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SAN DIEGO

# THE ISSUE WITH P-801

*Why this ad hoc policy offering will  
not be moving forward, for now.*

# Current Policy P-801

## Designation of Providers of Advanced Life Support Service



- Policy P-801 generally needs review, having been last updated in 2011
- Issues in need of amendment are:
  - Not all agencies have approved dispatch plans (and some are using unapproved plans)
  - County “Standard Response Times” are not aligned with most service contracts
  - County supportive of tiered dispatch, but needed a fair, open evaluation framework
  - Required a County review of all agency ALS agreements every two years
  - Changes to state statutes and regulations

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- Of specific concern is Subsection III. Policy, A., 1. (Page 2 of 3)

## III POLICY

A. To be designated as a paramedic service provider in San Diego County, a local jurisdiction or air ambulance provider designated as a primary response ambulance in accordance with the San Diego County Ambulance Ordinance shall:

1. Enter into a written agreement with CoSD EMS to perform as a paramedic service provider.

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- The San Diego County EMS Office relies on the language in the Health and Safety Code to guide us. It is the opinion of the LEMSA that all Paramedic Service Providers have existing written agreements with County EMS.

**H&S 1797.201.** Upon the request of a city or fire district that contracted for or provided, as of June 1, 1980, prehospital emergency medical services, **a county shall enter into a written agreement with the city or fire district regarding the provision of prehospital emergency medical services for that city or fire district.** Until such time that an agreement is reached, prehospital emergency medical services shall be continued at not less than the existing level, and the administration of prehospital EMS by cities and fire districts presently providing such services shall be retained by those cities and fire districts, except the level of prehospital EMS may be reduced where the city council, or the governing body of a fire district, pursuant to a public hearing, determines that the reduction is necessary. (emphasis added)

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- The San Diego County EMS Office has written agreements, permits, or contracts with every\* Paramedic Service Provider agency, dating between 1989 and 2021.
  - Miramar Fire was determined to need a separate agreement following the Navy-to-Marine Corps transition
- The current requirement to review agreements every two years is burdensome for both the agencies and the County



Poway	7/18/1989
Ramona MWD	10/15/1990
North County	7/1/1991
Oceanside	11/1/1995
Mercy Air	12/12/1995
Escondido	6/15/1996
Vista	7/15/1996
Carlsbad	9/1/1996
San Diego City	7/1/1997
Sycuan	8/1/1997
San Marcos	9/15/1998
Encinitas	7/1/1999
Santee	8/1/1999
San Miguel	9/1/1999
Navy Region SW	2/23/2000
Borrego Springs	7/1/2000
Solana Beach	7/1/2000
Alpine	4/1/2001
Deer Springs	2/5/2002
Bonita-Sunnyside	6/3/2002
Coronado	8/19/2002
Imperial Beach	7/31/2003
Barona	8/20/2003
Lemon Grove	7/1/2004
La Mesa	8/1/2004
Del Mar	10/7/2004
Pala	8/1/2006
Camp Pendleton	6/27/2007
National City	7/21/2009
Reach Air	6/15/2013
Chula Vista	7/24/2013
County Fire	7/13/2015
Valley Center	10/5/2015
BORSTAR	8/11/2017
Viejas	9/1/2019
Rincon	3/5/2021
San Pasqual	3/5/2021
Miramar	In process
Lakeside	included in CSA-69 contract

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- Here is the issue:
- Some EMCC members appear to be insisting that a specific language edit be adopted to receive their affirmative vote.
- County EMS staff cannot approve any language that does not maintain the written agreement requirement.
- Language offered for EMCC endorsement (which has received County Counsel approval):
  1. *Enter into a written agreement with the County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) to perform as a paramedic agency.*
- Ad hoc Committee's requested language:
  1. *Be a party to the County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) plan.*
- Obviously, the difference in the two versions are the words "written agreement"

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- After more than 2 years of work by the P-801 Ad hoc Committee (and even more by County staff), we have decided that the P-801 policy update will not be brought back to the full EMCC for a minimum of one year.
- The County EMS Office is content to let the legal and legislative process proceed on other fronts to resolve this difference in opinion on this issue.
- With so many other EMS policies that need updating and modernization we have determined that this policy work needs to be set aside, for now, so we can focus our efforts on EMS Policy adjustments where we can receive support and consensus.

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- This short report to update the EMCC was requested by the Hospital/Prehospital Subcommittee.
- I believe we have been respectful and fair in our description of the issues.
- On behalf of the San Diego County EMS Office, we appreciate the Committee's patience as we have traversed this process, and we look forward to continued discussions on this policy in the future.