs and Paramedics undergo an intensive course (didactic & clinical) in aero medical transport, pediatrics, basic trauma life support and pre-hospital care.

The Agreement includes a detailed scope of operations with clearly defined performance requirements. CALSTAR agrees to comply with Santa Barbara County EMS Policies and Procedures. CALSTAR also agrees to only provide air medical transport services and patient care when requested through Santa Barbara County Public Safety Communication Center in accordance with Santa Barbara County EMS Agency's Air Medical Transport policy. The EMS Agency's Contract Compliance Committee will review CALSTAR's contract performance and make recommendations for any contract extensions provided for in this Agreement.

Performance Measure:

Exhibit A of this agreement contains multiple performance measures including maintaining current certification with the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems, certification and licensing of staff, adhering to EMS Agency policies & procedures and following hospital flight guidelines.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis: By executing this agreement CALSTAR agrees to pay the County \$15,956 for the first year of the contract and an additional 3% for the second year of the contract through FY 2018-19 to cover the costs of system oversight. This amount is not included in the FY 2017-18 Recommended Budget and the Public Health Department will return to your Board in FY 2017-18 with a Budget Revision request to add needed revenues and appropriations in the amount of \$15,956.

There is no increase in the use of the County's General Fund resources as a result of executing this agreement.

Key Contract Risks:

N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

There are no staffing impacts.

Special Instructions:

Please execute two (2) original Agreements with CALSTAR Air Medical Services and retain one (1) original Agreement and one (1) Minute Order for pick up by the department. Please email the PHD Contracts Unit at phdcu@sbcphd.org when available for pick up.

Attachments:

A. CALSTAR Air Medical Services Agreement

Authored by:

John Eaglesham, Emergency Medical Services Director