

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Emergency Medical Services-Ambulance Services

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Purpose

To establish the County's responsibility for providing emergency ambulance services in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County.

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.

There are also portions of the unincorporated County, which are sparsely populated, and contain many of the County's major highways and recreational facilities and where emergency ambulance services cannot be provided adequately without County support.

Large numbers of non-local residents utilize these sparsely populated areas for recreation and travel, with the result that they account for a majority of medical emergencies.

It has been demonstrated that private industry cannot provide adequate ambulance service for these areas without financial support from the County. There is also no feasible way that local taxation in these areas could raise the necessary funds to support an ambulance service.

On July 13, 2010 the Board of Supervisors embarked on a ten-year plan called "*Live Well, San Diego!*" to guide County services to promote a healthy, safe and thriving San Diego County. Providing emergency ambulance services in the underserved unincorporated areas of San Diego County supports *Live Well, San Diego!* by ensuring the health and safety of local citizens.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

- A. The County is responsible for reviewing the need for emergency ambulance services in the unincorporated area of the County.
- B. The goal of this policy is to assure a maximum planned emergency ambulance response time of thirty minutes in the rural areas of the County.
- C. The funding of existing emergency ambulance services will continue to be provided by districts and service areas.

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D. In the remainder of the unincorporated County, where services are not provided by existing special districts or service areas, the preferred method of providing such services is through the formation of special districts or service areas. Special districts or service areas may be formed for this purpose whenever the Board of Supervisors finds that in the interest of public health and safety, the service is necessary and the method of funding is equitable and feasible.

E. When the Board of Supervisors finds that in the interest of public health and safety, the service is necessary, but that special district or service area funding is not equitable or feasible, the County will provide emergency ambulance services in such quantity and at a level of quality as is compatible with the availability of funds. County-funded emergency ambulance services may be provided directly or through contract.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-25.

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

Health and Human Services Agency