



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 6, 2023
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 60 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director Public Health Department
Director(s)
Contact Info: Nick Clay, EMS Agency Director
SUBJECT: Introduction and First Reading to Repeal and Replace Chapter 5 Ambulances of the Santa Barbara County Code

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form:

Other Concurrence:

As to form:

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 5 Ambulances of the Santa Barbara County Code to enact policies and regulations for permitting and regulating the provision of non-exclusive ambulance services within Santa Barbara County (Attachment B);
- b) Read the title and waive further reading of the Ordinance in full;
- c) Set a hearing on the Administrative Agenda of June 20, 2023 to consider recommendations, as follows:
 - i. Consider adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 5 Ambulances of the Santa Barbara County Code to enact policies and regulations for permitting and regulating the provision of non-exclusive ambulance services within Santa Barbara County (Attachment B); and
 - ii. Determine that the proposed action does not constitute a "Project" within the meaning of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines, because it consists of an organizational or administrative activity of government which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment; and

- d) Provide other direction, as appropriate.

Summary Text:

On April 4, 2023 your Board directed staff to explore the development of a non-exclusive ambulance system. The Public Health Department (PHD) and Local Emergency Management Services Agency (LEMSA) have worked with the County Executive Office to update Chapter 5 of the Santa Barbara County Ordinance to develop a process for permitting and regulating the provision of non-exclusive ambulance services. The ordinance permitting system is designed in two phases. The first initial phase is designed to establish permits to take effect when the current contract expires March 1, 2024. Permit applications for the first phase are due within twenty-one days of the effective date of the ordinance. The second phase exists in perpetuity allowing for a needs-based evaluation of additional or expanded permit applications that are submitted on or after March 1, 2024.

Background:

On April 4, 2023 your Board directed PHD and the LEMSA to explore the development of a non-exclusive ambulance system. PHD and LEMSA staff reviewed a number of other counties' ordinances in the research to develop this ordinance and worked closely with the County Executive Office in the development of the proposed ordinance.

There are three (3) different proposed permit types: 1) Emergency Medical Calls; 2) Interfacility Transports (IFT) and Special Event Standby; 3) Critical Care Transport (CCT). Permit applicants can apply for both advanced life support (ALS) and basic life support (BLS) levels of care within permit types for Emergency Medical Calls and IFT. This will allow for tiered response in the 9-1-1 system, ensuring the right resource is dispatched to the right patient, while maximizing the resource availability for the IFT market. With the exception of Vandenberg Space Force Base and ambulance services authorized by and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of federal, state, or tribal governments (such as the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians) all permit types will provide services throughout the boundaries of Santa Barbara County, including New Cuyama. The ordinance has provisions for permit approval, denial, revocation, renewal, and temporary permit approval.

The LEMSA Director will serve as the Permit Officer and will review and assess the permit applications as to whether the applications meet minimum qualifications and the additional criteria. For initial permit applicants, applications will be presented to your Board for final review, consideration of minimum qualifications and additional criteria and approval, approval with conditions or denial. For permit applications submitted on or after March 1, 2024, the Permit Officer's assessment will be reviewed by an Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) prior to submission to your Board for final approval, approval with conditions or denial. (The EMCC is under development and will be brought back to your Board at a later date with an associated resolution to establish membership.) Upon approval, permittees will be required to enter into contracts with the LEMSA and when appropriate they will also be required to enter into contracts with the Regional Fire Communication Center (RFCC).

The minimum qualifications include, but are not limited to, requiring the permit applicants to demonstrate capacity in managing an ambulance service comparable to the permit type they are applying for; ability to comply with response time standards; ability to comply with clinical standards; financial viability; deployment plan review; and staffing requirements. Your Board will also consider the applicant's

experience and fitness to provide medical transportation service; economic feasibility; the community benefit of each applicant; and the innovation and integration of each applicant.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This item is administrative only on there is no budgetary action. The proposed ordinance includes a provision that the Board may establish provider permit application fees for processing.

Special Instructions:

Please execute one (1) Minute Order for pick up by the department. Please email MFitzwilliamFigueroa@sbcphd.org when available for pick up.

Attachments:

- A. Strikeout Version of Ordinance to Rescind and Replace Chapter 5 of the Santa Barbara County Code
- B. Clean Version of Ordinance to Rescind and Replace Chapter 5 of the Santa Barbara County Code

Authored by:

Nick Clay, EMS Agency Director