

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health	(2) MEETING DATE 12/11/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Penny Borenstein 781-5519	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve an agreement with California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) for Fiscal Years 2012-13 through 2016-17 (5 years) with an option to renew for an additional five years to provide emergency air medical transport services within the County.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve and direct the Chairperson to sign an agreement with California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) for Fiscal Years 2012-13 through 2016-17 (5 years) with an option to renew for an additional five years to continue to provide non-exclusive emergency air ambulance transport services within the county.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date <u>June 17, 2003</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Reviewed by Leslie Brown			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) - All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director
Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH, Health Officer
DATE: December 11, 2012
SUBJECT: Request to approve an agreement with California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) for Fiscal Years 2012-13 through 2016-17 (5 years) with an option to renew for an additional five years to provide emergency air medical transport services within the county.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board approve and direct the Chairperson to sign an agreement with California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) for Fiscal Years 2012-13 through 2016-17 (5 years) with an option to renew for an additional five years to continue to provide non-exclusive emergency air ambulance transport services within the county.

DISCUSSION

The County originally entered into an agreement for air ambulance services with CALSTAR on June 17, 2003 and was automatically renewed annually on July 1 of each succeeding year. This agreement before the Board establishes new terms and conditions and thereby nullifies the existing agreement in place for nearly the past nine and a half years. The new agreement was made necessary by the change in management and infrastructure of both organizations involved; i.e., a new President at CALSTAR and the dissolution in Fiscal Year 2010-11 of the County's contractual agreement with EMSA, Inc. for oversight of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. The term of this agreement is for five years, with the EMS Agency having the authority to renew the agreement for an additional five years. Upon expiration of the second term, the contract will automatically renew on an annual basis.

California Health and Safety Code section 1797.200 designates the EMS Agency as the organization responsible for the administration of emergency medical services in the county. The use of EMS aircraft in the county is governed by EMSA Policy 119, which clearly defines the requirements for the dispatch and utilization of EMS aircraft. The agreement encompasses the use of aircraft as a component of the EMS system. CALSTAR also provides non-emergency patient transportation services between local area hospitals and specialty care facilities outside of San Luis Obispo County. This agreement encompasses only EMS services.

Currently, two EMS aircraft support the county. The California Highway Patrol operates helicopter H-70, based at the Paso Robles airport. Serving multiple counties, H-70 is staffed with officers licensed and accredited as paramedics. H-70 supports law enforcement operations, and patient rescue and transportation needs. CALSTAR operates CALSTAR 7 from the Santa Maria airport. CALSTAR 7 is staffed with Mobile Intensive Care Nurses, and provides an air ambulance service covering multiple counties.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The contents of the agreement were reviewed and approved by the local Ambulance Performance Operations Committee, an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors, per County Code 6.60.050, whose purpose includes advising on the development and oversight of contractual relationships between the County and ambulance service providers.

County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form and legal effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Charges resulting from the use of CALSTAR air ambulance services are billed directly to the patient, with no expense to the County. The Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 preempts states from the economic regulation (i.e., regulating rates) of air ambulances. CALSTAR rate structure is attached to the recommended agreement.

Approval of the agreement will not increase the level of General Fund requested for the Public Health Department.

RESULTS

CALSTAR will continue to provide necessary air ambulance treatment and transport for critically ill or injured patients in our county. This service will also help achieve the County's vision of a Healthy and Safe Community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) Agreement
2. Exhibit A -- CALSTAR Schedule of Charges