

**Mayor**  
WARD L. SMITH  
**Mayor Pro Tem**  
JEREMY B. YAMAGUCHI  
**Councilmembers:**  
CRAIG S. GREEN  
RHONDA SHADER  
CHAD P. WANKE



**City Clerk:**  
ROBERT S. MCKINNELL  
**City Treasurer**  
KEVIN A. LARSON  
**City Administrator**  
DAMIEN R. ARRULA

September 23, 2020

Maria D. Huizar, CMC 401 East Chapman Avenue - Placentia, California 92870  
Clerk of the Authority  
c/o Orange County Fire Authority  
1 Fire Authority Road  
Irvine, California 92602-0125

Dear Maria:

*Maria*

I am in receipt of your August 31<sup>st</sup> letter in which you inform me that, since Placentia is no longer a "member agency" that my attendance at your OCFA Board meetings is no longer allowed due to Covid-19 but that I'll "be able to participate on an equal basis with all similarly situated members of the public."

I certainly hope that my attendance at the OCFA Board meeting did not cause you any issues within OCFA. I would never deliberately cause you any problems, that is for sure. I did notice that prior to the beginning of the last OCFA Board meeting that Chief Fennessy, upon seeing me in the audience, immediately went over to the General Counsel for the Authority, made some comments, looked my way, and again went into a conversation.

It seems that someone at OCFA must have a disdain for elected officials. In all my years of public service I have NEVER considered an elected official as just another member of the public and certainly have never turned down a request from a fellow-elected individual to speak at any of our City Council, or other meetings, even with Covid-19 concerns.

In any case, our last "update" on the Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department is being sent to the Authority but I will not be hand carrying it. I have asked that it be transmitted to you via EMAIL with follow-on hard copy. I will also ask that you please email it to the entire OCFA Board.

Again, I hope my attendance did not cause you any problems and I apologize if it did. Thanks for all you do and for all your hard work.

Sincerely,

*Craig S. Green*

Craig S. Green  
Councilmember

*The People are the City*

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**401 East Chapman Avenue – Placentia, California 92870**

September 24, 2020

Orange County Fire Authority  
Shelley Hasselbrink, Chair  
1 Fire Authority Road  
Irvine, CA 92602

**SUBJECT: Final Report on the Placentia Transition**

Dear Chair Hasselbrink and OCFA Board of Directors:

I am pleased to provide you with the City's final report on its transition from the Orange County Fire Authority to the implementation of the Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department (PFLS) and 911/Advanced Life Support EMS program. As you are aware, at the conclusion of a competitive RFP process, in June 2019 the Placentia City Council voted to start its own fire department and contract with Lynch EMS for paramedic services. In less than one year the City has successfully staffed, equipped and trained a modern fire department, public safety communications center and state-of-the-art emergency medical services (EMS) program. In addition, we have worked collaboratively with the County of Orange and the Local Agency Formation Commission to establish an Out-of-Area Service Agreement to provide fire protection and EMS services to the unincorporated County island located within Placentia known as "Hamer Island." Overall, the transition, implementation and performance of our new fire department, communications center and private EMS service provider have exceeded the City's goals and expectations. Further information and data on the City's fire and EMS operations are noted below.

Regarding emergency communications, the City has implemented a sophisticated and robust emergency medical and fire dispatch protocol system. The emergency medical dispatch component was reviewed and approved by the Orange County Health Care Agency's Medical Director, Dr. Carl Schultz. Our emergency communications center has already begun the process of becoming a nationally accredited dispatch center, which will become the first of its kind within Orange County. Our EMS partners at Lynch are providing high quality service and expertise in 911-Paramedic (EMS). They already have been credited with saving lives in our community and have demonstrated the capacity to provide additional EMS resources into our community or others as needed. Our fire department, which consists of very experienced lateral firefighters has proven its effectiveness on several emergencies including a recent 2-alarm commercial fire.

The data we have collected over the past two months of our initial launch indicates that we have reduced emergency response times in our community by nearly 50% when compared to OCFA the prior year. This can be attributed to using ambulances and

paramedic squad units to respond to medical emergencies instead of a 55,000-pound plus fire apparatus. In addition, the City's investment in emergency vehicle traffic signal preemption devices throughout major intersections has contributed to reducing response times further. Finally, the data clearly indicates that the Placentia fire/EMS service model is resilient and self-sufficient given the substantial reduction in mutual aid from our neighbors. This is due in part to the fact that our fire engines rarely go to the hospital, thus reducing the amount of time those units are out of service.

