

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 4

**SUBJECT: SPARE WHEEL EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY
PERMITTED AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

In San Diego County, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office is the Board of Supervisors designated Local EMS Agency (LEMSA). The EMS Office is responsible for implementing State statutes and regulations specific to the emergency medical service delivery system in our region, including ambulance service. Title 13 of the California Code of Regulation governs the equipment and supplies required for ambulances and has been established for the health and safety of the public. Among equipment mandates of this section, there is a requirement for ambulances to carry a spare wheel and changing tools.

LEMSAs are authorized to issue an exemption to the spare wheel requirement, subject to approval by County Board of Supervisors. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has been approving a spare wheel exemption for over 20 years. On October 19, 2021 (12), the Board approved an exemption for three agencies to increase space in ambulances for critical medical equipment. The EMS Office engaged with ambulance operators to determine if additional exemptions were needed. The three same operators formally requested the exemption to continue providing additional space for medical supplies and critical intervention equipment. Today's actions request a continued exemption from the spare wheel requirements for ambulance service providers operating in San Diego County effective on the date of approval formally given by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Due to state regulations, this exemption is limited to a period of two years.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Approve, for good cause and because the exemption is necessary for public health and safety, the action to request from the Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP), an exemption from the ambulances spare wheel and tools requirements, for a period of two years once effective, as outlined in California Code of Regulation, Title 13, Section 1103 *Ambulance Emergency Care Equipment and Supplies*, for the following three ambulance agencies:
 - American Medical Response (AMR)
 - Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc.
 - Falck Mobile Health Corporation
2. Authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward the Board's request for exemption to the Department of California Highway Patrol's Enforcement Services Division.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's request for a spare wheel exemption removes barriers for ambulance service providers and allows critical additional space in ambulances for vital lifesaving medical equipment and interventions. This leads to better medical outcomes for residents needing ambulance transportation services across the region.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The spare wheel exemption request supports the County's Sustainability Initiative of protecting the health and wellbeing of everyone in the region by ensuring ambulance service providers have increased space for critical medical equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the requested actions. There is no change to the net General Fund Cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

