

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health	(2) MEETING DATE 5/10/2016	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Nancy Rosen 788-5518	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve: (1) a renewal agreement with San Luis Ambulance Service Inc. (Clerk's File) to continue to provide ambulance services in the North, Central and South ambulance service areas through June 30, 2018; and (2) a renewal agreement with the Cambria Community Healthcare District (Clerk's File) to continue to provide ambulance service in the North Coast ambulance service area indefinitely. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve (1) a renewal agreement with San Luis Ambulance Inc. to provide ambulance services in the North, Central and South ambulance service areas through June 30, 2018 and (2) a renewal agreement with Cambria Community Healthcare District to provide ambulance service in the North Coast ambulance service area indefinitely.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) First Responder Fees	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$180,732 revenue	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(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: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>5/21/16</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Public Health / Nancy Rosen
788-5518

DATE: 5/10/2016

SUBJECT: Request to approve: (1) a renewal agreement with San Luis Ambulance Service Inc. (Clerk's File) to continue to provide ambulance services in the North, Central and South ambulance service areas through June 30, 2018; and (2) a renewal agreement with the Cambria Community Healthcare District (Clerk's File) to continue to provide ambulance service in the North Coast ambulance service area indefinitely. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve (1) a renewal agreement with San Luis Ambulance Inc. to provide ambulance services in the North, Central and South ambulance service areas through June 30, 2018 and (2) a renewal agreement with Cambria Community Healthcare District to provide ambulance service in the North Coast ambulance service area indefinitely.

DISCUSSION

The County has had ambulance transport services by two exclusive providers for nearly the past twenty years. San Luis Ambulance Services, Inc. (SLAS), a private corporation, and Cambria Community Healthcare District, a local government public agency.

San Luis Ambulance Services, Inc. (SLAS) Agreement

SLAS has been providing ambulance services to portions of San Luis Obispo County for over seventy years, and has been the exclusive provider of ambulance services in the North and Central ambulance service areas since March of 1996. In May of 1997, SLAS took over from Five Cities Ambulance Service as the exclusive provider in the South service area. The takeover resulted in two nearly identical contracts for the three ambulance service areas. In May 2011, the Board approved a five year agreement with SLAS which combined the two contracts into a single contract.

The proposed two-year contract includes new items such as amended population density classification, the addition of a requirement to use electronic health records, as required by California Assembly Bill 1129, and further defines the annual rate review option for both the contractor and the County's Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector Contract Accounting Handbook.

The County has contracted with SLAS typically for periods of five years. The proposed agreement is to extend the contractual relationship, as is, for an additional two years, through June 30, 2018. The relatively shorter term is a reflection of the need for the County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) to come to terms with the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (CalEMSA) on an unresolved issue regarding the exclusive nature of the South County ambulance response area. We expect to be back to your Board within the next year or so in order to receive direction on how to address the item of note, wherein, after 15 years of acceptance of the South zone as an exclusive

operating area (EOA), CalEMSA notified the County EMS Agency in 2012 that they found the zone to not meet EOA criteria.

Notwithstanding ongoing discussion on the EOA item, the agreement does update a number of provisions. The agreement adds a new population density category—the Suburban response area—as a reflection of the growing demographics of the County. Using the California EMS System Standards and Guidelines, a Suburban zone, with a response time of 20 minutes, was added to the existing Urban, Rural, and Remote categories. This addition will help ensure the residents and visitors to the County continue to receive timely ambulance transport. Other modifications in deployment plan parameters include use of County Planning and Building Department Urban/Village Reserve Lines to denote communities, as well as changes in requirements for vehicle type, restocking first responder agencies, and communications equipment.

Cambria Community Healthcare District Agreement

The Cambria Community Healthcare District has been providing ambulance service to the Healthcare District's residents and visitors since 1951. In June of 1996, the District entered into an agreement with the County to provide ambulance service to the ambulance service area now identified as the North Coast ambulance response zone.

The County and the Cambria Community Healthcare District have agreed to amend and renew the long-standing agreement in order to make it consistent with the County's other ground ambulance contract, to clarify some of the language from the previous contract, and to make some technical changes such as the inclusion of the new requirement to use electronic health records per California Assembly Bill 1129. The North Coast response area is not affected by the addition of a Suburban zone.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the renewal agreements as to form and legal effect. Health Agency staff worked with County Counsel and Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector's office staff on the contract changes. The Ambulance Performance and Operations Committee, charged by County Code Section 6.60 with the responsibility of advising the Board on matters pertaining to ambulance operations, recommends approval of the agreements as submitted. The Cambria Community Healthcare District Board approved their agreement at their regular meeting on March 22, 2016.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The recommended contracts have limited financial effect on the County, as ambulance operations, including first responder fees, are funded entirely by patient charges. First responder fees are paid by SLAS to public agencies whose fire departments respond to medical calls, either Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or Paramedic level firefighters. The total amount paid annually to these agencies is currently \$748,804. Of that amount, the County will receive \$180,732 to offset a portion of the cost of its contract with Cal Fire.

The County and the Cambria Community Healthcare District recognize and respect the District retains its authority as an independent public agency with local jurisdiction and authority. As an independent public agency, Cambria Community Healthcare District does not provide first responder fees and retains its legal authority to billing rights of those patients transported by the District.

RESULTS

Renewal of the agreements with the two currently operating ground ambulance providers in the county will assure that there are no gaps in service for emergency medical response and transport of residents with potentially life-threatening conditions. Sustaining a well-performing, dynamic, and responsive EMS transport system is expected to contribute to the County vision of a safe and healthy community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Cambria Community Healthcare District Renewal Contract- Clerk's Filed
2. San Luis Ambulance Service, Inc. Renewal Contract-Clerk's Filed