As an example, the following table provides a year-over-year comparison of mutual aid calls into Placentia. As the data clearly demonstrates, Placentia has required far less mutual aid assistance than OCFA required in 2019 and further illustrates the persistent and excessive aid imbalance between municipal fire departments and OCFA. Our detractors have continually stated that Placentia's service model will require constant assistance from its neighbors; however the opposite is true. The incontrovertible fact is the Placentia Model is resilient and requires far less assistance from our neighbors than OCFA required while serving Placentia.

#### **Mutual Aid Requests into Placentia Year-Over-Year Comparison**

<b>July 2019</b>	<b>July 2020</b>	<b>Percent Reduction</b>
70	12	-82%

<b>August 2019</b>	<b>August 2020</b>	<b>Percent Reduction</b>
55	11	-80%

Despite Placentia's availability to assist its neighbors, the City has confirmed that the surrounding fire departments, including OCFA, have decided to purposely bypass Placentia on aid requests. The attached log shows each instance where the City's units were available to respond to assist residents in neighboring jurisdictions as the closest available unit but were purposely bypassed causing neighboring agencies to drive through Placentia Code-3 enroute to some emergencies, in some cases several miles further. These actions by OCFA and others serve to not only lengthen emergency response times into surrounding communities to the detriment of the public we serve, but creates significant liability issues for those agencies, including Yorba Linda.

When discussing Placentia's ability to serve its own residents as well as assist its neighbors, its important to take this comparison into consideration: On June 17, 2020, two weeks before the final transition, OCFA responded to a 2-alarm fire on La Jolla Street. A total of 33 units from 5 agencies responded to this incident to assist OCFA. On September 16, 2020, the Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department responded to a 2-alarm fire and a total of 17 units from 5 agencies responded to assist. If the OCFA with its 1,200 employees and nearly half-billion-dollar annual budget requires this much assistance, then how could anyone begrudge the City of Placentia, with its 140 employees and \$40 million annual budget, for asking for the same assistance? The truth of the matter is, in the modern fire service all fire agencies require assistance regardless of the size of the agency or what equipment they own. The purpose is to simply respond with the closest available unit to ensure the public's safety.

From a financial perspective, when the City planned to establish our fire department and new EMS program we anticipated a \$1.7 million savings within the first year alone. When compared to OCFA's cost for FY 2020-21, I'm happy to report the City is now budgeted to save \$2.3 million in our first year of operation. Additionally, based upon a comparison of OCFA's historical costs when compared to the City's historical costs, Placentia anticipates saving \$27 million over the next 10 years.

As demonstrated above, the Placentia Model has proven to be very effective at serving our community. I along with my colleagues on the City Council and City staff take great pride in this fact as well as the financial savings for our taxpayers. We are confident in the abilities of our public safety providers and as always we stand ready to assist our neighbors should they desire to enter into a mutually beneficial aid agreement or call upon us. Should you or your colleagues have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ward L. Smith  
Mayor

Attachment: Mutual Aid Bypass Log

cc: OCFA City Managers Technical Advisory Committee  
Orange County Emergency Medical Care Committee



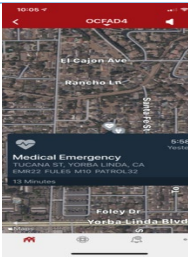
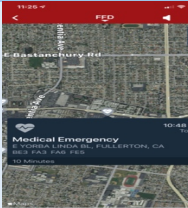
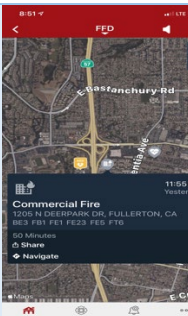
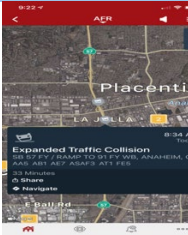
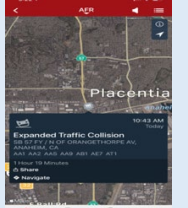
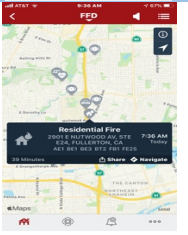
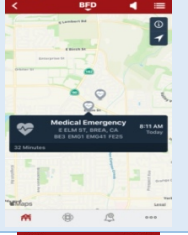
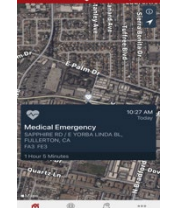
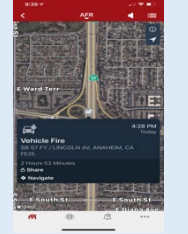


CITY OF PLACENTIA

Mutual Aid Bypass Log July - August 2020

Mutual Aid Calls Not Requested of Placentia’s 911-ALS Provider or  
Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department

