



PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

The Honorable Sue Frost, Chair
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
700 H Street Room 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

April 26, 2021

Re: Letter of Support for the Emergency Services Advisory Group Recommendations for Emergency Medical Services in Sacramento County

At the Public Health Advisory Board meeting on April 7, 2021, information was provided by the Emergency Services Advisory Group (EMAG) regarding their recommendations for additional funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Sacramento County. The services provided by our EMS agency are essential for the protection of public health and critical emergency services in our county. The EMAG, consisting of leaders from the EMS providers and health systems serving the county, was formed to advise the county of potential revenue sources for these essential services.

After a thorough study, the EMAG found that as the county's population grows and ages, the number of calls for ambulance services have exploded. However, staffing of our county's EMS has not kept up and is, in fact, well behind other local EMS agencies of comparable size in Northern California. In addition, 75% of operating revenue for our EMS comes from a steadily diminishing source, the Maddy and Richie funds, programs funded by Vehicle Code fines.

The recommendations of the EMAG report to the county's leadership are "to focus closer attention on EMS issues and commit sufficient resources" that would enable the county's EMS to "fulfill its regulatory, educational, and quality improvement functions in a way that supports the lifesaving work of EMS".

On April 21st, the Public Health Advisory Board voted unanimously to support these recommendations and urges the Board of Supervisors to ensure that the county's EMS has the support and funding it needs to serve our residents in providing critical life-saving emergency medical care.

Respectfully,

F. L. Kaufman

Farla Kaufman, PhD,
Chair, Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board