

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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June 26, 2018

Bryan Cleaver, EMS Administrator  
Coastal Valleys EMS Agency  
195 Concourse Blvd Suite B  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**RE: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME FOR EOA#1**

Dear Mr. Cleaver:

This letter is in response to your written correspondence dated May 7, 2018, and the meeting of June 20, 2018, regarding a continuation of exclusivity for zone 1 in Coastal Valley's local EMS plan.

I have reviewed your correspondence and additional correspondence supporting the request from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. Specifically, you requested *"...to continue the geographic area submitted as EOA#1 in the 2017 CVEMSA EMS Plan as served by American Medical Response as the exclusive provider of Advanced Life Support and Emergency Ambulance services under the terms and conditions of the current contract amended through June 30th, 2020."*

Typically, the Authority does not usually grant such requests for extensions absent compelling reasons. The Authority anticipates that local EMS agencies (LEMSAs) will manage their exclusive areas in a manner that extra time is built into the planning and bidding cycle so that a request for additional time is not necessary, especially when it involves extending a contract beyond a maximum period of ten years. Following this practice supports an efficient and predictable EMS system that will best serve the needs of the citizens of our state.

However, the Authority also recognizes that extraordinary circumstances can arise that make this planning process difficult to achieve prior to the expiration of the current contract. These extraordinary circumstances are situations or events that are beyond control of a LEMSA; for example, civil unrest, natural disaster, significant changes in providers, legislation or local ordinance changes outside the control of the LEMSA are all situations that the Authority may consider granting an extension of time to complete competitive processes.

Sonoma county experienced significant natural disasters this year in the form of wildfires that were catastrophic to property and caused significant loss of life. The Authority

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understands that additional time is necessary to assess responses to this disaster and prepare planning based upon the stresses that were experienced in the EMS system by Coastal Valleys EMS. While our initial four-month extension was based on the immediate impact of the fires, further discussion has made it clear that the recovery and after-action recommendations will further delay the ability of Sonoma County EMS to develop the RFP and proceed with the competitive process. Due to the unprecedented situation experienced within your local EMS agency's jurisdiction during and subsequent to these wildfires, and the need to assess and plan for anticipated needs of the system, the Authority has reviewed your request and is granting a one-time only extension for the exclusivity of Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) #1 until June 30, 2020. This extension assumes that Coastal Valley EMS will be actively working on a new competitive process that will be implemented by June 30, 2020. The Authority requests you submit to us a timeline by July 10, 2018, showing the process sequence you will take place during this extension to the exclusive contract in Sonoma EOA #1. The Authority also requests quarterly progress reports to monitor the status of the new competitive process.

We expect that well prior to June 30, 2020, you will have an approved competitive process in place to continue the exclusive designation for that zone or submit a local EMS plan for approval that contemplates some other designation for ambulance transport within that zone.

Please feel free to contact Angela Wise at (916) 431-3708 if we can provide any assistance as you implement a new process for exclusivity in this or other areas served by Coastal Valleys EMS.

Sincerely,



Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Director