#	Date/Time	Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)	Incident Location	PulsePoint Image	Incident Type	Description	Responding Units
1	07/04/2020 10:37 PM	Anaheim FD	3030 E. Jackson Ave Anaheim		Fire	PE1 and PPAT2 were requested for mutual aid. PPAT2 cancelled enroute by MetroCities Fire Dispatch	AB1, AB2, AE5, AE7, AE8, AT8, EO3, PE1  *Proper example of mutual aid working correctly.
2	07/08/2020 9:36 AM	OCFA	Bastanchury Rd. Yorba Linda, CA 92886		Medical	PE2 and PM2 were available – 1.4 miles away	BREE3 – responded from 2.8 miles away, EMR45, M10, PATROL32
3	07/09/2020 8:10 PM	Brea FD	Valencia Avenue / Imperial Highway Brea, CA		Expanded Traffic Collision	No call for assistance. PM2 and PE2 were available 0.7 miles away	BE3, CE10 – 2.3 miles away, CT32, EMG1, EMG22, EMG40, FB1
4	07/09/2020 7:13 PM	Fullerton FD	303 N. Placentia Ave. Fullerton, CA 92831		Outside Fire	No call for assistance. PE1 was available 0.4 miles away	AE5, BT2, FB1, FE3, FE5, FT6
5	07/10/2020 10:46 AM	Anaheim FD	WB 91 Freeway, East of Gypsum Canyon Anaheim, CA 92807		Vegetation Fire	No call for assistance.	E10, E32, E355, FULB1, HELITEND241, I55, N1
6	07/14/2020 2:37 AM	Anaheim FD	3125 E. Orangethorpe Ave. Anaheim, CA 92806		Vehicle Fire	No call for assistance. PE1 was available – 0.9 miles away	FE5 – responded from 3.3 miles away
7	07/17/2020 8:35 AM	OCFA	17051 Hillwood Dr. Yorba Linda, CA 92886		Wires Arching	Placentia PSAP received call, transferred to OCFA Dispatch. PE2 available 1.2 miles away	BREE3 - responded from 3.8 miles away

8	07/18/2020 5:58 PM	OCFA	Tucana Street Yorba Linda, CA 92886		Medical	PM2 and PE2 both available – 1.6 miles away	FULE5 – responded from 3.5 miles away, M10, PATROL32, EMR22
9	07/21/2020 10:49 AM	Fullerton FD	E. Yorba Linda Blvd Fullerton, CA 92831		Medical	PE1 and PM1 were available - 1.3 miles away	BE3 – responded from 4 miles away, FA3, FA6, FE5
10	07/24/2020	Fullerton FD	Yorba Linda / Sapphire Fullerton, CA 92831	No Screen shot available	Vehicle Fire	PE2 was available – 1 mile away	FE5
11	8/12/2020 11:55 PM	Fullerton FD	1205 N. Deerpark Dr. Fullerton		Commercial Fire	PE1 was available – 1.3 miles away	BE3 – responded from 3.5 miles away, FB1, FE1, FE23, FE5, FT6
12	08/15/2020 08:34 AM	Anaheim FD	SB 57 FY / RAMP to 91 WB		Expanded TC	PE1 was available – 0.9 miles away	AA5, AB1, AE7, ASAF3, AT1, FE5 – 2.3 miles
13	08/15/2020 10:43 AM	Anaheim FD	SB 57 FY / N of Orangethorpe Ave.		Expanded TC	PE1 was available – 0.9 miles away	AA1, AA2, AA5, AA9, AB1, AE7, AT1
14	08/20/2020 7:36 AM	Fullerton FD	2901 E. Nutwood Fullerton, CA 92831		Residential Fire	PE1 was available – 1.1 mile away	AE1 – responded from 4.2 miles away, BE1 – 5.3 miles away, BE3 – 3.7 miles away, BT2, FB1, FE25
15	8/26/20 8:11 AM	Brea FD	East Elm Street Brea, CA		Medical	PM2 and PE2 were available. – 1.4 miles away	BE3 – responded from 2.1 miles away, FE5 – 3.3 miles away, EMG1, EMG21,
16	8/27/20 10:27 AM	Fullerton FD	Saphire RD / E Yorba Linda, Fullerton		Medical	PM2 available – 1.0 mile away.	FE3 – responded from 3.6 miles away, FA3
17	8/27/20 4:28 PM	Anaheim FD	SB 57 FY / Lincoln Av, Anaheim		Vehicle Fire	PE1 available - 3.5 miles away	FE25

