

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

August 6, 2024

FROM

LUTHER SNOKE, Chief Executive Officer, County Administrative Office

SUBJECT

Ordinance Relating to Ambulance Service Rate Setting

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Consider proposed ordinance relating to ambulance rates by updating the rate setting and adjustment procedures and policies established and published by the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency.
2. Make alterations, if necessary, to the proposed ordinance.
3. Approve introduction of the proposed ordinance.
 - An ordinance of San Bernardino County, State of California, to amend Section 31.0820 of Chapter 8 of Division 1 of Title 3 of the San Bernardino County Code 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.
4. SCHEDULE ORDINANCE FOR FINAL ADOPTION ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024, on the Consent Calendar.
(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 ordinance will not result in the use of Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost). It is the responsibility of impacted departments to ensure sufficient appropriation is included in their respective budgets for 2024-25 and future recommended budgets.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

San Bernardino County, in County Code section 31.0820 (County Code), establishes the process for setting and adjusting maximum ambulance rates an ambulance service provider may charge within San Bernardino County. This code section has not been updated in many years and has been previously superseded by action of the Board of Supervisors (Board) by amending the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) policy for ambulance rate adjustments. ICEMA has published annual adjustments to this Board approved ambulance rate policy (ICEMA Policy No. 3060) since 2012, but the County Code has not been updated to reflect the current Board approved process.

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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 ICEMA 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 and published by the LEMSAs in the ICEMA Ground Based Ambulance Rate Setting Policy No. 3060, for San Bernardino County (as initially approved by the ICEMA Board of Directors on February 23, 2010 [Item No. 69] and on May 8, 2012 [Item No. 46]). The proposed ordinance will also bring minor updates to the process for calculating the annual rate adjustments.

Annual rate adjustments will be calculated using the federally published consumer price index 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.

PROCUREMENT

N/A

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (John Tubbs II, Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on July 17, 2024; Finance (Carl Lofton, Administrative Analyst, 387-5404) on July 19, 2024; County Finance and Administration (Robert Saldana, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on July 22, 2024.

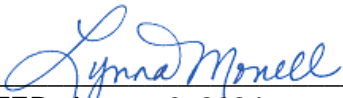
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Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County

APPROVED (CONSENT CALENDAR)

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

Lynna Monell, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY 
DATED: August 6, 2024



cc: File - Final BAI
JLL 08/7/2024