



# County of San Diego

**ANDREW POTTER, CCB**  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CLERK

CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
1800 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 402, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2471  
PHONE (619) 531-5800 FAX (619) 338-8146  
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**ERIN DEMOREST**  
ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE BOARD

December 11, 2019

TO: NICK MACCHIONE  
Deputy Chief Administrative Office,  
Health and Human Services Agency

FROM: Andrew Potter  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

## REFERRAL

Attached, for your information, is correspondence from the Department of California Highway Patrol regarding the requested extension of the exemption from Title 13, California Code of Regulations Section 1103 (e) and (f). Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Potter".

ANDREW POTTER

## Attachment

cc: Helen Robbins-Meyer, Chief Administrative Officer  
Nick Yphantides, M. D., Chief Medical Officer  
Board of Supervisors Communications Received (attachment redacted)

AJP:dl

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

P. O. Box 942898  
Sacramento, CA 94298-0001  
(916) 843-3340  
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)  
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



November 27, 2019

File No.: 061.15564.A12712.061 2019 11015B

Andrew Potter  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
San Diego County  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402  
San Diego, CA 92101-2471

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
2019 DEC -6 PM 3:24  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS

Dear Mr. Potter:

This is in response to the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors' Minute Order No. 6 dated October 15, 2019, in which you requested an extension of the exemption from Title 13, California Code of Regulations Section 1103(e) and (f) which requires a spare wheel and tire and the appropriate tools for a wheel change.

You requested exemptions for several cities, Fire Protection Districts, County Service Areas 17 and 69, and Ambulance Agencies. The California Highway Patrol only has jurisdiction over privately-owned emergency ambulance companies and can only approve an exemption for the following from your list:

- American Medical Response Ambulance Service, License #2155
- Balboa Ambulance Service, Inc., License #115347
- American Medical Response of San Diego, Inc. (formerly Rural/Metro Corp.), License #2189
- Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc., License #A195

This exemption shall only apply if the abovementioned companies have an effective alternate method in place to ensure the continued safe transportation of any ambulance occupant(s) should these vehicles become disabled.

The exemption is effective from November 27, 2019, through November 26, 2021, unless rescinded earlier or terminated for cause. This exemption is not transferable and shall expire upon change of ownership or control of the ambulance service.

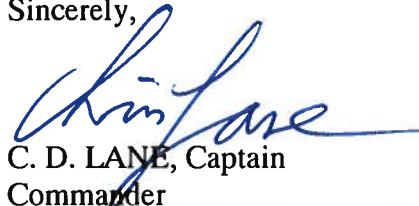


Andrew Potter  
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In order to avoid any delays or lapsed periods, requests for exemption renewals should be submitted a minimum of one month prior to the expiration date of the current exemption. A copy of this exemption letter shall be carried in the abovementioned ambulances.

If you require further assistance in this matter, please contact Ms. Linda Brescia of my staff at (916) 843-3440.

Sincerely,



C. D. LANE, Captain  
Commander  
Research and Planning Section

cc: San Diego Area Office, #645  
Officer Jeff Sibayan  
American Medical Response Ambulance Service, License #2155  
Balboa Ambulance Service, Inc., License #115347  
American Medical Response of San Diego, Inc. (formerly Rural/Metro Corp.), License  
#2189  
Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc., License #A195



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX  
First District

DIANNE JACOB  
Second District

KRISTIN GASPAR  
Third District

NATHAN FLETCHER  
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND  
Fifth District

**DATE:** October 15, 2019

**06**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

### **SUBJECT**

**EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 1103 requires that ambulances carry spare wheels with inflated tires of appropriate load rating and tools for wheel changes. Title 13, Section 1108 grants the Department of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) discretionary authority to exempt ambulances from the requirements upon a showing of good cause. Additionally, California Vehicle Code Section 2512 mandates exemption for noncommercial ambulances upon request from the Board of Supervisors for reasons of public health and safety. Exemption from the spare wheel requirements enables ambulances to carry additional medical equipment and supplies.

The Board previously approved such exemptions, the latest of which will expire December 31, 2019. Today's action requests continued exemption from the spare wheel requirements for ambulance services operating in San Diego County for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.