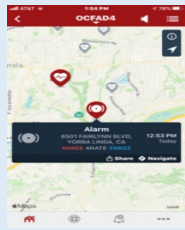
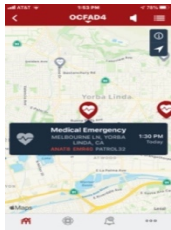
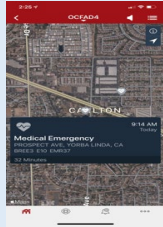
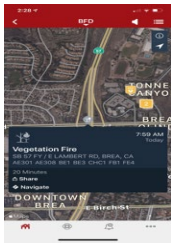
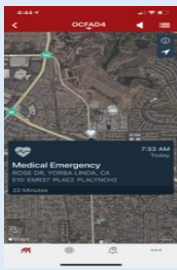
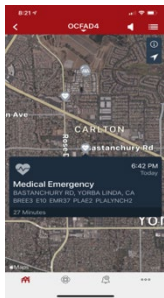
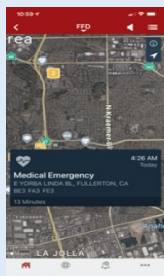
18	8/31/20 3:02 PM	Fullerton FD	E. Commonwealth Av / E. Chapman Av		MCI	PE1, PM1, PM2 were all available	FE25, FE3, FT6, FB1, AE1, AE5, AT1, CARE, CAREOPS, EMG43, T5413, T9183, T9361, TD1101, TD1201
19	8/31/2020 11:22 PM	Fullerton FD	2638 Andover Ave, Fullerton		Residential Fire	PE1 and PE2 mutual aid response at 11:25 PM and cancelled enroute by MetroNet at 11:29	BT2, FB1, FE21, FE25, FT6



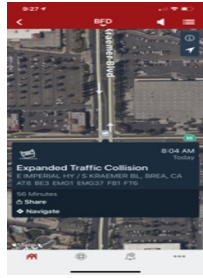
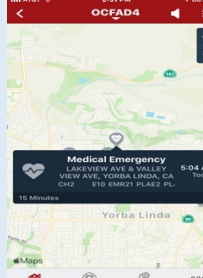
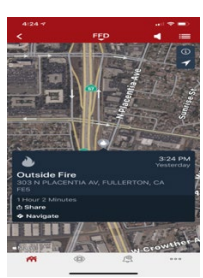
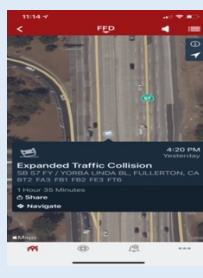
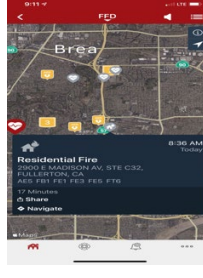
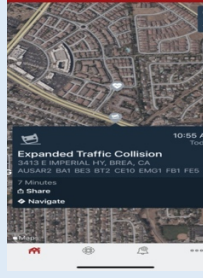
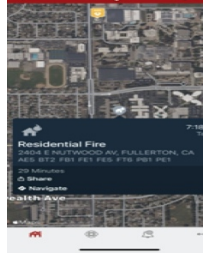
# CITY OF PLACENTIA

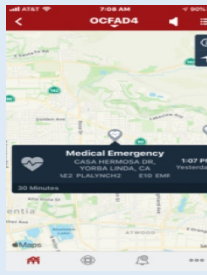
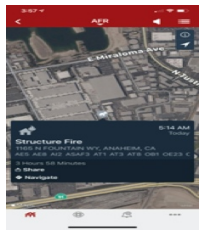
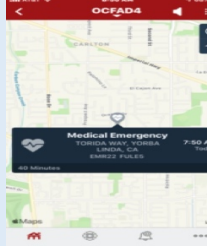
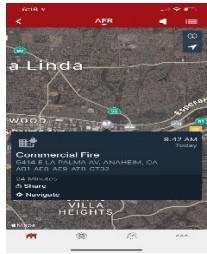
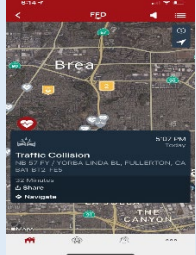
## Mutual Aid Bypass Log - September 2020

Mutual Aid Calls Not Requested of Placentia's 911-ALS Provider or  
Placentia Fire and Life Safety Department

