



**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 7/9/2019	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Morgan Torell/Lisa Howe/(805) 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve the recommended responses to the 2018-19 Grand Jury report titled "Emergency Medical Services – Are We Covered?"; and forward these responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by July 23, 2019. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board adopt as the County's response to the referenced Grand Jury report titled "Emergency Medical Services – Are We Covered?": 1. The attached response prepared by the Health Agency- Public Health to Finding 6 and Recommendation 2; and 2. The attached response prepared by the San Luis Obispo County Fire Chief to Recommendations 1 and 2; and 3. The responses prepared by staff to Recommendations 1 and 2; and 4. Direct the Clerk to forward the approved responses to the Presiding Judge of the San Luis Obispo Superior Court and the Grand Jury by July 23, 2019.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT ☒ Consent ☐ Presentation ☐ Hearing (Time Est. _____) ☐ Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS ☐ Resolutions ☐ Contracts ☐ Ordinances ☒ N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: ☐ 4/5th's Vote Required ☒ N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY ☒ N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW This item was prepared by the Administrative Office			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Morgan Torell/Lisa Howe/ Administrative Analyst
Wade Horton/ County Administrative Officer

DATE: 7/9/2019

SUBJECT: Request to approve the recommended responses to the 2018-19 Grand Jury report titled "Emergency Medical Services – Are We Covered?"; and forward these responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by July 23, 2019. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board adopt as the County's response to the referenced Grand Jury report titled "Emergency Medical Services – Are We Covered?":

1. The attached response prepared by the Health Agency- Public Health to Finding 6 and Recommendation 2; and
2. The attached response prepared by the San Luis Obispo County Fire Chief to Recommendations 1 and 2; and
3. The responses prepared by staff to Recommendations 1 and 2; and
4. Direct the Clerk to forward the approved responses to the Presiding Judge of the San Luis Obispo Superior Court and the Grand Jury by July 23, 2019.

DISCUSSION

On May 23, 2019 the Grand Jury issued a report titled "Emergency Medical Services- Are We Covered?" The report discusses emergency medical services in San Luis Obispo County provided through contracts with San Luis Ambulance and Cal Fire, and concludes that the County is providing a level of emergency services commensurate with the needs of its population. The Grand Jury includes six findings and two recommendations. The Health Agency- Public Health is required to respond to Finding 6 and Recommendation 2. The San Luis Obispo County Fire Chief is required to respond to Recommendations 1 and 2. The Board of Supervisors is required to respond to Recommendations 1 and 2.

Under California Penal Code Section 933, the County must provide comments to the Presiding Judge no later than 90 days after the Grand Jury submits a final report. The responses from the Health Agency- Public Health, County Fire, and the Board of Supervisors are due to the Presiding Judge by July 23, 2019 as requested by the Grand Jury.

Grand Jury Recommendations 1 and 2 and Board Responses:

Recommendation 1: Additional paramedics should be provided on County-funded engines and added to the next contract.

Response: *This recommendation requires further analysis. The County Fire Department is currently working on an update to its Fire Protection Master Plan. Based on a comprehensive service level analysis of the County Fire Department, the Master Plan will recommend levels of service for fire protection, make an assessment of the delivery system and forecast necessary changes to fire protection services. Further analysis regarding additional paramedics on County engines will be done in correlation with the development of the Master Plan and in coordination with County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division.*

Recommendation 2: The County EMS Division should approve more options for airway protection by BLS personnel using equipment that limits risky outcomes. This should be accomplished by January 1, 2020.

Response: *This recommendation requires further analysis. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4 gives the authority to the local EMS Agency (LEMSA) medical director to, among other things, provide medical control, establish policies and procedures and approve the efficacy of drug, device or treatment procedure within the local EMS system. As such, analysis of currently used and additional devices for airway protection undergoes continuous evaluation of product safety and positive effect. The LEMSAs and its medical directors work through a variety of advisory committees, comprised of stakeholders with varied subject matter expertise and persons with general interest, to consider changes in medical policies and procedures. Should additional options be recommended through the advisory bodies and be evaluated by the medical director to have a sufficient safety and effectiveness profile, they would become available for use by Emergency Medical Technicians by January 1, 2020 or at any time thereafter.*

Additionally, the County Fire Department is currently working on an update to its Fire Protection Master Plan. Based on a comprehensive service level analysis of the County Fire Department, the Master Plan will recommend levels of service for fire protection, make an assessment of the delivery system and forecast necessary changes to fire protection services. Further analysis will be done in correlation with the development of the Master Plan and in coordination with the County EMS Division.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Health Agency- Public Health, San Luis Obispo County Fire Chief, and County Administrative Office drafted the recommended responses to the Grand Jury report.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Costs for preparing this response are included in current department budgets.

