



Ambulance Ordinance Update Chapter 5

June 6, 2023

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Recommended Actions

- 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;
- Read the title and waive further reading of the Ordinance in full;
- Set a hearing on the Administrative Agenda of June 20, 2023 to consider recommendations, as follows:
 - 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; and
 - 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.
- Provide other direction, as appropriate.

Background

- The Board of Supervisors directed staff on April 4th to explore a non-exclusive ambulance system
- The current exclusive zone is served by one provider (AMR) whose contract will expire on March 1, 2024
- Staff researched several models and recommend that an Ordinance and Permitting process is the best way to establish this non-exclusive system

Non-Exclusive Ambulance Environment

- Permits will be issued for the entire county except:
 - Vandenberg Space Force Base & SY Band of Chumash Indians area
- Dispatch
 - March 1, 2024 – May 14, 2024: Santa Barbara County Public Safety Center
 - May 15, 2024: Regional Fire Communications Center

Provider Permit Types

- Emergency Medical Service Calls (9-1-1)
 - Enter into agreements with LEMSA and Dispatch Centers
 - Comply with System Status Plan
 - Respond to Emergency Medical Service Calls only
- Inter Facility Transfer (IFT) and Special Event Stand-by
 - Enter into agreements with LEMSA and Dispatch Centers
 - Comply with System Status Plan
 - Respond to IFTs and Special Events as requested
 - Support 9-1-1 system with “surge capacity”
- Critical Care Transfer (CCT)
 - Enter into agreement with LEMSA
 - Provide CCT transport as requested

Ordinance Overview

- The Permit process establishes who can provide ambulance services and at what level
- Permits will be provided through an *Application Process*
- The Application Process includes:
 - *Permit Officer assessment of Minimum Qualifications and Additional Permit Criteria*
 - *Board review of Permit Officer assessment and consideration of Additional Permit Criteria*
- The Board of Supervisors approves, approves with conditions, or denies the permit application(s)
- The *Permit Conditions & Service Requirements* provide a structure to the system
- Initial permits valid for one (1) year, with renewals valid for two (2) years
- *Fees & Cost Recovery* structure are established by the Board of Supervisors

Permit Overview - Process

- All providers will be required to obtain a permit
- Your Board is the Permit Decision-Maker
- Your Board may deny a permit if the applicant or any director, officer, controlling shareholder, partner, member, manager, or venturer meets any of the conditions specified in section 5-10 of the ordinance.
- Once permits are issued contracts are negotiated with permitted Providers to establish services

Permit Officer Review and Assessment

Minimum Qualifications

- Experience managing an ambulance service*
- Experience complying with response times*
- Workforce recruitment and management plan
- Clinical performance management plan
- Financial depth and stability review

**Equivalents for no experience allowed*

Additional Permit Criteria

- Experience, qualifications, and fitness to provide Ambulance Service
- Economic Viability
- Community benefit through:
 - Innovation
 - Local reinvestment
 - Integrations

Board of Supervisors' Determination

The Board Considers the totality of the circumstances including public health, safety, welfare, convenience, and necessity when approving a permit

Additional Permit Criteria Considered

All the following findings shall be made to approve a permit:

- Experience, qualifications, and fitness to provide Ambulance Service
- Economic Viability
- Community benefit through:
 - Innovation
 - Local reinvestment
 - Integrations

Timeline

- Permit Application Period
 - 21 days
- Permit Application Review
 - 21 days
- Contract Negotiations and Provider “Ramp-Up”
 - 45 to 60 days
- Service Start Date
 - March 1, 2024

PHD Recommendation

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QUESTIONS?



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COUNTY

one
FUTURE