

ORDINANCE SUMMARY

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9.05 OF MENDOCINO COUNTY CODE ENTITLED “EMERGENCY AND PRE-HOSPITAL MEDICAL SERVICE SYSTEM”

This ordinance amends Mendocino County Code Chapter 9.05. It substantially changes the original “Ambulance Ordinance” as adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1991 (and amended in 1994). The purpose of the revisions is to support a more modernized Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”) system and to establish the authority to allow the formation of an Inland Mendocino County Exclusive Operating Area relating to ambulance services for Mendocino County.

California's EMS Act authorizes each county to develop an EMS program and to designate a local EMS agency (“LEMSA”) that oversees the delivery of EMS within that geographic area. In 1994 Coastal Valleys Emergency Medical Services Agency (“CVEMSA”) was designated the LEMSAs for Mendocino County. Since its formation, CVEMSA has managed to operate under the existing ordinance primarily through the EMS System Plan and CVEMSA policies. Currently Section 9.05 does not adequately authorize all appropriate CVEMSA regulatory actions, including the oversight of Basic Life Support, Advanced Life Support, and critical care transport ground and air services. It also does not address current industry practices nor establish the importance of consistent delivery of high quality care. The revised ordinance implements a process in which all ambulances transporting patients in Mendocino County will be subject to permitting and compliance with all current standards of care.

Specifically, the changes in the ordinance address all aspects of pre-hospital medical care and allow for the collection of data and review of care provided to ensure high quality care across the County. The language is updated to reflect that it will be administered by the County through its designated LEMSAs and to reflect the current standards, procedures, protocols and mandates. It also reflects the fact that ambulance providers no longer operate their own dispatch services and it incorporates more accurate language related to EMS aircraft service.

The ordinance amendment would take effect 30 days following final adoption by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors.