

# California Legislature

December 11, 2018

## Board Members

Solano County EMS Cooperative  
355 Tuolumne St., MS 20-240, Suite 2400  
Vallejo, CA 94590

**Birgitta Corsello**  
Solano County Administrator  
Chair, SEMSC

**Thea Giboney, MHA**  
Medical Group Administrator  
Kaiser Permanente  
Medical Professional Rep.

**Josh Chadwick, Fire Chief**  
Benicia Fire Department  
Fire Chief Representative

**Lillian Pan, MD, MS**  
Emergency Department  
Sutter Solano Med. Center  
Medical Professional Rep.

**Caesar Djavaheerian, MD**  
Emergency Department  
NorthBay Medical Center  
Physicians' Forum Rep.

**Richard Watson**  
Health Care Consumer Rep.

**David White, City Manager**  
City of Fairfield  
City Manager Representative

Dear SEMSC Board Members:

As lawmakers representing Solano County, we write to express our concerns with several provisions of the draft blueprint for emergency medical services currently under consideration by the Solano County EMS Cooperative (SEMSC). We urge the members of the SEMSC to consider the potential risks of the proposed model to public safety, accountability, and efficient and effective medical response.

The proposed RFP would eliminate the medical dispatch authority from seven fire departments within Solano County and confer it upon the private, for-profit ambulance provider. Few such private outsourcing models exist, but where they have been implemented, the results have been ineffective.

While the consultant's report asserts that "ensuring system financial stability" is a primary factor to consider in developing recommendations, the goals of improving response times, patient care, and protecting the public's health and safety should be of primary importance.

Given that the protection of public health and safety is an essential function of government, we are concerned about the following adverse consequences:

- **Slower Code 3 emergency response times:** The consultant report on which the RFP is based envisions a standard for response times nearly twice the national standard of 5 minutes. In some areas, Code 3 response could go up to an hour.
- **Eroded effectiveness and timeliness of fire department response:** In San Joaquin County, the same model has severely limited fire department participation in the EMS system. Stockton and Tracy firefighter-paramedics are routinely not dispatched to – or in some cases even informed of – calls, giving preference to its own corporate providers. This has resulted in documented delays in response.
- **Loss of accountability:** Under the “tiered EMS response” model proposed by the consultant, the decisions on how – or whether – to respond would be made by the private, for-profit contractor, which is accountable to its shareholders, not the taxpaying public. In San Joaquin County, it is the Local EMS Agency – directly allied with the private provider – that decides what departments are and are not able to respond to.
- **Threatened standard of care:** By placing emergency medical response decisions in the hands of a private contractor, the potential for cost-based medical decisions increases.

Emergency medical response dispatch is a core public safety responsibility. We ask that the SEMSC reject this RFP and instead work to conduct more analysis and engagement with the public and public safety agencies whose sworn mission is to protect the public.

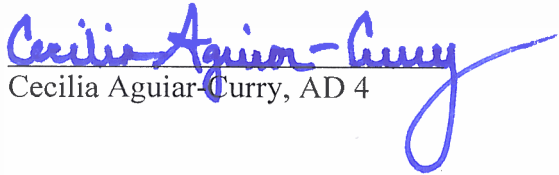
Sincerely,



Timothy Grayson, AD 14



Jim Frazier, AD 11



Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, AD 4



Bill Dodd, SD 3

cc:

Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Chairman John Vasquez, District 4  
Vice-Chairwoman Erin Hannigan, District 1  
Supervisor Monica Brown, District 2  
Supervisor Jim Spering, District 3  
Supervisor Skip Thomson, District 5