



Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency
Joint Powers Agency (JPA) Governing Board Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE

- Friday, December 12, 2025

MEETING ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS			
MEMBER	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Bill Connelly	Butte County	X	
Merced Corona	Colusa County	X	
Grant Carmon	Glenn County	X - Zoom	
Susan Hoek (Chairperson)	Nevada County	X	
Anthony DeMattei	Placer County	X	
Matt Plummer	Shasta County	X	
Jess Harris	Siskiyou County		X
Jeff Boone	Sutter County		X
Matt Hansen	Tehama County	X	
Jon Messick	Yuba County		X
EX-OFFICIO MEMBER			
MEMBER	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
John Poland	S-SV EMS Agency	X	
LEGAL COUNSEL			
ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Anastasia Sullivan	S-SV EMS Agency/Placer County	X	
CLERK OF THE BOARD			
ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Amy Boryczko	S-SV EMS Agency	X	

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MEETING ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

OTHER ATTENDEES	
ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING
Troy Falck, MD	S-SV EMS Agency
Patrick Comstock	S-SV EMS Agency
Gabe Cruz	AMR
Jennifer James	S-SV EMS Agency
Kristy Harlan	S-SV EMS Agency
Trenton Quirk	S-SV EMS Agency
Matthew Smith	Bi-County Ambulance
Lou Meyer	Healthcare Strategists
Timothy Reeser	AMR
Chris Hertel	Rocklin Fire
John Rogers	Auburn Fire
Matt Lauchner	RSV Fire
Tom Arjil	Alpha One Ambulance
Jennifer Jensen	Jensen Smith CPAs
Matthew Smith	Bi-County Ambulance
Justin Apersso	Bi-County Ambulance
Reggie Williams	Rocklin FD
Bill Bullard	Healthcare Strategists - Zoom
Mike Terazzi	Healthcare Strategists
Jared Gunter	S-SV EMS - Zoom
Jeff Merriman	Placer County - Zoom
Donnell Ewert	Public - Zoom
Alex Bumpus	Bi-County Ambulance - Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Supervisor Hoek (Chairperson) called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board members introduced themselves.

C. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Board announcements.

D. ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the consent calendar items. Supervisor DeMattei seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Glenn, Tehama and Butte counties. Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Sutter, Yuba, and Shasta Counties). Motion carried.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None was forthcoming.

Note: Supervisor Plummer joined the meeting at 1:13 pm.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. West Placer County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Assessment and Ground Ambulance Contracting Direction

- The Board previously authorized Agency staff to contract with a consultant (Healthcare Strategists) to complete an assessment of the West Placer County EMS System.
- American Medical Response (AMR) currently has a 'grandfathered' EOA agreement, pursuant to applicable statutes, for a large area of West Placer County. Ground ambulance services to West Placer County are also provided by Foresthill Fire Protection District and the South Placer Fire District. The Board approved a short-term (2-year) replacement EOA agreement with AMR at the previous meeting.
- Lou Meyer and Mike Terazzi, representing Healthcare Strategists, were in-person at the Rocklin meeting location to present the assessment. Bill Bullard, also representing Healthcare Strategists, attended remotely. The consultant representatives presented their assessment findings and recommendations, which were detailed in the written report contained in the JPA Board meeting packet and available on the Agency's public website.

