



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



**MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friday, February 13, 2026</li> </ul>

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

BOARD MEMBERS			
MEMBER	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Bill Connelly	Butte County	X	
Merced Corona	Colusa County	X	
Tony Arendt	Glenn County	X	
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	
Andy Vasquez	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	

**MEETING ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)**

<b>OTHER ATTENDEES</b>	
<b>ATTENDEE</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Troy Falck, MD	S-SV EMS Agency
Patrick Comstock	S-SV EMS Agency
Jennifer James	S-SV EMS Agency
Michelle Moss	S-SV EMS Agency
John Rogers	City of Auburn FD
Brian Herrigan	Roseville FD
Sam Ray	AMR
Cristina Rivera	Placer County
Brian Meader	Medic Ambulance

**MEETING MINUTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Merced Corona (Vice Chairperson) called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

All in-person and remote attendees introduced themselves.

**C. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Board announcements.

**D. ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

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

**E. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None was forthcoming.

**F. INFORMATION UPDATE – Oral Update by John Poland, Regional Executive Director:**

**1. 911 Ground Ambulance Response Times**

- Response times data reports were included in the meeting packet and will be posted on the S-SV EMS Agency website.
- Mr. Poland provided the following additional comments:
  - Two months into the new AMR Placer County EOA agreement and the response times are compliant in all zones. Their average response times continue to be the same as they were under the old agreement and there has been a significant decrease in the number of late calls as well as exemptions that are being granted. The system is functioning as expected. Code 2 and Code 3 responses are good, and AMR has added additional unit hours into the system.
  - There continues to be a significant improvement in the response times compliance across all Glenn County zones since they added an the additional 12-hour ambulance in December 2024. There haven't been any significant changes in response times or compliance since Glenn Medical Center closed in September. The average transport times are almost double what they were before the hospital closure because the closest hospitals are now an extra 30-45 minutes away.
  - Mr. Poland was asked about updates for Oroville Hospital. Mr. Poland didn't have any updates but indicated that S-SV EMS is still monitoring this closely.
  - There was a brief discussion about ambulance response times in Shasta County now that the ambulance patient offload times in this area have improved. S-SV EMS staff continue to work with the Shasta County providers and the Shascom 911 Dispatch Center related to this matter.

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

- The information was contained in the written report included in the meeting packet for this agenda item.
- Oroville Hospital filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy and are continuing to operate as normal. Oroville Hospital has assured S-SV EMS that they will update the Agency with any specific changes. Their APOT times remain stable.
- S-SV EMS staff were recently in a meeting with the consultants who are finishing up the Paradise Strategic Healthcare Recovery Plan that they've been working on for about a year. The plan clearly shows that that area cannot support reopening an acute care hospital up there any time soon. S-SV EMS continues to work with Butte County EMS to ensure there is significant ambulance coverage for this area.
- Mr. Poland attended a meeting in Colusa on Monday, regarding Measure A. AMR has asked for an increase in their financial subsidy due to staffing changes and a change of their personnel from non-union to union, which increases costs. The Measure A public committee recommended approval of this additional increase, which will go to the Colusa County BOS in March for final approval.
- Glenn County is currently doing an EMS assessment project. S-SV EMS has provided a significant amount of data to the consultant – who is the same consultant that conducted the recent Placer County EMS System assessment.

- S-SV EMS has been working with Glenn County and the City of Orland regarding the Westside Ambulance Financial Subsidy for their additional 12-hour unit which has been a challenge the way it was initially established. There is an attempt to transition this to a more stable reimbursement method.
- In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026, that was recently passed by the Federal Government, there is language that restored the critical access hospital designation of Glenn Medical Center. Unfortunately, because the hospital has already closed it will take a significant amount of effort and additional financial resources to reopen the facility. There is no estimated timeline for this or a determination if it will even be possible.
- Mr. Poland and Agency staff will be meeting with the Nevada County EMS system stakeholders on February 23 to discuss the Sierra Nevada Ambulance's EOA renewal.
- S-SV EMS has initiated a ground ambulance RFP for Placer County for the area that's currently being serviced by AMR. S-SV EMS is working with a consultant on this project.
- Mr. Poland attended the Placer LAFCO meeting on Wednesday, where they provided initial approval for the merger of Placer Hills and Newcastle Fire Protection Districts. If everything is completed, this merger should occur around July 1<sup>st</sup> and the engine in Newcastle will become ALS first response, which isn't currently in place.
- Mr. Poland and Agency staff will be meeting with Sutter and Yuba County EMS system stakeholders on February 25 to discuss the Bi-County Ambulance EOA renewals.
- S-SV EMS finalized/submitted the Agency's required 2025 EMS plan to the State EMS Authority, which is currently being reviewed.
- The EMS Authority is transitioning CEMSIS (California EMS Data System) to CloudWick (Amazon Web services). They have asked S-SV EMS to trial the new system.
- The EMS Authority is in the process of reorganizing their Disaster Medical Support Unit (DMSU) program across California. There are 34 DMSUs that were deployed in 2007 and many of these vehicles are past their usable life. Due to state policies, only manufactured parts can be used to fix them and many of these older parts aren't available anymore. The DMSUs will be reduced from 34 to 16 statewide. The DMSU being recalled in the S-SV EMS area in managed by Bi-County Ambulance. There are 3 more DMSUs in the S-SV EMS Region (Butte, Shasta, and Placer counties).