#	Date/Time	Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)	Incident Location	PulsePoint Image	Incident Type	Description	Responding Units
1	09/01/2020 12:53 PM	OCFA	6501 Fairlynn BLVD. Yorba Linda		Alarm	PM2 was available – 5.6 miles away	ANAE8 & ANAT8 – 3.6 miles away, EMR23
2	09/01/2020 1:30 PM	OCFA	Melbourne Ln. Yorba Linda		Medical Emergency	PM2 was available – 2.0 miles away	ANAT8 – 3.0 miles away, EMR40, Patrol 32
3	09/02/2020 9:14 PM	OCFA	Prospect Ave, Yorba Linda		Medical Emergency	PM2 was available – 1.6 miles away	BREE3 – 3 miles away, E10, EMR37
4	9/02/2020 7:59 AM	Brea FD	SB 57 FY / Lambert Rd, Brea		Vegetation Fire	PE1 and PE2 were both available. PE2 – 3.7 miles	AE301, AE308, BE1, BE3, CHC1, FB1 & FE4 – 6.5 miles away
5	9/03/2020 7:33 AM	OCFA	Rose Drive / Yorba Linda Blvd, Yorba Linda		Medical Emergency	PM2 – 0.9 miles away, canceled 2 minutes after dispatch	E10 – 2.0 miles away, EMR37,
6	9/03/2020 6:42 PM	OCFA	Bastanchury RD, Yorba Linda		Medical Emergency	PM2 and PE2 cancelled immediately after dispatch – 1.6 miles away	BREE3 – 3 miles away, E10 – 1.7 miles away, EMR37,
7	9/04/2020 6:42 PM	FFD	E Yorba Linda BL, Fullerton		Medical Emergency	PE2 and PM2 were available – 0.9 miles away	BE3 – 2.7 miles away, FE3 – 3.5 miles away, FA3



8	9/05/2020 8:04 AM	BFD	E Imperial HY / S Kraemer BL, Brea		Expanded Traffic Collision	PE2 and PM2 were available – 2.0 miles away	FT6 – 8 miles away, AT8 – 6.5 miles away, BE3, EMG1, FB1
9	9/08/2020 5:04 AM	OCFA	Lakeview Ave & Valley View Ave, Yorba Linda		Medical Emergency	PM2 & PE2 Cancelled by OCFA as soon as call was entered, no dispatch of resources – 2.8 miles away	E10 – 1.9 miles away, EMR21,
10	9/08/2020 3:42 PM	FFD	303 N. Placentia Ave., Fullerton		Outside Fire	PE1 available – 0.7 miles away	FE5 – 1.9 miles away
11	9/10/2020 4:20 PM	FFD	SB 57 FY / Yorba Linda Blvd, Fullerton		Expanded Traffic Accident	PE1, PE2, PM1, PM2 all available – 1.5 miles away	BT2, FA3, FB1, FB2, FE3, FT6
12	9/11/2020 8:36 AM	FFD	2900 E. Madison Ave, STE C32, Fullerton		Residential Fire	PE2 and PE1 both available – 1.2 miles away	AE5, FB1, FE1, FE3, FE5, FT6
13	9/11/2020 10:55 AM	BFD	3413 E Imperial HY, Brea		Expanded Traffic Collision	PE2 and PM2 both available – 1.6 miles away	AUSAR2, BA1, BE3, BT2, CE10, EMG1, FB1 – 5.8 away miles, FE5 – 3.5 miles away
14	9/12/2020 7:18 PM	FFD	2404 E Nutwood Ave, Fullerton		Residential Fire	PB1 and PE1 were requested for mutual aid but canceled – 1.5 miles away	AE5 – 1 mile away, BT2, FB1, FE1, FE5, FT6,

15	9/13/2020 1:07 PM	OCFA	Casa Hermosa Dr. Yorba Linda		Medical Emergency	PE2, PM2 both available - 2 miles away	E10 – 1.6 miles away, EMR37
16	9/13/2020 5:14 AM	AFD	1165 N Fountain WY, Anaheim		Structure Fire	PE1 was available – 2.8 miles away	AE5, AE8, A12, ASAF3, AT1, AT8, OB1, OE23 -
17	9/15/2020 7:15 AM	OCFA	Torida Way, Yorba Linda		Medical Emergency	PM2 was available – 1.4 miles away	EMR22, FE5 – 3.3 miles from call and travel through Placentia
17	9/15/2020 9:42 AM	AFD	5414 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim		Commercial Fire	PT2 was available	AB1, AE8, AE9, AT8, CT32 – 4.4 Miles away
18	9/19/2020 5:07 PM	FFD	NB 57 FY / Yorba Linda BL Fullerton		Traffic Collision	PT2 was available – 3.4 Miles away	FE5, BA, BT2 – 4.2 Miles away