

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024, 9:00 AM**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, ROOM 310  
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

A. REGULAR SESSION – Regular Meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

PRESENT: Directors Nora Vargas, Chair; Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Monica Montgomery Steppe; Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Director, if applicable.

C. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board’s jurisdiction but not an item on today’s agenda.

D. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of March 12, 2024.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Director Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Director Desmond, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of March 12, 2024.

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

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

**Agenda Items**

<b>Agenda #</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1.	ESTABLISHING REVENUE AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITHIN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA

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**1. SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING REVENUE AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES WITHIN THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

On May 23, 2023 (FP 01), the Board of Directors authorized the San Diego County Fire Protection District's (SDCFPD) Executive Director, or designee, to enter into an agreement with the County of San Diego to exclusively provide and/or manage emergency ambulance transportation services in the areas where the County has, or will have, the responsibility for ambulance transportation services. On September 30, 2023, the SDCFPD Ground Ambulance Service Area (ASA) became operational through a public-private partnership with CAL FIRE and American Medical Response (AMR). The SDCFPD became responsible for billing for ambulance transports and minimizing the financial impact to the County of San Diego.

Within the ASA exists large congregate care facilities with volumes of patients needing emergency and non-emergency ambulance transportation to local hospitals. One of the largest prisons is the California Department of Correction's (CDCR) R.J. Donovan facility in East Otay Mesa. In the first six months the ASA has been operational, there have been an average of 157 monthly ambulance transports from the facility. Penal Code Section 5023.5 provides statutory limits on reimbursements for ambulance transports, which is capped at 120% of the Medicare rate. Without a contract for services, a provider may only be reimbursed for 100% of Medicare. There is currently no such contract in place with the SDCFPD.

Today's request is for the Board of Directors to approve a revenue agreement of up to \$3.0 million annually between SDCFPD and Network Providers LLC, an affiliate of Health Net Federal Services, a CDCR-contracted healthcare provider, for ambulance transportation reimbursement. It also includes a request to waive Board Policy B-29 Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts-Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval and full cost recovery for revenue agreements.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. Authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the San Diego County Fire Protection District, to execute a revenue agreement, upon receipt, with Network Providers, LLC, an affiliate of Health Net Federal Services, a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation contracted healthcare provider, in an amount up to \$3.0 million annually, for ambulance transportation services to ensure the San Diego County Fire Protection District collects at least 120% of the Medicare reimbursement rate through December 31, 2033.
2. Authorize the Executive Director, or designee, of the San Diego County Fire Protection District to execute all required documents, including any extensions, amendments, or revisions thereto that do not materially impact either the program or funding level.
3. Waive Board Policy B-29 Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts-Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery which requires prior approval and full cost recovery for revenue agreements.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Advanced (paramedic) and Basic (Emergency Medical Technician) Life Support ambulances are critical components to an emergency medical services (EMS) system that seeks to reduce health disparities in our region. Maximizing revenue from health insurance companies and congregate care facilities ensures the San Diego County Fire Protection District Ground Ambulance Service Area has the financial resources to provide an equitable level of ambulance coverage in unincorporated communities.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Approving revenue agreements supports a San Diego County Fire Protection District Ground Ambulance Service Area that is fiscally sustainable and provides for just and equitable access to County resources.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are partially included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan for San Diego County Fire Protection District and are based on the current rate. Funds for Fiscal Year 2024-25, estimated at \$3,000,000, are included in the Fiscal Years 2024-26 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for the San Diego County Fire Protection District. Funds for subsequent years will be included in future Operational Plans for San Diego County Fire Protection District based on estimated costs and revenue for each year within the term of the agreement. There is no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Director Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Director Anderson, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District took action as recommended, on Consent.

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

There being no further business, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Directors of the  
San Diego County Fire Protection District

Notes By: Valdivia

NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the San Diego County Fire Protection District on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.