



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
(831) 454-4066 FAX: (831) 454-4770

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
ADMINISTRATION

November 19, 2001

Agenda: December 11, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Re: Approve Amendment to Agreement with Central Fire Protection District for
Advanced Life Support Program**

Dear Members of the Board:

The Health Services Agency (HSA) is requesting authorization to sign the attached amendment to the agreement which allows Central Fire Protection District to continue as an approved paramedic service provider.

On January 23, 2001, your Board approved a renewable agreement that authorized the Central Fire Protection District to be designated as the approved paramedic service provider for all four stations within the Central Fire District, the 17th Avenue, Soquel, Capitola and Thurber Lane stations. Central Fire Protection District has been providing first response-paramedic service since October 1978 pursuant to an agreement with the County. Periodic Status Reports regarding the Central Fire Protection District Advanced Life Support (ALS) program, which included a focused clinical review of paramedic performance, have been provided to your Board in reports on Fire Services Integration in November 2000 and November 2001.

HSA has received a request from the Central Fire Protection District to renew its ALS provider designation. The amendment proposed to you today changes the term of the Central Fire Protection District agreement from renewable to continuing. Under the amendment, your Board retains the right to deny, suspend or revoke the approval of the Central Fire Protection District as a paramedic service provider for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures and regulations, The Medical Executive Committee's review of engine-based paramedic services concluded that there were no significant issues in the quality of care of these services. The base station physicians and nurses had no adverse patient care events to report. HSA is responsible for the oversight of the countywide advanced life support system and establishment

of policies and procedures for approval and designation of paramedic providers as well as evaluation through the quality assurance system.

HSA finds that the Central Fire Protection District has achieved an excellent level of quality and continuity of its **ALS** service and recommends approval of their request to amend the term their agreement from renewable to continuing.

It is, therefore, RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Approve the attached amendment to the agreement designating the Central Fire Protection District as an approved paramedic service provider and authorize the Health Services Administrator to sign.

Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Administrator

RECOMMENDED:



Susan Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

Attachments: Grant Agreement; AUD-60 Resolution

cc: County Administrative Officer
Auditor Controller
County Counsel
Health Services Administration
Public Health Administration
Emergency Medical Care Commission
Central Fire Protection District

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT

TO: Board of Supervisors
county Administrative Office
Auditor controller

FROM: Health Services Agency (Department)

BY: [Signature] (Signature) 11/26/01 (Date)
Signature certifies that appropriations/revenues are available

AGREEMENT TYPE (Check One) Expenditure Agreement Revenue Agreement MOU

The Board of Supervisors is hereby requested to approve the attached agreement and authorize the execution of same.

1. Said agreement is between the Health Services Agency (Department/Agency)
and Central Fire Protection District (Name/Address)

2. The agreement will provide enaine-based paramedic services in the Central Fire District

3. Period of the agreement is from December 11, 2001 to continuous

4. Anticipated Cost is \$ no cost Fixed Monthly Rate Annual Rate Not to Exceed

Remarks: this is an MOU; no financial cost to County

5. Detail: On Continuing Agreements List for FY ____ - ____ . Page CC-____ Contract No: _____ OR 1st Time Agreement
 Section II No Board letter required, will be listed under Item 8
 Section III .Board letter required MOU
 Section IV Revenue Agreement

6. Appropriations/Revenues are available and are budgeted in n/a (Index) n/a (Sub object)

NOTE: IF APPROPRIATIONS ARE INSUFFICIENT, ATTACHED COMPLETED AUD-74 OR AUD-60

Appropriations ~~are available and~~ ~~have been~~ encumbered.
~~are not~~ ~~will be~~

Contract No: R682

By: [Signature]
Auditor-Controller Deputy

Date: 11/28/01

cc-25

Proposal and accounting detail reviewed and approved. It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the agreement and authorize Health Services Administrator (Dept/Agency Head) to execute on behalf of the Health Services Agency (Department/Agency)

Date: _____

By: _____
County Administrative Office

Distribution:
Board of Supervisors - White
Auditor Controller - Canary
Auditor-Controller - Pink
Department - Gold

State of California
County of Santa Cruz
I _____ ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz,
State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing request for approval of agreement was approved by said Board of Supervisors as recommended by the County Administrative Office by an order duly entered in the minutes of said Board on _____ 20__

ADM - 29 (8/01)
Title I, Section 300 Proc Man

By: Deputy clerk

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER USE ONLY

CO	\$	Lines	H/TL	Keyed By	Date
Document No.	JE Amount				
TC110	\$	Amount	Index	Sub object	User Code

The Agreement between the County of Santa Cruz
and the CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of Santa Cruz County,
Dated December 11, 2001,
Regarding the Authorization of Designating
CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of Santa Cruz County
as an Approved Paramedic Service Provider

