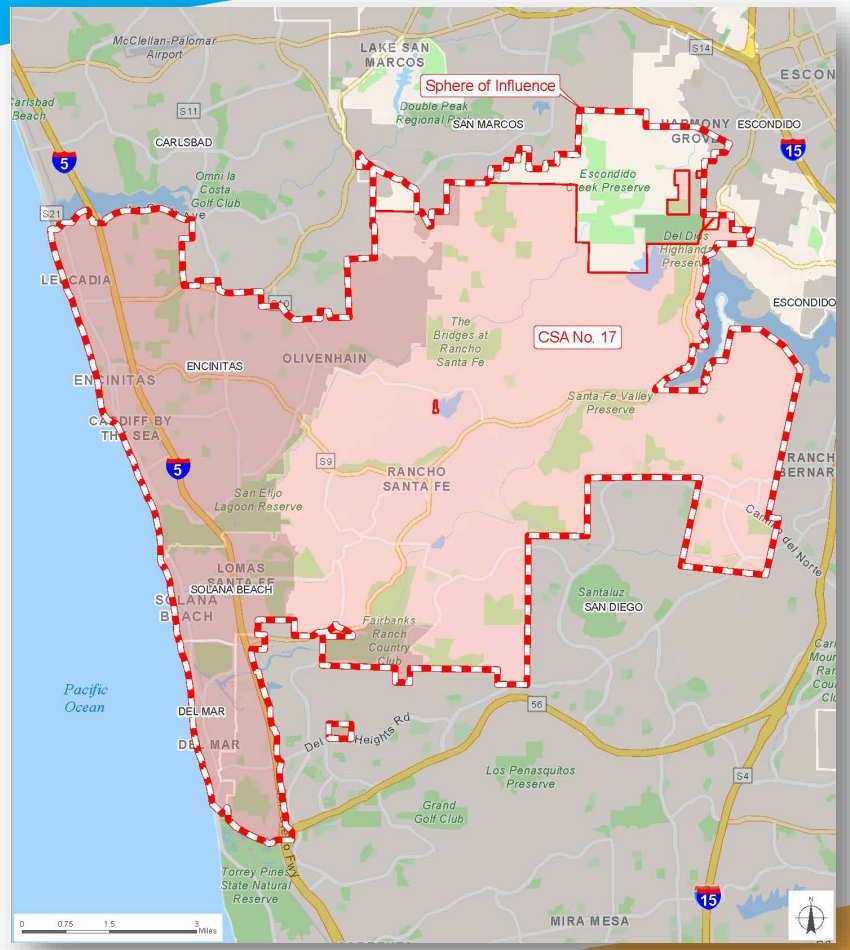
CSA 17 Ambulance Service Area Strategic Vision

CSA 17 Advisory Committee
October 27, 2026

Jeff Collins, Director

Tony Mecham, Fire Chief

History of County Service Area 17



- The County has had a longstanding ownership of the service area, which was established on July 14,1969 in accordance with Government Code § 25210.1
- Historically managed by the County Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA)
- Day-to-day operational management is communicated to the Advisory Committee through the Operations Chiefs Subcommittee

Service Area Establishments and Board Actions

July 14, 1969

County Service Area 17 established

June 25, 2008

San Diego County Fire is established, and transition to the San Diego County Fire Protection District in 2021

July 1, 2021

The EMS Office (LEMSA) is moved under the San Diego County Fire Protection District

May 23, 2023

Board of Supervisors voted to contract with the SDCFPD to manage and/or provide ambulance services in areas where the County has or will have this responsibility

September 15, 2026

Board of Supervisors voted to return oversight of Grossmont Ambulance Service Area to the County (through SDCFPD)

Ambulance Service Areas Under County Fire

ASA – SDCFPD Ambulance Service Area

- Contract with SDCFPD and competitively procured contract with AMR
- Ambulances owned by the SDCFPD