### 3. EMS Legislation/Regulations

- Mr. Poland stated that the Emergency Medical Service Administrators Association of California (EMSAAC) is sponsoring AB 1607 that has to do with the Maddie/Richie Funds, which are funded through revenues generated by local penalty assessments on fines and forfeitures for various criminal offenses and motor vehicle violations. S-SV EMS counties collectively receive about \$650K from these funds, which support administrative costs, EMS costs, physician and surgeon costs for indigent care, hospital payments, etc. The purpose of this bill is to remove the current 1/1/2027 sunset date on the Richie's additional assessment of the fine collections.
- HR1 - has a possible significant impact on the counties upwards of \$9-10B/year. Mr. Poland attended a hearing at the State capitol on Wednesday where this matter was discussed. The Legislature is pushing the administration to identify additional revenue.

**4. Medic Ambulance Placer County EOA Letter**

- A short-term replacement EOA agreement with AMR in Placer County was approved by the JPA Board during the October 2025 meeting and became effective December 1, 2025.
- On January 30, 2026, S-SV EMS received a letter from Medic Ambulance (dated January 26, 2026) questioning the validity of the EOA agreement provisions related to the use of BLS ambulances. A copy of this letter was included in the JPA Board meeting packet.
- S-SV EMS staff reviewed the contents of the Medic Ambulance letter with both Agency counsel and outside legal counsel. The S-SV EMS Regional Executive Director subsequently provided a response letter to Medic Ambulance stating that S-SV EMS disagreed with the legal and factual assertions set forth in their January 26, 2026 letter and that S-SV EMS was not intending on making any changes related to this matter. Physical copies of the S-SV EMS response letter were made available to meeting attendees.
- Public Comment was opened – Brian Leader, the Vice President of Operations for Medic Ambulance, commented on Health and Safety Code Section 1797.224, and reiterated Medic Ambulance's stance on the issue. He further stated that Medic Ambulance would be providing additional correspondence to S-SV EMS related to this matter.
- Mr. Poland further stated that he recently spoke with the EMS Authority Director and their legal counsel and that they are generally in agreement with S-SV EMS's position on this matter. S-SV EMS is waiting for a formal written response from the EMS Authority related to this matter.

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. S-SV EMS pension Funding Policy – for approval**

- At the previous Board meeting, the board gave Mr. Poland approval to make an additional discretionary payment to the Agency's CalPERS unfunded pension liabilities. One of the Supervisors had asked for additional direction on the goal for funding the Agency's unfunded pension liability.
- Mr. Poland drafted a pension funding policy for Board consideration. The policy does not obligate the board to fund more than the required annual minimum contribution but has a stated goal to reach a minimum of 90% funding on the actuarial liability by June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2028. Upon reaching that target, the stated goal is to keep the funded percentage at or above 90% in future years.
- After the most recent discretionary payment, the Agency is about 87% funded.
- Supervisor Plummer motioned to approve the policy. Supervisor Connelly seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Placer, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Tehama and Butte counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Sutter, Yuba, and Nevada Counties). Motion approved.

**2. S-SV EMS Legislative Platform – for approval**

- This is an annual review for the board and no changes from the previously approved document are being requested/recommended. platform from previous years.
- When big issues arise, or items of controversy come up, Mr. Poland will always keep the Board advised.
- Supervisor DeMattei motioned to approve. Supervisor Hansen seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Placer, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Tehama and Butte counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Sutter, Yuba, and Nevada Counties). Motion approved.

