



## RIO VISTA FIRE DEPARTMENT

350 Main Street | Rio Vista, CA. 94571  
Phone 707.374.2233 | Fax 707.374.6324  
[www.riovistacity.com](http://www.riovistacity.com)

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October 30, 2018

### MEMO

TO: Rio Vista City Manager R. Hickey

FROM: Fire Chief J. Armstrong 

RE: Solano County EMS System Review and Blueprint Report

Dear Sir,

I have reviewed the Solano County 'EMS System Blue Print Report', which was drafted by Page Wolfberg & Wirth, a law firm based in Pennsylvania. This document will be the basis for the Solano County Ambulance Provider RFP, scheduled to be released in early 2019. The purpose of the 2019 RFP is to solicit bids for ambulance transport services in Solano County beginning in 2020.

I have several concerns regarding the document and proposed concepts that I feel I must share with you. The first main concern is with regard to the firm itself. Page Wolfberg & Wirth has little or no experience in California, and their lack of knowledge of the local system and California State Law (Health & Safety Code) is evident throughout the document. Another concern is that the City of Rio Vista was not listed in the document as a service area. While we assume we are included in the Solano County Blue Print Report, and the RFP to follow, it is difficult to evaluate the proposed changes and/or future opportunities unless Rio Vista included and clearly identified as a service area (see page 11).

Other concerns are regarding new service delivery concepts and specific document content. Here is a list of my specific concerns with references to the document:

1. Recommendation 2 (page 4):

Central EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch). While I agree EMD is a higher level of service and would support the integration in Solano County, I do not agree with this system being "controlled" by the private ambulance provider as proposed. As a city and local jurisdiction responsible for life safety, we retain the right to deliver the expected and established level of service to our residents and visitors and "control" those responses. The Local EMS Agency (Solano County EMS) does not have the right to "take over" our dispatch per CA Health & Safety Code Section 1794.201.

Operationally, having separate dispatch centers for medical and fire incidents, would be impossible to manage and also result in decreased public and responder safety. The

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Solano County Grand Jury has recommended the *reduction* in dispatch centers, not an increase as this document proposes. I believe the California State 9-1-1 Advisory Board would also concur.

2. Recommendation 3 (page 5):  
Red Lights and Sirens. I agree that “Code 2” versus “Code 3” (lights and sirens) responses could and should be determined by a methodology such as EMD. However, the author of the document makes assumptions using invalid or empirical data. The author fails to support the statement: “ *There are no studies that support the use of red lights and siren (RLS) is linked to improved patient outcomes*” (page 5) . Utilizing data from private ambulance accidents is not relative to the professional and experienced driver / operator(s) employed in the Fire Service. While I agree there are other factors that affect patient outcomes, “how quickly we arrive” is one of the only outcomes the citizens often have to measure our service. Locally, we see heavy traffic on Highway 12. Attempts to prevent us from responding Code 3, without carefully evaluated data, could have a large impact on our response times and unit utilization hours.
3. Recommendation 4 (page 5 & chart on pages 33-34):  
Response Times and Performance Standards. The proposed increase in response times reflect a significant decrease in service level (see chart on page 33-34). This reflects an increase (up to 60 minutes) from the previous standards and is concerning for Rio Vista and the Delta Fire District.
4. Stakeholder input not included (starting on page 48):  
Input of the Stakeholders was documented; however, very little, if any, from the public sector was included. This includes opposition to the continued practice of negotiating the PPP (public private partnership) after the contract is awarded. This places the PPP cities in an inferior negotiating position and does not allow that agreement to be published in advance for competitive contract bidders. It also does not allow the City of Rio Vista to evaluate the PPP, before contract award, to determine our ability to join. The stakeholder meetings were also very few and included large, diverse groups, making the meetings non-productive.

Considering other cities and agencies have other concerns, not listed here, I would hope that the SEMSC Board votes to reject this Blue Print Report and the subsequent Draft RFP at their meeting in December 2018.

Reference: EMS System Review and Blue Print Report – DRAFT  
[https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ems/2020\\_rfp\\_project.asp](https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ems/2020_rfp_project.asp)

cc. Delta Fire Protection District Board of Directors  
Solano County Fire Chiefs Association  
Solano County EMS Agency  
SEMSC Board  
Solano County Sheriff’s Office

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