



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



MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE

Friday, April 10, 2026

MEETING ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS			
MEMBER	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT
Bill Connelly	Butte County	X	
Merced Corona	Colusa County	X	
Tony Arendt	Glenn County	X (Zoom)	
Susan Hoek (Chairperson)	Nevada County	X	
Cindy Gustafson	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)

OTHER ATTENDEES	
ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING
Troy Falck, MD	S-SV EMS Agency
Patrick Comstock	S-SV EMS Agency
Jennifer James	S-SV EMS Agency
Rich Lemon	Dignity Health EMS
Jason Swann	Dignity Health EMS
Matt Burrud	Alpha One Ambulance
Tom Arjil	Alpha One Ambulance
Michael Jones	Alpha One Ambulance
Ramit Saheet	NorCal Ambulance

MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sue Hoek (Chairperson) called the meeting to order at 1:00 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. S-SV EMS Agency JPA Board Annual Meeting Requirements

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (2-year terms)
 - a. Supervisor Gustafson nominated Supervisor Hoek. Supervisor Corona seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Butte, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.
 - b. Supervisor Hansen nominated Supervisor Corona for Vice-Chair. Supervisor Gustafson seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Placer, Colusa, Nevada, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Butte, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

2. Review the S-SV EMS Agency Joint Powers Agreement
 - a. The bylaws state they can be reviewed at each annual meeting. There have been no changes since 2018, when Glenn County was added to the JPA.
 - b. No Board action was taken.

E. ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

F. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None was forthcoming.

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

Note: Supervisor Connelly arrived at 1:20pm

Note: Supervisor Gustafson left the meeting at 1:35pm – a quorum was maintained

1. 911 Ground Ambulance Response Times

- a. Response times data reports were included in the meeting packet and will be posted on the S-SV EMS Agency website.
- b. Mr. Poland provided the following additional comments:
 - i. Colusa County – Still at nearly 100% compliance almost every month. The additional 24-hour ambulance through sales tax measures has been extremely successful.
 - ii. Placer County – 3 months into the new AMR EOA agreement, which had changes regarding minimum unit hour requirements and other requirements. There were some modifications to the response times as well, increasing the response times slightly in the cities of Roseville and Rocklin, and decreasing response times slightly in the City of Lincoln. There have been no substantive changes to the actual average response times, except for decreased response times in the City of Lincoln. The number of response time exemptions have also significantly decreased from the previous agreement. The system is working the way it was designed/expected.
 - iii. Glenn County – There has been recent challenges in the City of Willows. S-SV EMS staff are working with the local providers and the dispatch center to ensure that the additional 12-hour emergency ambulance is moving to cover when necessary.
 - iv. Nevada County – Penn Valley FPD had an outlier for February (87% compliant) with just one call due to several concurrent calls. It is rare for Penn Valley FPD to be non-compliant and S-SV EMS staff do not have any significant concerns.
 - v. Shasta County – S-SV EMS continues to work with Shasta County ambulance providers to address response times which are improving and becoming compliant. For February, the City of Redding compliance was 92%.

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

- a. The member county updates information was contained in the written report included in the meeting packet for this agenda item. Mr. Poland presented and highlighted some of the provided information.

3. S-SV EMS Agency Updates – attachment & verbal report

- a. The information was contained in the written report included in the meeting packet for this agenda item. Mr. Poland presented and highlighted some of the provided information.
- b. Mr. Poland stated that the California EMS Authority is transitioning the statewide EMS data system to a cloud-based platform, and S-SV EMS is participating in this process.
- c. There was a law passed in 2023 requiring all government agencies to transition to a .gov. The Agency's IT consultant is working on this and has already obtained the .gov domain. It should be up and running by the end of the year. It's not required until 2029.

4. EMS Legislation and Regulations Updates – attachment & verbal report

- a. The information was contained in the written report included in the meeting packet for this agenda item. Mr. Poland presented and highlighted some of the provided information.
- b. Approximately 1,900 bills have been introduced this legislative session, with a significant number related to healthcare.
- c. Mr. Poland stated that AB 1607 (Maddy/Richie Fund) would extend critical EMS funding currently scheduled to sunset and is an important item for the Agency. Mr. Poland recently provided testimony on behalf of EMSAAC (co-sponsor) during the Assembly Emergency Management hearing.
- d. Mr. Poland stated that the permanent ambulance patient offload time (APOT) regulations are still under review.
- e. The EMT scope of practice has been expanded to include administration of anti-nausea medication (Zofran).