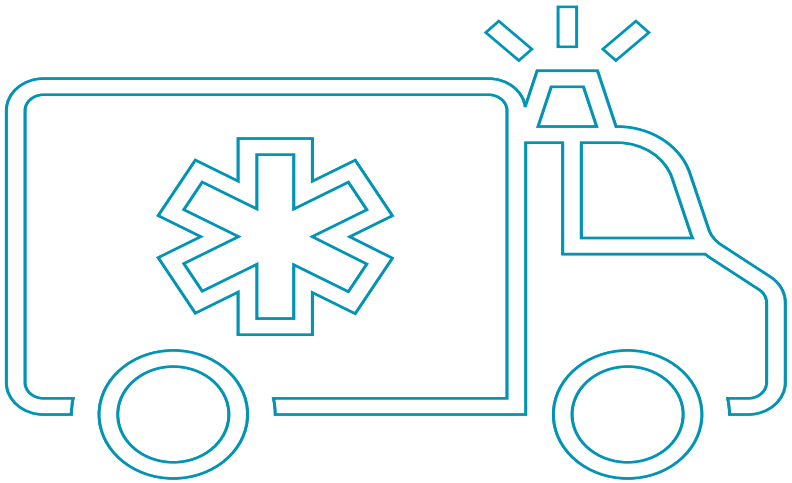
CSA – County Service Area 17

- Competitively procured contract with AMR
- Ambulances owned and staffed by AMR

GSA – Grossmont Ambulance Area

- Grandfathered contract with AMR
- Ambulances owned and staffed by AMR

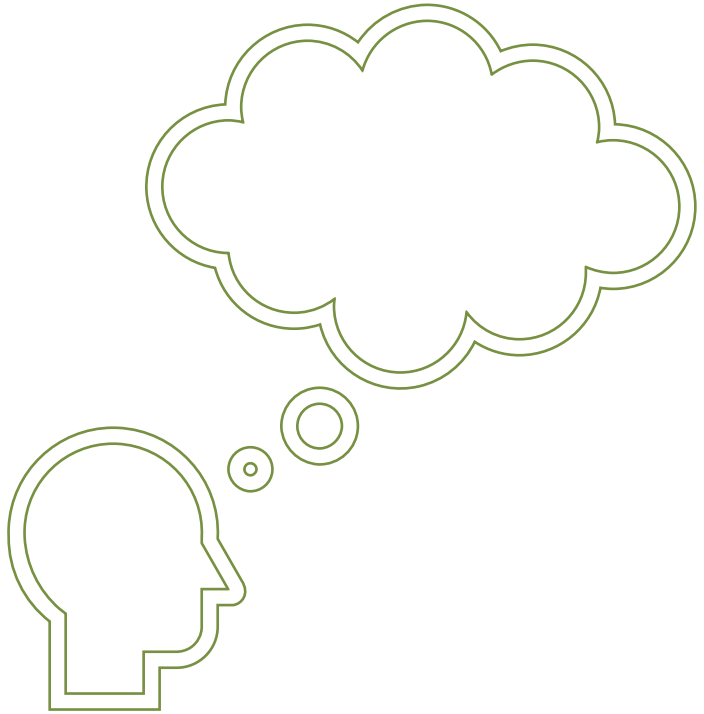
Ambulance Operations Division Overview



- County Fire is consolidating ambulance administration across all three County Ambulance Operating Areas
- Ambulance Operations Division will:
  - Oversee contract management, EMS data/reporting, and quality assurance/clinical education
  - Increase efficiency, standardize training, and continue to ensure the highest quality patient-care and outcomes within all communities
  - Promote and enhance stakeholder collaboration and community feedback

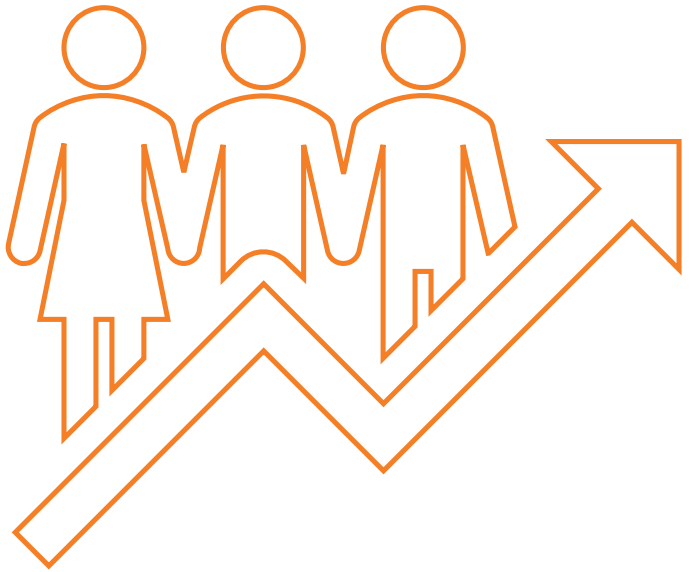
What Does This Mean for CSA 17?

