

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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August 13, 2015

Marcy Metz, Chief, Emergency Medical Services  
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Agency  
6255 Mission Gorge Road  
San Diego, CA 92120

Dear Ms. Metz:

This letter is in response to the Quality Improvement (QI) Program supplement to San Diego's 2011 EMS Plan Update submitted to the EMS Authority on June 30, 2015.

**I. Introduction and Summary:**

The EMS Authority has accepted the QI Plan as submitted and is updating the status of San Diego's County's 2011 EMS Plan Update to fully approved.

**II. History and Background:**

Historically, we have received EMS Plan documentation from San Diego County in the following years: 1997-1999, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009 and, most current, its 2011 plan update submission.

San Diego County received its last five-year Plan approval (partial) for its 2005 plan submission, and received temporary approval in 2014, contingent on submission of a QI Plan, for its 2011 Update. The California Health and Safety (H&S) Code § 1797.254 states:

*"Local EMS agencies shall **annually** (emphasis added) submit an emergency medical services plan for the EMS area to the authority, according to EMS Systems, Standards, and Guidelines established by the authority".*

The EMS Authority is responsible for the review of EMS Plans and for making a determination on the approval or disapproval of the plan, based on compliance with statute and the standards and guidelines established by the EMS Authority consistent with H&S Code § 1797.105(b).

**III. Analysis of EMS System Components:**

Areas that indicate the plan submitted is concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations and H&S Code § 1797.254 and the EMS system components identified in H&S Code § 1797.103 are indicated below. Please refer to specific comments for each area provided in the December 11, 2014 temporary approval letter.

- |    | Approved                            | Not Approved             |   |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| A. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>System Organization and Management</u> |
| B. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Staffing/Training</u>                  |
| C. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Communications</u>                     |
| D. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Response/Transportation</u>            |
| E. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Facilities/Critical Care</u>           |
| F. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Data Collection/System Evaluation</u>  |
| G. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Public Information and Education</u>   |
| H. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Disaster Medical Response</u>          |

**IV. Conclusion:**

Based on the information identified, San Diego County may implement areas of the 2011 EMS Plan Update that have been approved. Pursuant to H&S Code § 1797.105(b):

*“After the applicable guidelines or regulations are established by the Authority, a local EMS agency may implement a local plan...unless the Authority determines that the plan does not effectively meet the needs of the persons served and is not consistent with the coordinating activities in the geographical area served, or that the plan is not concordant and consistent with applicable guidelines or regulations, or both the guidelines and regulations established by the Authority.”*

**V. Next Steps:**

San Diego County's annual EMS Plan Update will continue to be due on December 11, 2015. Please note, during the submission of an annual Plan Update, individual System Assessment Forms are only required to be submitted when changes are made to the system that are different from the last approved five-year EMS Plan, as indicated on the requested 'Progress/Objectives' form. In addition, each County must submit an annual status update of QI and Trauma Plans to the EMS Authority.

If you have any questions regarding the plan review please contact Jeff Schultz, EMS Plans Coordinator, at (916) 431-3688.

Sincerely,

  
Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Director