

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

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Purpose

To establish the County's role in providing emergency ambulance transportation services in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County and where the Board of Supervisors has the rights and responsibilities.

Background

Presently, there are portions of the unincorporated County where emergency ambulance services are adequately provided and funded locally. Provisions of emergency ambulance services in these areas should remain the responsibility of local districts and service areas.

To ensure every resident and visitor has equal access to emergency ambulance transportation services, the Board of Supervisors has taken several actions to increase resources for public and private ambulance transportation services throughout the region.

On May 23, 2023 (19), the Board of Supervisors authorized the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into a contract with the San Diego County Fire Protection District to exclusively provide and/or manage emergency ambulance services in the areas where the County has, or will have, the responsibility for ambulance transportation services in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Sections 1797.230-231. This provided around-the-clock advanced life support (ALS) ambulance transportation to the most rural communities in San Diego County and established a framework for future service enhancements upon the expiration of existing ambulance contracts.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

- A. Medical direction and oversight of ambulance services remain under the authority of the Board-designated Local EMS Agency.
- B. The San Diego County Fire Protection District is responsible for exclusively providing and/or managing ambulance transportation services in the areas where the County has, or will have, this responsibility.
- C. The San Diego County Fire Protection District will assume the management and/or delivery of ambulance services in new Exclusive Operating Areas, where the County has this responsibility, upon the expiration of existing contracts.

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D. The goal of the Local EMS Agency and the San Diego County Fire Protection District policy is to improve emergency medical services patient outcomes for all residents, increase the availability of critical resources, and ensure patients receive the appropriate level of care during a medical emergency.

E. The funding of existing and future emergency ambulance services will be through cost-recovery fees/ambulance bills, property taxes, and General Purpose Revenue.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-32.

Board Action

5-24-77 (1)
7-26-88 (43)
12-12-89 (49)
3-27-90 (47)
8-3-99 (7)
3-23-04 (4)
5-15-07 (3)
12-09-08 (33)
01-24-12 (10)
11-13-18 (17)

CAO Reference

Public Safety Group