



San Joaquin County Emergency Medical Services Agency



<http://www.sjgov.org/ems>

September 29, 2008

Ron Hittle, Chief
Stockton Fire Department
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Re: Advanced Life Support (ALS) Authorization

Dear Chief Hittle:

Thank you for the revised agreement. Although, the modifications have addressed some of our concerns, the County remains concerned about the existence of two agreements and the potential for conflict between the documents which could arise in the future.


We note that the State of California EMS Authority has expressed grave concern over the possibility that the City of Stockton will be an unauthorized provider on October 1st if an agreement is not reached. The County has stated its position that while the City will be an unauthorized provider the County will not take action to prevent the SFD paramedics from providing ALS services pending court resolution. However, the City's unauthorized rendering of ALS services could force the State EMS Authority to take action against the City and the individual license holders. Because of the concerns expressed by the State EMS Authority and to prevent the State EMS Authority from having to take action which would result in revocation of paramedic licenses, it is apparent that the SJC EMS Agency must take affirmative steps to protect the licenses of the Stockton Fire Department's paramedics. It is the County's considered opinion that the best way to resolve the State EMS Authority's concerns and short-circuit the continued exchange of draft agreements is for the SJC EMS Agency to authorize the City of Stockton to provide ALS services for a limited period of time subject to the provisions contained in the 1986 Agreement and the SJC EMS Agency's policies and procedures.

Accordingly, the San Joaquin County EMS Agency, exercising its administrative discretion, hereby grants provisional authority to the City of Stockton to provide ALS service through November 7, 2008, at which time this provisional authorization will automatically terminate. The City of Stockton is authorized to provide the same type and level of service authorized by the 1986 Agreement. However, the City of Stockton may not expand its EMS services beyond the type and level of service authorized by the 1986 Agreement. The City of Stockton will be held responsible for adhering fully to the same conditions and terms contained in the 1986 Agreement and the SJC EMS Agency's policies and procedures.

Ron Hittle
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The SJC EMS Agency's provisional authorization is neither an extension nor modification of the 1986 Agreement, nor is it a waiver of the County's position that the 1986 Agreement has been terminated. This authorization is granted solely to protect City of Stockton paramedics from potentially adverse action by the State EMS Authority for practicing unauthorized ALS.

Sincerely,



Dan Burch
EMS Administrator

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors, County of San Joaquin
Manuel Lopez, County Administrative Officer
Kenneth B. Cohen, Director Health Care Services
Members of the City Council, City of Stockton
Gordon Palmer, City Manager
Steve Tharratt, M.D., Director California EMS Authority
Dan Smiley, Chief Deputy Director California EMS Authority
Richard N. Buys, M.D., Medical Director, SJC EMS Agency