5. Biennial OPEB Actuarial Valuation and GASB75 Report for the FYE June 30, 2026 – attachment & verbal report

- a. This Agency provides post-retirement benefits to retirees and is required to do an annual review and actuarial for these benefits. This was recently completed.
- b. The Agency's CERBT fund became overfunded in 2019, and no contributions have been made to that fund since then. The Agency has received reimbursements from this fund for several years. No contributions will be made, and no reimbursements will be taken this year from this fund.
- c. On this most recent actuarial it was determined that for the agency to maintain 100% funded, it will be required to make OPEB, CBERT actuarial determined contributions for the fiscal year ending 6/30/27 in the amount of \$33,700. For the fiscal year ending 6/30/28, a contribution in the amount of \$37,281 will need to be made.
- d. Since there are less retirements, the agency is paying less in ongoing annual premiums and that has to be built back up.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. AB 1607 Maddy/Richie's Fund letter of support – for approval

- a. There is a January 1, 2027 sunset date for the Richie's fund to end.
- b. This bill is supported by EMSAAC, CSAC, California College of Emergency Physicians and others.
- c. Many of the SSV counties participate in this fund. Collectively the counties receive about a million dollars/year which goes to providing EMS services for patients that are unable to pay for their own.
- d. Mr. Poland had previously sent a letter on behalf of the Agency, but this would be a letter on behalf of the JPA Board.
- e. Supervisor Corona motioned to approve the letter of support. Supervisor Arendt seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Colusa, Nevada, Butte, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

2. Audit firm selection for S-SV EMS Agency FYE June 30, 2026, June 30, 2027, and FYE June 30, 2028, annual audit services – for approval

- a. Government agencies are required to have an annual audit.
- b. S-SV has used Jensen Smith for multiple RFI processes over the years.
- c. Letters were sent to 16 different public audit firms in the area this year. Only one proposal was submitted - by Jensen Smith.
- d. The recommendation is to change audit firms on a somewhat regular basis, but if they change the actual auditor doing the audit it's legally acceptable and within the government accounting standards.
- e. Their proposal is for a total of \$33,720 for the 3-year period. There is also a \$600 annual fee for submitting the audit to the state controller's office.
- f. The agency has a good relationship with Jensen Smith.
- g. Supervisor Plummer motioned to approve. Supervisor Hansen seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Colusa, Nevada, Butte, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

3. EMS Specialist – Operations job description modification and proposed employee promotion – for approval

- a. The Agency previously had an EMS Specialist of Operations position, but this position has been unfilled since the previous employee who filled this position resigned in October 2022. The job duties were distributed among other staff.
- b. There have been 4 different Certification Specialists in the last 4 years. It's an entry-level position and currently starts at around \$25/hr.
- c. During the most recent interview process for the Certification Specialist position, the Agency was able to hire a licensed paramedic – Colton Evey. He's been on staff for about 6 months and reports directly to Patrick Comstock.
- d. He has helped streamline the certifications which only utilize about 40% of his time. More duties have been added to his workload including ambulance inspections.
- e. Mr. Poland is requesting the JPA Board approve promoting Mr. Evey from the Certification Specialist position to an EMS Specialist – Operations position that would require a Paramedic License.

- f. The promotion would become effective on April 26 and would result in approx. \$4,500 additional personnel expenses for this fiscal year and approx. \$23,000 in additional personnel expenses in future years. These additional personnel expenses would be covered by current budget allocations.
- g. This does not add a new Agency employee and the Certification Specialist position will be kept but unfilled unless the Agency needs it at a future time, which would require future JPA Board approval.
- h. Supervisor Plummer motioned to approve the promotion. Supervisor Connelly seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Colusa, Nevada, Butte, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

4. Draft S-SV EMS Agency FY 2026/2027 Budget – for discussion

- a. The FY 2026/2027 draft budget was presented for review/discussion.
- b. On page one, there is a decrease in franchise revenue due to getting the FirstWatch for AMR up and running. This is a pass-through expense that is reimbursed by AMR.
- c. There is a decrease under 'investment income' from \$310K to \$200K due to the Principal stock that the Agency cashed out this year.
- d. Under 'Institutional Care and Services', there is an increase from \$489K to \$508K due to the Stroke, STEMI and Trauma contracts having a 3% annual increase and an increase in Trauma Data Registry fees that are a pass-through expense for the Agency.
- e. Under Miscellaneous, this went from \$1K to \$10K due to an Office of Administrative Hearing case that the Agency will receive reimbursement.
- f. There is an increase in personnel expenses related to the promotion that was approved during this meeting as well as a possible COLA increase for Agency employees.
- g. The OPEB expense is the increase in the actuarial to maintain 100% program funding.
- h. The supplies line item went from \$267K to \$30K due to the AMR Placer County EMS System Improvement Fund that was previously managed by the Agency but is now managed by AMR. The Agency is no longer a pass-through for this.
- i. Professional and Special Services expenses are decreasing from \$988K to \$894K primarily due to a decrease in the Glenn County Westside Ambulance subsidy pass-through amount decreasing.
- j. The annual population figures from the Department of Finance come out in the first week of May, so that will be added for the June meeting. There should not be any significant changes to this.
- k. Mr. Poland has not yet received the funding letter from the State EMS Authority for the Agency's State General Fund local assistance for multicounty LEMSAs. Mr. Poland is confident that it will be at least the same amount that it was last year.
- l. Mr. Poland stated that the proposed FY 2026/2027 Agency Budget is balanced and does not require the use of reserves. Final figures are pending state funding allocations and updated population data.

