

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

(1) DEPARTMENT Public Health	(2) MEETING DATE 2/7/2012	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Penny Borenstein (805) 781-5519	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve an agreement with Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center to serve as a Level III Trauma Center			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve an agreement with Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center to serve as a Level III Trauma Center.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		(12) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(13) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(14) W-9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
(15) LOCATION MAP N/A	(16) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(17) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____	
(18) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW  Geoff O'Quest			
(19) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director  
(805) 781-4719

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH, Health Officer  
(805) 781-5519

DATE: 2/7/2012

SUBJECT: Request to approve an agreement with Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center to serve as a Level III Trauma Center

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve an agreement with Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center to serve as a Level III Trauma Center.

## **DISCUSSION**

California Health and Safety Code Section 1797 et seq. provides the authority to local emergency medical services agencies (the Public Health Department in San Luis Obispo County) to designate local hospitals as specialty care receiving centers. The County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) has done so once previously, having designated French Hospital Medical Center as a ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Receiving Center in July 2010. Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center (SVRMC) has applied for and been approved by the EMSA to be designated as a Level III Trauma Center.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, trauma is the leading cause of death for people ages 1 through 44, and 35% of trauma patients in the United States die because optimal acute care is not available. Traumatic injuries also have a substantial economic cost. The lifetime medical cost of injuries that occurred in the U.S. in the year 2000 was estimated to be over \$80 billion. Although the evidence suggests trauma care systems save lives, only one-fourth of the U.S. population is served by existing trauma systems.

A trauma system is an organized effort to deliver a full range of care to severely injured persons within a defined geographic area. The purpose of a trauma system is to meet its community's needs by reducing unnecessary deaths and disability due to severe injury. The system offers a continuum of care from a variety of specially trained practitioners, often starting with pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers and concluding with patient rehabilitation. Together with specially trained practitioners, other necessary components of a successful system include dedicated support personnel, adequate resources, equipment, and a well-planned and well-managed trauma system. An organized trauma system provides an established process to ensure trauma patients receive immediate evaluation and care from trauma specialists. The trauma system process is often expressed through a popular idiom: "The right patient, to the right place in the right amount of time."

Trauma centers are classified into levels depending on the scope of resources and services available. Level III trauma centers have resources for the emergency resuscitation, surgery and intensive care for most trauma patients but may not have the full range of specialties that a higher level of care offers. Level III centers have transfer agreements with Level I and Level II centers to provide back-up resources for the care of exceptionally severe injuries.

The pathway for development of a trauma system in this county, inclusive of a hospital trauma center designation, has been extensive and arduous dating back to 2002. In that year, the California EMS Authority provided grant funding to the County EMSA to develop a trauma system plan. The resultant plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 11, 2004, and was then submitted and approved by the Cal EMS Authority on August 26, 2004. The initial Trauma System Plan envisioned multiple Level III trauma centers. In the fall of 2004, all four hospitals in the county submitted letters of intent to apply for trauma center designation; however, each withdrew their stated intent in the following months citing financial considerations and management restructuring.

In March and April 2007, the County received unsolicited letters of intent to seek trauma center designation from three hospitals. The EMSA responded by issuing to all four local hospitals a formal request for proposals (RFP) for trauma center designation. Three proposals were received, one of which was for a Level II trauma center. Consideration of a Level II trauma center designation represented a significant change from the approved Trauma System Plan such that the Cal EMS Authority notified the County EMSA in October of 2007 that it required an updated Trauma System Plan and submission of all related policies and definitions. A consultant was retained (through an RFP issued November 2007) to assist the EMSA with review of current system needs and resources.

In January 2008, the EMSA issued a status report to hospitals notifying them that it was negating the RFP for trauma center designation, had retained a consultant, and would establish a new Trauma Committee to work on revising the Trauma System Plan. On March 18, 2010, the Emergency Medical Care Committee, an advisory body to the County EMSA and the Board of Supervisors, approved a revised Trauma System Plan that called for one centrally-located Level III trauma center. The updated Plan was conditionally approved by the Cal EMS Authority on June 17, 2010, noting some pre-implementation requirements.

An RFP was issued to the two centrally-located hospitals, SVRMC and French Hospital Medical Center, on October 1, 2010, requesting letters of intent to apply for Level III Trauma Center designation. SVRMC alone responded, and on February 1, 2011 submitted a full application. In August 2011, an updated Trauma System Plan addressing the state pre-implementation requirements was submitted to the State EMS Authority, which approved the updated plan on September 27, 2011.

In October 2011, a site review was performed by a team of external trauma experts. The site review consisted of a comprehensive examination of SVRMC's past and current trauma center practices, including resources, internal policies and procedures, and quality improvement program. The site review team based their examination on trauma center Level III standards established in the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 7 and the Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, as well as additional local requirements specific to our county. A summary of the site team report and EMSA staff recommendations were reviewed and approved by the Trauma Committee on November 30, 2011, and by the full Emergency Medical Care Committee on December 15, 2011.

SVRMC, through an extensive application process and completion of the site review, has demonstrated they provide trauma services in accordance with state regulations and EMSA policies and procedures. SVRMC will receive trauma patients in three ways - walk-ins, transfers from other hospitals, and transported by emergency vehicles. Pre-hospital personnel, firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and paramedics have and will continue to receive training in the identification and care of trauma patients. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 350-400 patients per year in San Luis Obispo County that will meet trauma center criteria. The nearest other trauma center is Cottage Hospital in Santa Barbara, which is a Level II Trauma Center.

Having met all of the requisite pre-designation requirements, a Level III Trauma Center designation was granted by the EMSA to SVRMC on January 27, 2012. The contract with SVRMC allowing implementation of their trauma center designation, in concert with the overall County trauma system plan, is now being brought to your Board for approval.

#### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The Office of County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form and legal effect. The Emergency Medical Care Committee, an advisory body to the County EMSA and the Board of Supervisors, and its Trauma Committee, a committee with representation from the medical community, fire agencies, law enforcement, pre-hospital providers and hospital administration, participated in the development and approval of the policies and procedures, application, site review and designation process. The Cal EMS Authority has approved the trauma system plan and granted authority to the EMSA to

move forward with the designation process.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The County's current fee ordinance allows the County to bill a designated trauma center annually for the actual costs associated with performing the necessary monitoring and evaluation of the trauma system and the trauma center. Any staff time expended on these functions will be fully paid for through the fees collected. As such, no General Funds will be used to monitor and support this program.

### **RESULTS**

The recommended agreement with Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, as a Level III Trauma Center, will ensure access to an organized system of trauma care, and thus is expected to reduce unnecessary deaths and disability due to severe injury for the approximately 350-400 trauma patients expected to receive care at the trauma center annually. Input (number of patients) and outcome (discharge status) results will be captured by the Trauma Registry data system that has been put into place at SVRMC and the County EMSA. This agreement and the implementation of a countywide trauma system plan will help the County achieve its vision for a safe and healthy community.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Trauma Center Agreement with Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center