



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

ASR Control 14-000953

MEETING DATE: 09/30/14
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Health Care Agency (Approved)
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Holly Veale (714) 834-4418
 Teri Schultz (714) 834-4099

SUBJECT: Maximum 9-1-1 Emergency Ambulance Rates and Amendments to Ordinance 3517

CEO CONCUR Concur	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW Approved Resolution(s) and Ordinance(s)	CLERK OF THE BOARD Public Hearing 3 Votes Board Majority
-----------------------------	---	---

Budgeted: N/A **Current Year Cost:** N/A **Annual Cost:** N/A

Staffing Impact: No **# of Positions:** **Sole Source:** N/A

Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A

Funding Source: N/A **County Audit in last 3 years:** No

Prior Board Action: 4/8/2014 #S36C; 9/10/2013 #45

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. Find that the proposed Advanced Life Support Paramedic Assessment and Transport Rates and the Basic Life Support Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates are Statutorily Exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15273 of the CEQA Guidelines as the establishment or modification, structuring, restructuring or approval of rates, tolls, fares, and other charges by a public agency which are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits; purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials as set forth herein.
2. Conduct a public hearing.
3. Adopt by Resolution:
 - a. Update the Maximum 9-1-1 Emergency Basic Life Support Ground Ambulance Rates effective July 1, 2014, as specified in the attached draft resolution, which supersedes and rescinds resolution No. 13-087.
 - b. Update the Maximum Advanced Life Support Paramedic Assessment and Transportation Rates effective July 1, 2014, as specified in the attached draft resolution which supersedes and rescinds resolution No. 13-087.

4. Read title of ordinance.
5. Waive further reading of ordinance.
6. Consider the matter.
7. Direct ordinance be placed on agenda for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting for adoption.
8. At the next regularly scheduled meeting, consider the matter, and adopt the ordinance.

SUMMARY:

The Health Care Agency requests approval to update the maximum 9-1-1 Basic Life Support emergency ground ambulance rates and the maximum Advanced Life Support Paramedic Assessment and Transport rates effective July 1, 2014. The agency also presents for the Board's consideration, "AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA AMENDING SECTIONS 4-9-1 THROUGH 4-9-17 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE REGARDING AMBULANCE SERVICE."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Ambulance Rate Update

In accordance with Title 4, Division 9, Article 1, Section 4-9-12 of the Codified Ordinances of Orange County, your Honorable Board approves the maximum rates that can be charged by ambulance companies to the general public for 9-1-1 emergency Basic Life Support (BLS) and ground ambulance transportation. This rate applies only to 9-1-1 emergency services and does not pertain to inter-facility transfers that occur within the County. Since 2004, your Board has also set the maximum Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedic Assessment and Transportation rates charged by the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA).

On September 10, 2013, your Board approved maximum rates based on the change in the LA-Riverside-Orange County "all items" Consumer Price Index (CPI) and adjusted rates by that percentage effective July 1, 2013. Utilizing the same methodology and calculating the percentage change from calendar year 2012 to 2013, a rate increase of 1.1% is indicated. This establishes the new maximum BLS rate at \$739.46 (an increase of \$8.05) and the maximum ALS rate at \$391.61 (an increase of \$4.26).

The Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) met on June 27, 2014 and recommended approval of these rate changes.

Type of Rate	Current Rate	Adjusted Rate (↑1.1%)	\$ Change
BLS - per transport	\$731.41	\$739.46	\$8.05
Mileage - per patient mile	\$ 16.87	\$ 17.06	\$0.19
Oxygen Administration	\$ 82.74	\$ 83.65	\$0.91
Standby Time - per 15 minutes	\$ 40.83	\$ 41.28	\$0.45
Expendable Medical Supplies	\$ 32.66	\$ 33.02	\$0.36
OCFA ALS - per transport	\$387.35	\$391.61	\$4.26

Ambulance Ordinance

On April 8, 2014, your Board directed the Health Care Agency (HCA) to update the County's 1985 Ambulance Ordinance and return for Board review concurrent with the annual update to the ALS and BLS Maximum rates.

On April 30, 1985, your Board adopted Ordinance 3517 to regulate the operation of ambulances within the unincorporated areas of Orange County and those cities served by the Orange County Fire Department. The Ordinance was drafted based on the following principles: de-regulation of non-emergency services; setting of maximum rates for emergency ambulance responses; and development of competitive process for exclusive operating areas. Most Orange County cities have adopted or minimally edited Ordinance 3517 and integrated the same language into city municipal codes.

The emergency medical services system has evolved over the 29 years since the Ordinance's adoption in 1985. The proposal before your Board updates the County's Ordinance to reflect current guidelines, best practices and the February 2014 ruling from the State of California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) directing Orange County Emergency Medical Services to conduct the procurement process for County-administered Exclusive Operating areas for emergency transport via a competitive process. Its changes to the current Ordinance include the following:

- * Eliminated obsolete references (e.g. Orange County Fire Department) and updated definitions;
- * Strengthened review of license applications and simplified disciplinary procedures for licensees;
- * Clarified and enhanced personnel standards consistent with EMSA regulations;
- * Codified EMSA direction to have the County administer Exclusive Operating Areas through the awarding of contracts under a competitive process.

HCA solicited public comment from the emergency medical services system and EMCC. EMCC's Transportation Advisory Committee has intermittently worked on an ordinance update for the past eight years and much of their work is reflected in the proposal before you.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed ALS Paramedic Assessment and Transport Rates and the Basic Life Support Emergency Ground Ambulance Rates are Statutorily Exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Section 21080(b)(8) of the Public Resources Code and Section 15273 of the CEQA Guidelines as the establishment or modification, structuring, restructuring or approval of rates, tolls, fares, and other charges by a public agency which are for the purpose of meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits; purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

Attachment A - Draft Resolution

Attachment B - Proposed Ordinance

Attachment C - Redline Version of Proposed Ordinance