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# City of Lodi

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*D. Stephen Schwabauer*  
CITY ATTORNEY

August 11, 2005

Mr. Manuel Lopez  
S. J. County Administrator  
222 E. Weber Ave.  
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Manuel,

The City of Lodi staff has reviewed the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Exclusive Emergency Ambulance Service, sent out by the Emergency Medical Services Agency. Responses to the RFP are due by September 22. We believe the RFP is seriously flawed in two ways, first, with respect to the issue of emergency medical dispatching and, second, in regard to the role of first responders.

The issue concerning emergency medical dispatching appears to be a change in well-established public policy. In our current situation, primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) receive 911 calls, and transfer medical emergencies and fire calls to a public-sector-operated secondary PSAP, namely, the Stockton Regional Emergency Communication Center. The RFP (Section 4.2.2) contemplates the use of private sector PSAPs as a means of dispatching emergency ambulances, and does not explicitly require the private sector PSAP to notify the fire department dispatching center within any specified time or, indeed, at all. The RFP would apparently allow current first responses to medical emergencies to be at worst eliminated, or at least delayed. If this is permitted, the proposal would be unacceptable to the City of Lodi and, we believe, to the other fire agencies in the County.

Second, during the formation of the RFP, the Lodi Fire Chief met with the consultants to discuss several issues that were important to the overall operation of the Emergency Medical System and to the City of Lodi. Included was the recognition of first responders as viable partners in the overall pre-hospital medical care system. The RFP provides, as an option only, a proposal for a coordinated system between the first responders and the ambulance providers for Advanced Life Support (ALS/paramedic) care. We believe such a coordinated system, as mandated and operated in many other Counties throughout the State, should be required in San Joaquin County as well. In this way, our citizens could enjoy a higher level of service (that is, first-responder ALS) in a cost-effective manner, while providing a method for users (and their insurance companies) to cover the costs.

The City of Lodi has been actively engaged in this process to date, and will continue to closely monitor the progress of the RFP and subsequent proposals. In the best case, a proposal that responds to our concerns described above will be submitted and accepted. In the worst case, we might be forced to oppose the acceptance of any of the proposals, and to ask that the RFP be re-crafted. We look forward to continuing to work with the EMS Agency staff to ensure that does not happen, and that the concerns of Lodi and other first responders are adequately addressed.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, I welcome a phone call or a meeting with other fire agency representatives. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Blair King  
City Manager

cc: Mayor and City Council  
City Managers, San Joaquin County  
Don Bunch, EMS Administrator

RECEIVED

AUG 12 2005

EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
SERVICES