Said Agreement is hereby modified as follows:

- I. Section I entitled "CENTRAL FIRE RESPONSIBILITIES" is deleted and replaced with the following:
 1. "CENTRAL FIRE RESPONSIBILITIES"
 - A. General Responsibilities of CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT
 1. CENTRAL FIRE agrees to provide paramedic (Emergency Medical Technician - Paramedic) services in compliance with all applicable State and local regulations.
 2. CENTRAL FIRE agrees to abide by all protocols, policies and procedures promulgated by COUNTY governing the provision of paramedic services.
 3. CENTRAL FIRE understands that neither the COUNTY nor the COUNTY'S ambulance transport contractor are obligated to pay CENTRAL FIRE for any costs, either direct or indirect, arising out of the provision of paramedic services by CENTRAL FIRE. This shall not affect protocols currently in place for the replacement and/or exchange of consumable items between CENTRAL FIRE and the ambulance transport contractor.
 4. CENTRAL FIRE agrees to pay the COUNTY a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per patient care record generated as a result of CENTRAL FIRE'S paramedic response regardless of the location of the response. This fee will be used by COUNTY to offset the additional cost incurred by COUNTY associated with the "Additional Activity" duties specified in the EMS Medical Quality Assessment and Safety Plan for Implementation of CENTRAL FIRE District Paramedic Program. CENTRAL FIRE and COUNTY agree that this fee will be waived upon CENTRAL FIRE engaging the services of a qualified health professional to serve as "Quality Assurance Coordinator" on behalf of CENTRAL DISTRICT.

B. Response Area

1. The primary response areas for paramedic services covered by this Agreement shall be the "first-in" areas, as defined in Santa Cruz County Consolidated Emergency Communication Center's (also known as NetCom) Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, that is normally served by CENTRAL Fire stations #1, #2, #3 and #4. The boundaries of these first-in areas are Live Oak, Soquel, and the City of Capitola.
2. CENTRAL FIRE and COUNTY acknowledge CENTRAL FIRE'S ability to provide paramedic services within the fire stations' first-in response areas will be limited by the prior commitment of firefighter/paramedic personnel to pre-existing incidents required of the station's limited vehicular and staffing resources. When such prior commitments are a result of dispatches directed by NetCom or scheduled training exercises, CENTRAL FIRE'S inability to provide paramedic services will not be considered a failure to perform under this Agreement and will not result in any adverse action or judgment by COUNTY.
3. COUNTY recognizes that CENTRAL FIRE actively participates in the California Mutual Aid System and is party to the Santa Cruz Fire Agencies Mutual Aid Agreement. These agreements exist to insure that response to incidents are made by the closest and most appropriate fire resource. The agreements include both mutual aid and day-to-day automatic aid components. Automatic aid agreements are in place to allow fire resources to service response areas not included within the agency's jurisdictional boundary. In the event of a declared disaster situation which activates a mutual aid response, COUNTY further recognizes that CENTRAL FIRE may staff additional engines at other fire stations in order to appropriately respond to the circumstances created by a disaster situation. This Agreement will not be construed to limit CENTRAL FIRE'S ability to respond to declared disaster situation with all appropriate resources.

C. Coverage

1. CENTRAL FIRE agrees that over the life of this Agreement that it shall designate engines 3411, 3412, 3413 and 3414 as paramedic engines and intends to staff each of these units with at least one paramedic as part of normal scheduling.
2. CENTRAL FIRE shall assure that engines 3411, 3412, 3413 and 3414 are designed as the front-line engines in NetCom's CAD system as the recommended unit for all alarm types emanating from the respective fire stations first-in area.

3. CENTRAL FIRE will also be staffing Truck 3472, Rescue 3460, Engine 3436 and reserve apparatus with paramedics from time to time.
4. Upon commitment to an **ALS** incident, any paramedic engine shall be considered unavailable for other duties so long as the paramedic assigned unit is engaged in the performance of paramedic related duties. Those duties will be deemed completed upon the transfer of care at the receiving hospital or AMR unit.
5. When paramedic engines are dispatched by NetCom to an incident within their first-in area, the response time standard used by COUNTY in evaluating CENTRAL FIRE'S performance in this regard will be reporting on-scene within six (6) minutes for ninety percent (90%) of the calls. Response time will be measured using NetCom's CAD system and defined as the elapsed time between the "date stamp" entered into the CAD system by NetCom's dispatcher documenting the dispatch and the time the unit reports to the dispatcher as being "on-scene".