**3. Ground Ambulance Provider Rate Approval Process – receive board direction**

- Most ground ambulance providers in California are 'out of network providers', meaning they do not have service provider agreements with individual insurance companies.
- Several years ago, the federal government passed legislation to address medical surprise billing practices, but there was an exclusion for ground ambulance services.
- In 2023, the California legislature passed state legislation (AB 716) to specifically address ground ambulance surprise billing practices. Among other provisions, the legislation requires an insurance company to pay either the applicable local government governing body (LEMSA, etc.) approved/established rate, or the usual and customary fees for ground ambulance services provided to an insured member. There was also other patient protection provisions included in the legislation, including some billing protections for uninsured individuals.
- Public providers who have their own elected governing bodies are allowed by statute to approve/establish their own rates. S-SV EMS also establishes rates for some private ambulance providers through EOE or non-EOA contract language. However, S-SV EMS did not previously approve/establish rates for permitted ambulance providers.
- When AB 716 passed, Mr. Poland brought a request to the JPA Board to approve the rates for permitted providers that otherwise didn't have approved rates. This was done to provide stability from the financial reimbursement aspect. This worked fine initially, then there were some issues identified. An S-SV EMS policy was developed/enacted in April 2025 to attempt to address these issues. Subsequently, in August 2025, The JPA Board approved updated rates for permitted ambulance providers and passed a resolution endorsing the applicable S-SV EMS rate approval process policy.
- Several ambulance providers are now requesting S-SV EMS to approve significant special rate increases, ranging from 15% – 48%. These providers, because they're not required to do so, do not provide S-SV EMS with detailed financial information like most contracted providers. Some of the summary financial data requested by S-SV EMS related to these requests do not make sense when compared to normal industry standard billing/reimbursement information. Also, these requested rate increases are significantly higher than the most recent annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) Ambulance Inflation Factor data.
- There are significant variances in the rates being charged by organizations providing similar services in similar areas, S-SV EMS is being asked to approve rates for services providers are not approved for, and S-SV EMS is being asked to approve rate categories that are inconsistent with industry standard categories. Current statutory language does not even define what specific types of 'rates' should even be approved.

- Even though AB 716 was passed in October 2023, and the statutory language became effective on January 1, 2024 (2 years prior), the EMS Authority has not promulgated required regulations that would provide further direction/clarification related to these matters. Most California LEMSA do not currently approve or establish rates for these types of ambulance organizations in their areas. The few LEMSAs that do address this matter have established single maximum rates for all applicable providers.
- For the reasons described in the written board report and verbally by Mr. Poland related to this item, S-SV EMS staff believe that the current S-SV EMS rate approval process has failed to function as intended and has become unmanageable/unsustainable.
- S-SV EMS notified all applicable providers in a January 30, 2026, memorandum that its Ground Ambulance Provider Rate Approval process policy (412) was being suspended and that S-SV EMS staff would be requesting further direction from the JPA Board related to this matter during their February 13, 2026, meeting. AlphaOne Ambulance was the only ambulance provider that attended the JPA Board meeting and provided public comments related to this matter. They indicated that having S-SV EMS approve ambulance rates has been beneficial to their billing processes and reimbursement and they were not in support of S-SV EMS ceasing to approve ambulance rates for applicable ground ambulance providers. There were additional questions and discussion from board members related to this matter.
- Supervisor Plummer motioned to continue this item and to request S-SV EMS staff to obtain additional information from applicable providers related to this matter, including what impact it would have if S-SV EMS were to cease approving ambulance rates. Supervisor Connelly seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Placer, Colusa, Shasta, Glenn, Tehama and Butte counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Sutter, Yuba, and Nevada Counties). Motion approved.

#### **H. S-SV EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mercy Mt. Shasta underwent their American College of Surgeons (ACS) Trauma verification re-review on October 21<sup>st</sup>, which is required every 3 years. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. The ACS identified 10 deficiencies and 6 opportunities for improvement. As a result, they are not ACS verified but continue to be designated as a Trauma Center by S-SV EMS. The ACS has offered them a course of corrective action which they have a year to complete. The facility is committed to addressing these issues and re-obtaining their ACS verification. Dr. Falck and S-SV EMS staff are currently working with the facility to develop/implement a performance improvement plan related to this matter.

#### **I. NEXT JPA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING**

The next JPA Board meeting will be Friday, April 10, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 pm.

**Sierra – Sacramento EMS Agency – JPA Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Amy Boryczko, Clerk to the Board

4-10-26  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Hoek, Chairperson

4-10-2026  
Date