

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023, 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 9:02 a.m.

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

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

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 14, 2023.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Desmond, seconded by Director Anderson, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of March 14, 2023.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

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

Agenda #	Subject
1.	IMPLEMENTING A NEW AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION MODEL IN THE COUNTY’S RURAL COMMUNITIES
2.	FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 THIRD QUARTER OPERATIONAL PLAN STATUS REPORT AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS [FUNDING SOURCE: AVAILABLE PRIOR YEAR FUND BALANCES IN THE SDCFPD, SDCFPD YUIMA, SDCFPD PALOMAR MOUNTAIN] (4 VOTES)

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1. SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING A NEW AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION MODEL IN THE COUNTY'S RURAL COMMUNITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On October 4, 2021, the State of California enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 389 which included provisions for a county Board of Supervisors to contract with a fire agency and for the fire agency to subcontract for emergency medical services, in whole or in part, to a private provider as now codified into California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Sections 1797.230-231. On December 13, 2022 (1), the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer to hire a consultant to evaluate ambulance service within the Unified Service Area (USA). A consultant was needed to assist the County of San Diego (County) in evaluating the services and cost options per the statute while also considering the Medi-Cal payment amount to public ambulance providers. San Diego County Fire completed a competitive procurement and contracted with Citygate Associates, LLC to conduct the review. In evaluating fiscal sustainability, patient care, and operational objectives in a future ambulance services model, Citygate is recommending the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) assume responsibility as the manager/provider for the USA when the current private ambulance services contract in the USA ends.

On today's Board of Supervisors' agenda is a request to approve a contract with the SDCFPD as the fire agency consistent with HSC 1797.230-231. If the Board of Supervisors approves that action, today's request is for the Board of Directors to adopt a resolution codifying the legislative requirements of HSC Section 1737.230-231 for fire agencies who subcontract for services, in whole or in part, with a private ambulance operator. If approved, today's actions provide County staff, acting on behalf of SDCFPD, with the options to subcontract with a private ambulance operator and/or add firefighter/paramedic staffing through the CAL FIRE Cooperative Agreement. The final service model to be implemented will meet the standards established by the Board of Supervisors on December 13, 2022 (1). Today's actions also authorize the Executive Director of the SDCFPD or designee to take all necessary actions for the implementation of the agreement, including authorizing the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue an RFP/Competitive Solicitation for ambulance transportation services in the USA as needed. The contract between County and SDCFPD will be effective upon the expiration of the existing ambulance services contract in the USA.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. Approve the resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 17972.0-231 TO BE INCLUDED IN ALL SUBCONTRACTS AND GOVERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PRIVATE AMBULANCE EMPLOYEES.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into a written contract with the County of San Diego for the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) 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 and approve any amendments to the contract.

3. Authorize Executive Director or designee to take all necessary actions for the implementation of the emergency ambulance services agreement on behalf of SDCFPD, including procurement of vehicles, equipment, training, space, and services.
4. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, Authorize the Director, County Department of Purchasing and Contracting, acting as the Purchasing Agent for the SDCFPD, to issue a Competitive Solicitation(s) for the provision of ambulance transportation services in the County's Unified Service Area, and upon successful negotiation and determination of fair and reasonable price, award a contract to a qualified vendor(s) for an initial term of nine (9) months with nine (9) one-year option periods and up to an additional six (6) months if needed, subject to the availability of funds and a need for the services, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding, subject to the approval of the Executive Director, SDCFPD.

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. San Diego County Fire will continue working with Citygate Associates, LLC to review EMS incident data to determine how staffing patterns and ambulance deployment models can provide equitable services across the Unified Service Area. County Fire will track data and outcomes for quality of timely care by race, gender, and geography to support positive outcomes for all residents.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Implementing the new ambulance transportation model in the Unified Service Area provides for just and equitable access to County resources. The proposed model also supports resiliency by ensuring the capability to respond and recover to immediate medical transportation needs for individuals and families.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's recommendations in the current fiscal year. Fiscal impacts will be determined when Citygate completes its report, optimal staffing is determined, and responses to an RFP are received. Staff will return to the Board for consideration and approval of recommendations on cost, staffing impacts associated with the implementation of a new ambulance transportation model and identification of a funding source.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Vargas, seconded by Director Anderson, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 23-044, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTIONS 1797.230-231 TO BE INCLUDED IN ALL SUBCONTRACTS AND GOVERNING INTERACTIONS WITH PRIVATE AMBULANCE EMPLOYEES.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

2. SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 THIRD QUARTER OPERATIONAL PLAN STATUS REPORT AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

This item recommends budget adjustment in the San Diego County Fire Protection District as part of the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Third Quarter Operational Plan budget adjustments.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Establish appropriations of \$3,965,000 in the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD), Operating Transfers Out, to support additional ambulance services and to purchase ambulances and equipment based on the available prior year fund balances in the SDCFPD (\$2,950,000), SDCFPD Yuima (\$250,000), SDCFPD Julian (\$600,000), and SDCFPD Palomar (\$165,000). (4 VOTES)

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommended actions are intended to provide resources to address inequities in County services and to identify disparities, develop meaningful outcomes, and create a County government culture of equity, belonging, and racial justice.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions support the sustainability measures across the County considering the environment, economy, health/wellbeing, and/or social aspects of the community by aligning the County's available resources with services to maintain fiscal stability and ensure long-term solvency.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds associated with today's recommendations are not included in the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Operational Plan in the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). If approved, this action will result in cost of \$3,965,000 to support additional emergency medical services, and to maintain/augment existing fire and emergency medical services. The funding source is available prior year fund balances in the SDCFPD, SDCFPD Yuima, SDCFPD Palomar Mountain. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

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

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: (District 4 Seat Vacant)

There being no further business, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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

Notes By: Vizcarra

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.