

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE INLAND COUNTIES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

August 20, 2024

**FROM**

**LUTHER SNOKE, Chief Executive Officer, County Administrative Office**

**DANIEL MUÑOZ, Interim EMS Administrator, Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency**

**SUBJECT**

Ordinance and Policy Relating to Ambulance Service Rate Setting

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. Acting as the governing body of San Bernardino County, adopt **Ordinance No. 4478** relating to the establishment and annual adjustment of ambulance service rates through the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency ambulance rate setting policy for San Bernardino County, which was introduced on August 6, 2024, Item No. 62.
2. Acting as the governing body of the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency, approve the update to Ambulance Rate Setting Policy No. 3060, effective September 19, 2024.  
(Presenter: Daniel Muñoz, Interim EMS Administrator, 388-5807)

**COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

**Operate in a Fiscally-Responsible and Business-Like Manner.**

**Provide for the Safety, Health and Social Service Needs of County Residents.**

**Pursue County Goals and Objectives by Working with Other Agencies and Stakeholders.**

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The proposed County ordinance adoption and Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency policy amendment will not result in the use of Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost). It is the responsibility of departments impacted by the adjustment of maximum ambulance service rates to ensure sufficient appropriation is included in their respective budgets for 2024-25 and future recommended budgets.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The ordinance relating to the establishment and annual adjustment of ambulance service rates through the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency ambulance rate setting policy for San Bernardino County was introduced on August 6, 2024, Item No. 62. The recommendation before the Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors (Board) today will adopt the ordinance on the Consent Calendar.

**Ordinance and Policy Relating to Ambulance Service Rate Setting  
August 20, 2024**

County Code section 31.0820 (County Code) establishes the process for setting and adjusting maximum ambulance rates an ambulance service provider may charge within the county. County Code has not been updated in many years and has been previously superseded by action of the Board on February 23, 2010 (Item No. 69) and May 8, 2012 (Item No. 46) through approval of Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) Ground Based Ambulance Rate Setting Policy No. 3060 (Policy), formerly Policy No. 5080. ICEMA has published annual adjustments in conformation to the Policy since 2012, but the County Code has not been updated to reflect and conform to the Policy.

ICEMA is the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) for the counties of San Bernardino, Inyo, and Mono. ICEMA administers State and local codes and regulations governing the provision of emergency medical care to the sick and injured at the scene of an emergency and during transport to a care facility.

The proposed ordinance will update County Code to properly authorize the establishment of maximum rates and the annual adjustment process through the Policy and identify ICEMA as San Bernardino County's LEMSAs in the County Code Ambulance Chapter 8. This update will align with recent legislation, Assembly Bill 716, which amended California Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Chapter 3, Article 2 for LEMSAs established/approved ground ambulance provider rates and comply with the State reporting requirements.

The proposed ordinance will authorize the schedule of maximum rates that may be charged for ambulance service, as established via the Policy and published by ICEMA, for the County. The recommended ordinance and Policy updates will also bring minor updates to the process for calculating the annual rate adjustments.

The proposed Policy will update the annual rate adjustments calculation using the federally published consumer price index (CPI) statistics and a local rate comparison of similar jurisdictions. This annual effort will provide ambulance transport providers with equitable maximum rates for transport services, which are adjusted for inflation and comparable to local jurisdictions. Calculation updates include referencing a more accurate geographic region and more appropriate CPI index when calculating rate adjustments. The proposed Policy update will also clarify that the same rate setting procedure, applied to San Bernardino County, will continue to be applied to Inyo and Mono Counties. Lastly, the proposed Policy will add a process to recommend necessary rate adjustments.

**PROCUREMENT**

N/A

**REVIEW BY OTHERS**

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (John Tubbs II, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on July 24, 2024; Finance (Carl Lofton, Administrative Analyst, 387-5404) on July 31, 2024; and County Finance and Administration (Robert Saldana, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on July 31, 2024.

**Ordinance and Policy Relating to Ambulance Service Rate Setting  
August 20, 2024**

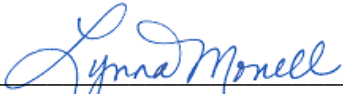
Record of Action of the Board of Directors  
Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA)

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors  
San Bernardino County

**APPROVED (CONSENT CALENDAR)**

Moved: Curt Hagman   Seconded: Joe Baca, Jr.  
Ayes: Col. Paul Cook (Ret.), Jesse Armendarez, Dawn Rowe, Curt Hagman, Joe Baca, Jr.

Lynna Monell, CLERK OF THE BOARD/SECRETARY

BY   
DATED: August 20, 2024



cc:     File - Administrative Office w/ attachments  
JLL     08/20/2024