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- Board members had questions related to ground ambulance response time exemption matters included in the assessment report. The consultants believe there are too many exemptions given to AMR due to the provisions in their previous EOA Agreement. Mr. Poland advised that the response time exemption provisions in the new short-term AMR EOA Agreement was revised to better align with current standards and should result in a decrease in the number of exemptions granted. Mr. Poland also commented on Ambulance Patient Offload Times (APOT) and that area hospitals have done a lot of work over the last few years to address this. For the first time in many years, all hospitals in the S-SV EMS region are now compliant with the APOT standard of 30 minutes or less, 90% of the time. The Agency intends to continue to work toward the goal of further reducing the APOT standard to 20 minutes or less, 90% of the time.
- Supervisor DeMattei spoke about a recent experience at Sutter Roseville ER, and seeing firsthand many ambulances stacked up waiting to offload patients at 12:30 am.
- Supervisor Carmon asked about the first responder agencies being restocked by the ambulances and whether that was in the contract. Mr. Poland responded that it is a requirement in the AMR EOA Agreement.
- Supervisor Plummer asked about patients being transported directly to behavioral health facilities, and whether there was a committee to help facilitate this. Mr. Poland advised that there are some challenges with this due to current statutory/regulatory restrictions. As a result, there are only a few LEMSAAs that have community paramedicine and triage to alternate destination programs. There are not many alternate destination facilities qualified (per statutes/regulations) to take these patients at this point. The Agency is working with the counties to try and get the pieces in place to address this.
- Supervisor Hansen brought up the ambulance patient offload delays in the ERs, and getting the APOT times reduced. The Agency has been working with applicable hospitals to address this. Supervisor Plummer asked Mr. Poland what changes helped facilitate the better APOT times at the hospitals. Mr. Poland remarked that they resulted from hospital operational changes and better collaboration with prehospital providers.
- Kristy Harlan, Contracts Compliance Manager, addressed the discussion regarding response time exemptions. She mentioned that most exemptions are due to unusual system overload. In most counties, that threshold is 150% of the demand for the same day/hour of the previous year. In the new AMR EOA Agreement, that threshold is now 175%. There is no exemption for APOT in the new agreement, unless the threshold has been met. Other exemptions are for things like weather, traffic, etc., and are very low.

- Public Comment Opened

- Chris Hertel, Rocklin Fire EMS Chief, asked about AMRs late calls and compliant percentages, which Agency staff responded to.
- Reggie Williams, Rocklin Fire Chief, asked about exemptions for fire agencies vs. AMR. Chief Williams wondered about agencies with less resources meeting compliance without exemptions. Mr. Poland responded that response time requirements for fire transport agencies in Placer County have always been 10 minutes or 15 minutes, and they can extend it by an additional 5 minutes if an ALS engine arrives sooner. The transporting fire agencies in Placer County also have a much lower volume than AMR. Ms. Harlan provided some additional comments to further address this matter.

- Tom Arjil (Alpha One Ambulance) asked that if the RFP moves forward, that the Agency consider implementing a tiered response system with multiple ambulance providers.
- Public Comment Closed
- Mr. Poland reminded the Board that this process was a little different than it normally would be. Usually when an EMS system assessment is done, it is in preparation for a known competitive RFP procurement process. However, at the recommendation of Placer County, this assessment was done to determine what the long-term steps would be, which is why the most recent AMR EOA Agreement was only for 2 years.
- Mr. Poland acknowledged one of the statements in the West Placer County EMS System Assessment Report that the recent short-term AMR EOA Agreement addressed several findings and recommendations outlined in the report. However, Mr. Poland further advised the Board that Agency staff believe that a competitive RFP procurement process is in the best interest of Placer County as the Placer County population and EMS system demands have substantially increased in the 20 years since the EOA serviced by AMR was initially established. Additionally, a competitive procurement RFP process would allow for the consideration of additional EMS system services and delivery models not possible under the current grandfathered EOA arrangement.
- There is no statutory, regulatory or Agency policy requirement to go back out to an RFP to select a consultant to complete the second phase RFP competitive procurement process. The consultants that completed the EMS system assessment (Healthcare Strategists) have done several ground ambulance RFPs in California over the last couple of years, including several that are currently in process. Healthcare Strategists has already completed a significant amount of work on the assessment project, which will be beneficial to the RFP process from a consistency, efficiency, and timeliness perspective. The proposed consultant cost for the RFP project phase is approx. \$100,000, which is consistent with similar RFP projects in other areas of California by multiple different consultants over the last several years. Mr. Poland advised the Board that consistent with current industry standards, the EMS system assessment and RFP costs will ultimately be reimbursed to the Agency by the selected proposer.
- Mr. Poland reminded the Board that the current AMR EOA Agreement expires on November 30, 2027. If the Board authorizes the Agency to proceed with a RFP, this process will need to begin soon. The biggest variable in this process is the EMS Authority, as they are required to approve the RFP document before it can be issued. The entire RFP process is expected to take approx. 18 months to complete.
- There was additional Board discussion related to this matter. Mr. Poland advised the Board that he was comfortable recommending an RFP process and that Agency staff believe that the Placer County EOA serviced by AMR is financially viable to support a competitive RFP procurement process with minimal risk of negatively impacting future services in this area.