D. Staffing

1. CENTRAL FIRE agrees that engines specified as paramedic engines will be staffed at all times with at least one paramedic accredited by COUNTY. The paramedic may be of any rank.
2. CENTRAL FIRE will assure that all paramedic personnel providing services under this Agreement maintain all required licenses and certifications in good standing as required by the State Health and Safety Code, Title XXII of the California Code of Regulations.
3. CENTRAL FIRE will maintain an administrative structure to oversee the performance and training of its paramedics. Quality assurance issues will be addressed in accordance with the EMS Agency's Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement plan and the EMS Medical Quality Assessment and Safety Plan for Implementation of CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT's Paramedic Program.
4. CENTRAL FIRE paramedics shall be visually identifiable by the wearing of a patch on their clothing that clearly identifies them as paramedics. This patch shall be consistent with the patch currently worn by the engine-based paramedics of the Aptos/LaSelva Fire Protection District.

E. Dispatch

1. CENTRAL FIRE will designate a representative to work with the County's public safety dispatch entity, the Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center (or NetCom) with respect to training, coordination, cooperation and communication.
2. Communication and telemetry equipment utilized by paramedic personnel will be compatible with equipment utilized by NetCom and Base Station hospitals.

F. Vehicles, Equipment and Supplies

1. Vehicles and equipment will be maintained by CENTRAL FIRE in good condition and meet or exceed standards established by the State and County.
2. CENTRAL FIRE agrees to maintain drug, medical supply and equipment inventory according to local EMS Agency policy and consistent with State, Federal and local regulations. All costs associated with this requirement are to be borne exclusively by CENTRAL FIRE, insofar as they are not inconsistent with the current EMS Agency protocols and/or County's ambulance contractor regarding the restocking of consumable items.

G. Medical Control

1. CENTRAL FIRE will take all necessary actions to assure that its paramedic's performance in the field complies with all applicable policies and procedures. It is CENTRAL FIRE'S responsibility to demonstrate compliance with such policies and procedures to the EMS Medical Director in all matters related to the medical performance of its paramedics.
2. CENTRAL FIRE shall ensure that knowledge gained during the medical audit process is routinely translated into improved field performance by way of in-service training, working with and through the Pre-Hospital Advisory Committee, implementing amendments to the policies and procedures manual and employee orientation.
3. In all clinical matters, CENTRAL FIRE paramedics will work under on-line medical direction of EMS system's designated base hospital. Each of the accredited personnel working in the system has not only a right, but a legal obligation, to work directly with the system physician leadership on issues related to patient care.

4. CENTRAL FIRE agrees to abide by all decisions regarding medical control made by the COUNTY and/or EMS Medical Director.

H. Quality Assurance

1. CENTRAL FIRE shall adhere to California State laws, rules and/or regulations which require all paramedic service providers to have a COUNTY approved continuous quality improvement (CQI) plan and provide reports as mutually agreed upon to the EMS Agency which documents quality assurance activities, problem identification and proposed solutions.
2. CENTRAL FIRE shall actively participate in the EMS Agency's medical CQI program, provide special training and support to CENTRAL FIRE'S paramedics personnel found in need of special assistance in specific skill or knowledge areas, and provide additional clinical leadership by maintaining a current and extensive knowledge of developments in equipment and procedures throughout the industry.
3. CENTRAL FIRE shall participate in the data system for medical response documentation and other quality assurance activities as requested by the COUNTY.
4. CENTRAL FIRE agrees to be subject to the authority of the duly appointed quality assurance coordinator of the Emergency Medical Services Integration Authority (EMSIA) with respect to adherence to the EMS Agency approved EMSIA Emergency Medical Services Quality Assurance Plan.
5. CENTRAL FIRE will respond to quality assurance inquiries in a timely manner.
6. CENTRAL FIRE agrees to participate in the EMS Agency's Quality Assessment and Safety Plan including, but not limited to the following components: patient care record review, critical skills performance review, seldom-used drug and skills review and general patient management review.

Said Agreement is further modified as follows:

2. Section IV entitled "TERM, RENEWAL AND TERMINATION" is deleted and replaced with the following:

IV. TERM, RENEWAL AND TERMINATION

- A. This Agreement shall be effective immediately following approval by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors of CENTRAL FIRE'S intent to provide paramedic services under this Agreement.
- B. COUNTY may deny, suspend or revoke the approval of the CENTRAL FIRE as a paramedic service provider for failure to comply with applicable policies, procedures and regulations pursuant to C.C.R. Section 10168.(f).

3. All other provisions shall hereby remain the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on dates indicated below.

For the County of Santa Cruz

For CENTRAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT of Santa Cruz

 Rama H. Khalsa, Ph.D.
 HSA Administrator

 Bruce Clark
 Fire Chief

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Approved as to insurance
 By 
 Risk Manager

Date: 11-27-2001