



ORANGE COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IAFF LOCAL 3631

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April 7, 2014

Sent via email, original available upon request

Diana Dooley, Secretary
California Health and Human Services
1600 Ninth Street, Room 460
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Dooley,

The State of California Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) has recently mandated that the County of Orange Local Emergency Medical Services Agency (LEMSA) conduct an emergency ambulance RFP. As part of this mandate, the state required the Orange County Board of Supervisors to conduct an RFP and restructure the process that has been in place for many years. The current RFP process has been conducted by the Orange County Fire Authority and its predecessor agency, with oversight from the Board of Supervisors and LEMSA since 1984. The current RFP has produced a response system that is focused on rapid, reliable patient care while keeping the costs among the lowest in the State of California. By any measure the system is working well.

As part of the LEMSA's assumption of this assignment the existing RFP was discarded and a new RFP was developed which includes a number of significant system design and selection process changes. These changes include a reduction in the number of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOA) from fourteen to five, ambulance provider requirement modification and a complete change in the bid evaluation and selection process. Because of these changes and their impacts, the Orange County Emergency Services Agency and the stakeholders in Orange County **requested a 1 year extension** to the current RFP. We have been advised that this request was denied by the State EMSA.

These changes to the RFP will remove the local control from both the citizens and the elected officials within the County of Orange. Expediting these changes, which are not legally required, will lead to a disruption in public safety services and unnecessary legal challenges within the County, further impacting the 1.7 million citizens we serve.

The current public/private partnership between the ambulance providers and the Orange County Fire Authority has been in place for many years leading to excellent service delivery within the County. This partnership has provided outstanding care while maintaining one of the lowest costs for services in the State. **The proposed RFP changes outlined by the State of California will lead to additional costs nearly doubling the cost for ambulance services.**

Representing Professional Firefighters protecting the cities of:

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Passing these new costs on to the patients, in our view, is a new tax without added benefit to the patient.

The Orange County Professional Firefighters, the Orange County Fire Authority, the Orange County Fire Authority City Managers and all twenty three cities served by the OCFA have raised concerns with the need to forcibly expedite this process. The current delivery model has no service or legal concerns and rushing to a newly formatted RFP without vetting by the stakeholders can potentially put service to the public at risk and financially destabilize the private ambulance providers.

The Orange County Professional Firefighters ***request that the current ambulance RFP be delayed for approximately one year until September of 2015***, while all participants are allowed to better understand the potential adverse impacts that these changes have on the communities we serve. These are public safety issues that impact the safety of the community and the costs of these services.

Thank You,


Dave Rose, President


Joe Kerr, Consultant

cc: Governor Brown, State of California
Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary to the Governor
OCFA JPA Board of Director