Supervisor DeMattei motioned to direct Agency staff to move forward with a competitive RFP procurement process for the Placer County area currently serviced by AMR and to negotiate/execute a contract with Healthcare Strategists, not to exceed \$102,500.00, for consultant services to assist the Agency with this process. Supervisor Connelly seconded the motion. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Butte counties. Noes=0. Absent=3 (Siskiyou, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion carried.

2. S-SV EMS FY 2024/2025 Financial Audit

- Jennifer Jensen from Jensen Smith Certified Public Accountants presented the audit. She indicated that it went smoothly and that they enjoy working with Agency staff.
- The independent audit report shows that there is a clean opinion.
- The statement of net position is on page 4 and shows that the Agency's fund balance on the balance sheet increased by \$422,837 including a prior period adjustment of \$95,938 described in the footnotes to the financial statements, for a total of \$6,184,652.
- The financial statements start on page 9. Total current assets were \$6,637,226.
- Due to new lease standards, the current lease (which has an initial 5-year term and additional 5-year renewal option) shows as a lease liability of \$1,157,370, which covers the entire possible length of the lease. This expense is offset in another section of the financial statements for accounting purposes.
- There were two prior period adjustments listed on the bottom of page 10 (statement activities). One of the two changes was a discretionary unfunded liability payment that was recorded as an expense and was moved to deferred outflows. The other change was related to stock shares from 2001 that the Agency was not previously aware of and was approx. \$100,000 when liquidated (now recorded as an asset).
- The balance sheet is on page 11, which includes receivables that were received within 60 days of fiscal year end. Current assets are \$6,343,000 and liabilities are \$159K.
- The total fund balance at the end of the year was \$6,185,000. Page 13 shows the changes in the fund balance.
- The disclosures, which start on page 15, do not change substantially from year to year.
- Budget to actual is on page 35 and shows the net income compared to what was budgeted. These came in under budget on revenue and expenses.
- Page 41 is the independent auditor's report on internal controls. The only finding is that the Agency relies on Jensen Smith Certified Public Accountants to prepare the Agency's financial statements. The auditor is not part of the Agency's internal controls. However, current recognized accounting standards do not recommend hiring/contracting with an additional entity solely for this purpose. This finding has also been identified in previous audits, but the auditor is not recommending changing the current process.

Supervisor Connelly motioned to approve the FY2024/2025 financial audit. Supervisor DeMattei seconded the motion. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Butte counties. Noes=0. Absent=3 (Siskiyou, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion carried.

3. S-SV EMS FY 2025/2026 Budget Adjustment

- The management of the Placer County First Responder fund in the new AMR EOA Agreement is transitioning from the Agency to AMR. AMR is required to contribute \$150K/year to this fund that is utilized for Placer County EMS system improvements. Placer County first responder agencies do not always request the full amount of what's contributed each year, so a fund balance has been accumulated. Since the fund is being transitioned to AMR to manage, the Agency needs to close out the previous fund. All fund balance proceeds were recently allocated for purchases. The closeout of this fund will result in \$112,500 less revenue and \$87,000 additional expense than originally included in the Agency's FY 2025/2026 budget previously approved by the Board.