5. Resolution allowing the S-SV EMS Regional Executive Director to sign the FY 2026/2027 Regional Disaster Medical Health Specialist (RDMHS) contract with the California EMS Authority (EMSA) – for approval

- a. The fund grant is \$250K/year which pays for both RDMHS positions.
- b. The resolution allows Mr. Poland to submit the application and then sign the agreement as soon as it comes in which is usually before the June JPA meeting.

- c. Supervisor Corona motioned to approve. Supervisor Plummer seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Colusa, Nevada, Butte, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

6. Resolution allowing the S-SV EMS Regional Executive Director to sign the FY 2026/2027 State General Fund Multi-County LEMSA contract with the California EMS Authority (EMSA) – for approval

- a. This is for the State General Funding local assistance funding for the Agency, which was \$923,369 last year.
- b. This allows Mr. Poland to submit the application and sign the agreement as soon as it comes in, which is anticipated to be prior to the June JPA meeting.
- c. Supervisor Hansen motioned to approve. Supervisor Plummer seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Colusa, Nevada, Butte, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

7. Confirm authorization of the Agency's designated representative, pursuant to Government Code §54957.6 regarding negotiation of salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of the Agency's unrepresented employees

- a. Agency's Designated Representative: John Poland, Regional Executive Director
- b. The employees are not unionized or represented by a union.
- c. This would authorize Mr. Poland to be the designated representative, in the closed session item, for discussion with the Board.
- d. The Board asked if that included Mr. Poland's salary. The Regional Executive Director has an employment contract and is separate, not part of these negotiations.
- e. Supervisor Plummer motioned to approve. Supervisor Connelly seconded. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Colusa, Nevada, Butte, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

I. Old Business

1. Ground Ambulance Provider Rate Approval Process – provide staff direction

- a. There was a robust discussion on this topic at the February 2026 JPA Board meeting.
- b. Mr. Poland gave a synopsis of the AB 716 legislation that was passed in late 2023 to address surprise ambulance medical billing matters.
- c. Mr. Poland brought a request to the JPA Board after the bill was passed to approve ground ambulance rates at that time. The legislation and the enacted statute do not require a LEMSA or another government agency to approve or set rates but do allow this to occur as an option.
- d. Mr. Poland brought another request to the Board in August 2025 to update the approved ambulance rates, which the Board approved at that time.
- e. The Agency began experiencing some issues with some providers requesting special rate increases. So, the Agency created a policy. Mr. Poland brought a resolution to the Board in August 2025 related to this policy, that the Board approved at that time.
- f. There are significant variances in the S-SV EMS approved ground ambulance rates among authorized providers.

- g. In February, there was a Senate subcommittee hearing where Senator Menjivar questions the EMS Authority on the status of regulations related to AB716 and the fact that they have not produced the annual report on maximum allowable ambulance rates by County as required by statute. EMSA did not have any specific response/updates related to the status of these matters.
- h. Other LEMSAs have experienced challenges with AB 716 as well, but the Agency is not aware of any proposed addition regulations/legislation to address these challenges.
- i. Mr. Poland provided a brief update on a few other ambulance reimbursement related bills and processes (pending CMS State Plan Amendments, etc.).
- j. 22 states currently have some form of statutes/regulations to address/prevent ground ambulance surprise billing matters for those enrolled in fully insured plans. Many of these statutes/regulations establish maximum allowable rates, which are based on specific percentage more than Medicare reimbursement rates.
- k. A federal committee was met several times and produced a 162-page report in 2024. The committee unanimously agreed that unique features of ground ambulance emergency medical services would require substantial modifications to current law to both protect consumers from balance billing and protect their access to emergency services. The most significant matters on which the committee members did not reach consensus on whether to mandate a minimum payment and how best to set the upper limit of a reasonable minimum payment for out of network services. The committee supported establishing a minimum required out of network payment amount to ground ambulance providers determined by a hierarchy and the committee recommended that for such state or local set rates to qualify as a minimum required payment the rate setting process would have to meet certain guardrails specified by Congress, including rate setting through a public process and public reporting of rates in one central place that the public and regulators can easily find. If no state or local rates apply and no amount is agreed to between the payer and the out of network provider, then the minimum required payment would default to a congressionally determined multiple of Medicare rates or other amount from non-Medicare covered services.
- l. During the March EMSAAC meeting, there was a consensus that all the LEMSAs should be surveyed related to this matter. Mr. Poland conducted the survey. Approximately 90% of the LEMSAs establish/set rates for emergency and EOA ground ambulance providers. Of those 93% approve rate increases on an annual basis. Only approximately 14% of LEMSAs approve/set rates for non-emergency or inter-facility-ground ambulance providers. Of the 14% that do establish rates, most are done through a local ordinance policy which sets or establishes a single maximum allowable rate for all applicable providers. Additionally, most LEMSAs approve rate increases on an annual basis.
- m. Sacramento County EMS and S-SV EMS are the only two LEMSAs that currently approve individual provider rates and don't just set a maximum rate.
- n. S-SV EMS also surveyed current S-SV EMS authorized ground ambulance providers related to AB 716 related matters, of which 40% of current providers responded to the survey. Mr. Poland summarized the results of this survey on the Board Report for this item and verbally during the meeting. Mr. Poland also indicated that some of the survey respondents provided information that does not appear to be accurate (collection rates, etc.).
- o. Mr. Poland read some of the survey comments made by other LEMSAs as well as ambulance providers in the S-SV EMS region.
- p. Due to the extreme rate variance and other factors, Mr. Poland stated that he believes that it has become an unmanageable process for the Agency to set/approve rates.