Today's proposed action supports the County's *Live Well San Diego* vision by ensuring ambulance providers' the ability to maximize space available for medical equipment and supplies needed for patient care.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

#### **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Approve, for good cause deemed necessary by the Emergency Medical Care Committee and in the interest of public health and safety, the request for exemption from the ambulance spare wheel and tools requirements for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 for the following San Diego County cities, special districts, fire and ambulance agencies, in accordance with California Vehicle Code, Section 2512, and California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Sections 1108(a) and (b).
  - a. *Cities of:* Carlsbad, Coronado, El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Poway, San Marcos, Santee, and Vista.
  - b. *Fire Protection Districts of:* Lakeside, North County and Valley Center.

**SUBJECT: EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

c. *Ambulance Agencies:* American Medical Response, Balboa Ambulance Service, Inc., Rural/Metro Corporation and Mercy Medical Transportation, Inc.

2. Authorize the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to forward the Board's approval to: Department of California Highway Patrol, Enforcement Services Division, P.O. Box 942898, Sacramento, CA 94298-0001, Attention: Commercial Vehicles Section.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendations.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

The Emergency Medical Care Committee voted to support this item at the September 26, 2019 meeting.

**BACKGROUND**

California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Sections 1103(e) and (f), requires that ambulances carry spare wheels with inflated tires of appropriate load rating and tools for wheel changes. Title 13, Section 1108(a) grants the Department of California Highway Patrol (CHP) discretionary authority to exempt ambulances from the requirements upon a showing of good cause. Title 13, Section 1108(b) authorizes the CHP to grant exemptions mandated by California Vehicle Code Section 2512 upon request from the Board of Supervisors, in the interest of public health and safety. Exemptions granted under these sections shall be valid for a period of not more than two years.

Exemption from the spare wheel requirements allows ambulances to carry additional medical supplies and equipment necessary for patient care. Should an ambulance experience a flat tire, the closest available back-up ambulance is dispatched, minimizing delay in the transport of a patient.

The Board most recently approved the request for exemptions from the spare wheel requirements on November 14, 2017 (13). The conditions creating the need for exemptions have been reviewed, and continued exemptions are necessary for public health and safety. The current exemptions expire on December 31, 2019. Today's action if approved would continue the exemption from the spare wheel requirements for ambulance services operating in San Diego County for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021, enabling 16 ambulance service agencies responding to more than 235,000 emergency medical calls per year to carry additional supplies to support patient care.

**SUBJECT:** EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's proposed action supports the Building Better Health initiative in the County of San Diego's 2019-2024 Strategic Plan by ensuring ambulance providers optimize space available in ambulance units to store patient care equipment and supplies in order to maximize emergency medical service delivery.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. N. Robbins-Meyer".

HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER  
Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

**SUBJECT:** EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**            Yes                      No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**

     Yes                      No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

November 14, 2017 (13), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances; November 17, 2015 (11), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances; November 5, 2013 (5), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances; December 6, 2011 (11), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances; October 13, 2009 (9), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances; February 26, 2008 (8), Approved spare wheel exemption for County Service Area 69 ambulances; the City of Santee and Lakeside; December 11, 2007 (7), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances; December 13, 2005 (8), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances; March 16, 2004 (14), Approved spare wheel exemption for the City of Poway ambulances; December 2, 2003 (21), Approved spare wheel exemption for San Diego County ambulances through December 31, 2005; July 8, 2003 (9), Approved exemption of Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Volunteer Fire Department from the spare wheel requirements through December 31, 2003; June 11, 2002 (21), Approved exemption of Balboa Ambulance Service and North County Fire Protection District from the spare wheel requirements for the period June 11, 2002 through December 31, 2003; January 15, 2002 (6), Approved exemption of several fire and ambulance agencies from the spare wheel requirements for the two-year period January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2003.

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

K-12 Emergency Medical System Management

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**

Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations requires that ambulances carry spare wheels of appropriate load rating and tools for wheel changes. Title 13 and Section 2512 of the California Vehicle Code authorize exemptions to the spare wheel requirements for good cause as necessary for public health and safety. Exemption from the spare wheel requirements enables ambulances to carry additional medical supplies and equipment.

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**

N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Health and Human Services Agency

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):**      N/A

**SUBJECT:** EXEMPTION FROM SPARE WHEEL REQUIREMENTS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY AMBULANCES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

Nick Yphantides, M.D.

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619-285-6533

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Andrew Parr

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