RESULTS

This response meets the legal requirements and time frames for responding to a Grand Jury report under California Penal Code Section 933.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Responses from the Health Agency- Public Health
- 2 Responses from the SLO County Fire Chief
- 3 Grand Jury Report - "Emergency Medical Services – Are We Covered?"



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Michael Hill *Health Agency Director*

Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

To: Morgan Torell, Administration Analyst

From: Vince Pierucci, EMS Administrator
Penny Borenstein, MD, Health Officer/Public Health Director

Date: June 12, 2019

Re: Department Response to the 2019 Grand Jury Report *"Emergency Medical Services – Are We Covered?"*

The County of San Luis Obispo Grand Jury requested the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division under the authority of the Public Health Department to respond to two items from the recently released Grand Jury Report titled *"Emergency Medical Services – Are We Covered?"*

The following are the required responses.

- **Finding 6:** San Luis Obispo County does not allow non-paramedic EMTs to use devices approved in other counties to protect an airway in case of medical emergency.
- **Response:** We disagree wholly with the finding. SLO County EMTs are authorized to use three types of airway adjuncts during medical emergencies that require ventilatory support: oropharyngeal airway, nasopharyngeal airway and bag-valve-mask. Each of these adjuncts are part of the basic scope of practice for an EMT in California (Article 2, CH 2, Division 9, Title 22, CCR.) In addition, as of June 1, 2019, specially trained and locally accredited EMTs who work for CalFire/County Fire are allowed to apply Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) for medical emergencies.
- **Recommendation 2:** The County EMS Division should approve more options for airway protection by BLS personnel using equipment that limits risky outcomes. This should be accomplished by January 1, 2020.
- **Response:** The recommendation requires further analysis. California Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Chapter 4, 1797.200, 1797.202, 1797.220 and 1797.221 gives the authority to the local EMS Agency (LEMSA) medical director to, among other things, provide medical control, establish policies and procedures and approve the efficacy of drug, device or treatment procedure within the local EMS system. As such, analysis of currently used and additional devices for airway protection undergoes continuous evaluation of product safety and positive effect. The LEMSAs and their medical directors work through a variety of advisory committees, comprised of stakeholders with varied subject matter expertise and persons with general interest, to consider changes in medical policies and procedures. Should additional options be recommended through the advisory bodies and be evaluated by the medical director to have a sufficient safety and effectiveness profile, they would become available for use by EMTs, by January 1, 2020 or at any time thereafter.

Emergency Medical Services

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CAL FIRE
San Luis Obispo
County Fire Department

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Scott M. Jalbert, Unit Chief

TO: San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Scott Jalbert, Fire Chief

DATE: June 10, 2019

SUBJECT: Department Response to the 2019 Grand Jury report on the Emergency Medical Services-Are we Covered.

On May 23, 2019, County Fire received a report from the San Luis Obispo Grand Jury assessing the emergency Medical Services (EMS) delivery within the County.

The Grand Jury requires the Fire Chief to respond to Recommendations 1 and 2. Below you will find my required responses.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: Additional paramedics should be provided on County-funded engines and added to the next contract.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The County Fire Department is currently working on an update to the Department's Fire Protection Master Plan. Based on a comprehensive service level analysis of the County Fire Department, the document will recommend levels of service for fire protection, make an assessment of the delivery system and forecast necessary changes to fire protection services. Further analysis regarding additional paramedics on County engines will be done in correlation with the development of the Master Plan and in coordination with County EMS Division.

Recommendation 2: The County EMS Division should approve more options for airway protection by BLS personnel using equipment that limits risky outcomes. This should be accomplished by January 1, 2020.

Response: The recommendation requires further analysis. The County Fire Department is currently working on an update to the Department's Fire Protection Master Plan. Based on a comprehensive service level analysis of the County Fire Department, the document will recommend levels of service for fire protection, make an assessment of the delivery system and forecast necessary changes to fire protection services. Further analysis will be done in correlation with the development of the Master Plan and in coordination with County EMS Division.