- q. Representatives from Alpha One Ambulance and NorCal Ambulance who were present at the meeting provided public comments related to this matter. Tom Arjil, Alpha One, spoke about AB 716, and their support of S-SV publishing approved rates on the website. He suggested that they work with John to come up with a strategy to figure out a maximum rate. He suggested that IFT providers would be devastated if rates were not approved by S-SV EMS, and that insurance companies will take advantage of them.
- r. The Board asked Mr. Poland how the JPA can be able to have the rationale behind their decisions and feel like they have some expertise and capability to do this. Mr. Poland responded that since neither he nor any of his staff are experts in these matters, it would require the assistance of a consultant. If the agency hired a consultant, those costs would have to be recuperated from the providers. Mr. Poland suggested this would take some additional research.
- s. Mr. Saheet (NorCal Ambulance) also provided public comments related to this matter and requested that S-SV EMS continue to approve/set rates for applicable providers. He also responded to a question that Mr. Comstock (S-SV EMS Deputy Director – Operations) asked related to this matter.
- t. There was additional discussion regarding this matter and other public commenters suggested that there needs to be some adjustment for rural providers.
- u. Mr. Comstock reiterated that a significant majority of California LEMSAs do not currently approve/set these types of rates.
- v. This is a very complex issue.
- w. Supervisor Connelly motioned to direct Agency staff to investigate the cost and process of utilizing a consultant to assist with this matter, and to bring additional information back to the Board for further evaluation/consideration. Supervisor Arendt seconded the motion. A roll call of votes was called: Ayes=6 (Colusa, Nevada, Butte, Shasta, Glenn, and Tehama counties). Noes=0. Absent=4 (Siskiyou, Placer, Sutter, and Yuba Counties). Motion approved.

J. S-SV EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 1. Dr. Falck mentioned EMS Week upcoming in May. S-SV EMS is creating a calendar of provider events for staff to attend and invited the Supervisors to attend as well to support the EMS crews.
- 2. Measles – There continue to be cases/small outbreaks in the S-SV EMS region. There have been 35 confirmed cases in California since January. Measles is normally a benign disease, but by the time you get the rash (4 days in) you've already been contagious and have exposed many people in the process. If you've been vaccinated, you're generally well protected. Individuals with autoimmune disorders are at greater risk.

K. Closed Session

Closed Session convened at: 3:20pm

- 1. Conference with Labor Negotiator – Cost of Living Adjustments (Government Code § 54957.6)
 - a. Agency Designated Representative: John Poland, Regional Executive Director.
 - b. Unrepresented Employees:
 - i. Deputy Director- Operations, Deputy Director – Specialty Programs/Clinical QM, Administrative Secretary/Financial Services Assistant, EMS Specialist – Contracts Compliance Manager, EMS Specialist – Data Analyst, EMS Specialist – Investigator, EMS Specialist – Quality Management, EMS

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Specialist – Operations/Certification Specialist, EMS Specialist, EP Coordinator/EP Grant Coordinator, RDMHS, RDMHS.

- c. Closed Session Report – reconvened at 3:30 pm.
 - i. The Board met in closed session to consider one item. The Board heard a report and provided direction. No other action was taken.

L. NEXT JPA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

- 1. Mr. Comstock reported that Mr. Poland received a clinical excellence award and it was presented at the REMAC meeting with his family present.
- 2. The next JPA Board meeting will be Friday, June 12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Boryczko, Clerk to the Board

6/12/2026
Date



Sue Hoek, Chairperson

6/12/2026
Date