- The Agency recently received \$30,450 of unclaimed property revenue related to specialty center designation fees that were billed in FY 2020/2021 but were not collected at that time. Additional internal controls have been put in place to ensure this does not occur in the future. These revenues were not included in the Agency's FY 2025/2026 budget previously approved by the Board.
- As discussed previously during this meeting, Agency staff recently became aware of a long-term investment stock asset that was subsequently liquidated on 10/29/2025. This resulted in \$103,135.75 additional unbudgeted interest/investment income that was not included in the Agency's FY 2025/2026 budget previously approved by the Board.
- Agency staff are recommending several budget adjustments, as detailed in the written Board Report for this item, to address applicable revenue and expenditure changes.
- Agency staff are additionally requesting Board approval to utilize \$413,000 of Agency fund balance assets for the following expenses not included in the Agency's FY 2025/2026 budget previously approved by the Board:
 - \$360,000 CalPERS discretionary unfunded pension liability payment.
 - \$53,000 of the \$61,500 budgeted FY 2025/2026 consultant expenses related to the Placer County emergency ground ambulance RFP process previously discussed during this meeting. The \$8,500 balance of the \$61,500 amount will be covered by other FY 2025/2026 budget adjustments already discussed.
- Mr. Poland was asked what portion of the Agency's total pension liabilities were unfunded and responded that it was about 20% as of fiscal year end 6/30/2025. With this additional discretionary payment, the Agency should be 85%+ funded. There was some additional discussion related to the Agency's pension funding ratio, and it was suggested that 90% funding may be an appropriate policy goal. Mr. Poland advised that he will research this further and bring it back to a future meeting for discussion/direction.

Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the budget adjustments as proposed by Agency staff. Supervisor DeMattei seconded the motion. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Butte counties. Noes=0. Absent=3 (Siskiyou, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion carried.

4. Mt. Shasta Ambulance Special Rate Increase

- AB716 was passed a few years ago to address ground ambulance 'surprise billing' matters. This legislation, and resulting statutory language, allows a LEMSA's governing board to set and/or approve ground ambulance rates for providers in their jurisdiction.
- At the August 2025 Board meeting the Board passed a resolution approving ground ambulance rates for applicable providers. The resolution, and applicable Agency policy, allows the Regional Executive Director to approve annual rate increase, based on CPI (usually around 3%). It further requires additional Board approval for applicable providers requesting a special rate increase greater than the allowable CPI increase.
- Mt. Shasta Ambulance recently requested a special rate increase above the allowable annual CPI increase. They indicated they have experienced significant increases in operating expenses (including a 38% increase in liability insurance, increases in multiple other operating expenses, a 20% increase in employee benefits and premiums, and other increased employee recruitment/retention costs), and lower revenues

consistent with providing ground ambulance services in rural areas with lower volumes, challenging payer mix and lower collection rates.

- Their new rate request is consistent with and/or less than other similar provider's rates and their last rate increase was approximately 12 months prior.
- On a related note, Mr. Poland indicated that the California Ambulance Association is considering additional potential legislation in the next legislative session to address some challenges that have been identified with AB716 that was previously passed.

Supervisor Plummer motioned to approve the Mt. Shasta ambulance rates. Supervisor Connelly seconded the motion. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Butte counties. Noes=0. Absent=3 (Siskiyou, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion carried.

5. S-SV EMS 2026 JPA Board Meeting Schedule

- Board members were recently surveyed as to their preference for the 2026 Board meeting schedule. The majority requested continuing the current meeting days/times (second Friday of every other month, beginning in February, at 1:00 pm).

Supervisor Plummer motion to approve the 2026 Board meeting schedule. Supervisor Corona seconded the motion. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=7 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Glenn, Tehama, Shasta, and Butte counties. Noes=0. Absent=3 (Siskiyou, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion carried.