- County Fire Ambulance Operations Division will assume oversight for the County
  - AMR Operations Manager will continue current oversight over ambulance operations
- County Fire will continue to provide a high-level of support and service throughout the service area
- LEMSA staff will step away from CSA 17 management and spend more time on other projects
- Some familiar faces, now assigned to the Ambulance Division, will continue their work within the CSA



Ambulance Operations Division System Enhancements

- Ambulance Deployment Study is underway
  - Optimize deployment by determining the right mix and location of ambulances
  - Scheduled to receive findings from consultant by December
- Determine short-term and long-term enhancements to CSA 17
- Continued focus on Quality Assurance and Clinical Education
- Potential contract changes with AMR to strengthen delivery system
- Findings will inform upcoming procurement for 2030 implementation



Our Ongoing Commitment



- County Fire remains devoted to delivering prompt, professional, and timely emergency medical services across all San Diego County ambulance service areas
- County Fire will continue to keep our communities informed about their ambulance services and any future improvements
- We value stakeholder input and appreciate the community partnership as we work together to strengthen County Fire's EMS Delivery system

What's Next

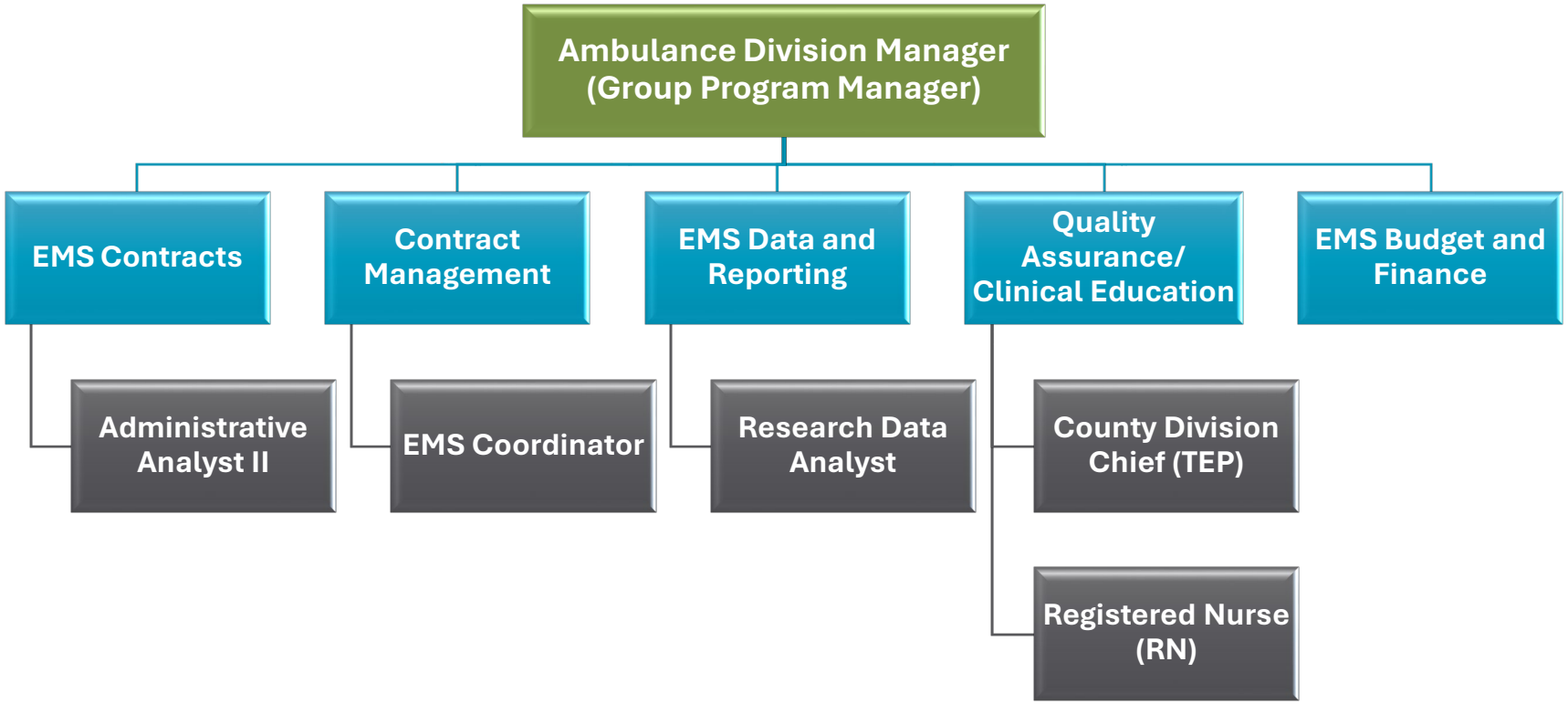


- Transition to the Ambulance Operations Division on November 1st
- Continued high-quality care, service, and commitment to all communities
- Focus on short-term and long-term system enhancements

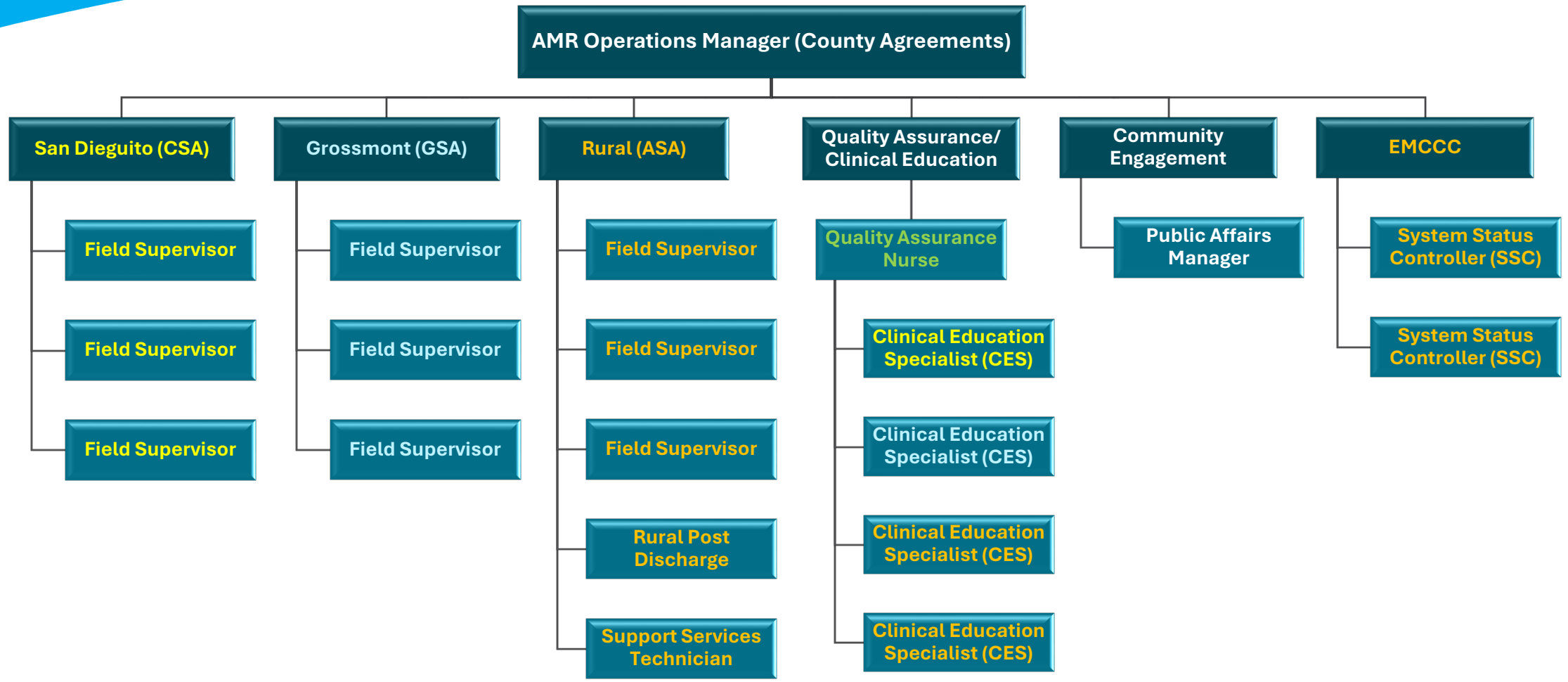
Questions?



County Ambulance Operations Division



American Medical Response (AMR)



San Diego County Fire Protection District