G. INFORMATION UPDATE

1. 911 Ground Ambulance Response Times – attachment and verbal report

- Response times data reports were included in the meeting packet and are posted on the Agency website. Mr. Poland provided the following additional comments:
 - There are no significant identified issues/concerns.
 - There continues to be increased compliance and decreased average response times in Glenn County with the additional 12-hour ambulance that was deployed in December 2024. The Glenn County EMS system appears to be stable following the September 30th closure of Glenn Medical Center. Agency staff are monitoring this.

2. S-SV EMS Member County & Agency Updates – attachment and verbal report

- Mr. Poland referenced the Information contained in the written report included in the meeting packet for this agenda item.
- Agency staff have been busy throughout the region. Mr. Comstock was just in Shasta County at a town hall that Supervisor Plummer put together at the beginning of the week related to the True North Behavioral Health project discussed at a previous meeting.
- The Agency hired a replacement Certification Specialist who is a licensed paramedic.
- About 18 months ago, Mendocino County contacted the Agency with potential interest in becoming an S-SV EMS Agency member County. Following some initial discussions, there was no further movement related to this matter on behalf of Mendocino County. They are currently with Coastal Valley EMS (Sonoma County) and are paying them approx. \$500K/year for LEMSA services. Mendocino County recently re-contacted the Agency with renewed interest in this matter. Mr. Poland considered this and met with the

S-SV EMS leadership team to discuss it. Agency staff do not believe that this would be a good fit at this time with everything else going on with the Agency. If the Board wishes for Mr. Poland to pursue it, he will. No specific Board direction related to this matter was provided.

- Oroville Hospital recently filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Several weeks ago, they indicated they were looking to sell or merge with a larger healthcare organization to remain financially solvent. They have provided public assurance that they will continue to operate as normal. Agency staff will be closely monitoring this situation and provide additional updates to the Board as necessary.
- Meyers Memorial Hospital, which maintains its own ambulance service in the Fall River Mills area of Shasta County, recently lost two of their full-time paramedics. They only have one ambulance so it's a significant hit for them. They are in the process of refilling these positions, but in the interim, there may be occasions where they may only be able to staff a BLS (EMT) ambulance.
- Mr. Poland was recently asked by the Director of the EMS Authority to provide a presentation at the March 2026 EMS Commission meeting in Anaheim about Hospital closure impacts because of the experience S-SV EMS has had related to the closures of Feather River Hospital, Colusa Regional Medical Center, and Glenn Medical Center. Mr. Poland is putting together a presentation and will be presenting with a hospital representative as well. Agency staff have been closely monitoring the Glenn County EMS system and providing weekly EMS System updates. There have not been any identified significant impacts on the Glenn County EMS system currently. Ambulance call volume and response times are stable.

3. EMS LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

- Mr. Poland referenced the Information contained in the written report included in the meeting packet for this agenda item.
- Significant revisions to Chapter 6 of Division 9 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations (Trauma, STEMI, Stroke and EMS for Children specialty systems of care) were approved by the California EMS Commission at their quarterly meeting in San Francisco two days ago. These regulations will be finalized by the Office of Administrative Law and are expected to be published in the next few months.
- The California EMS Authority continues to work on reviewing other regulatory chapters, as indicated in the written report included in the meeting packet for this agenda item.

H. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Dr. Falck deferred his comments due to the lateness of the meeting, but asked for any questions from Board members, of which there were none.

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I. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session convened at 3:07 pm

Item 1: Government Code § 54956.9 – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL. Potential Litigation: Potential litigation pursuant to subdivision (d)(2) of Government Code § 54956.9: One potential case.

CLOSED SESSION REPORT – reconvened at 3:36 pm

The Board met in closed session to hear one item of potential litigation. The Board heard a report. No action was requested or taken.

J. NEXT JPA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

- The next JPA Board meeting will be Friday, February 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Amy Boryczko, Clerk to the Board

2/13/2026
Date


Sue Hoek, Chairperson

Mercedes Coronado
Vice Chair

2-13-2026
Date