TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Shelli Brobst for Randolph F. Snowden - Director Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst - 253-4720
SUBJECT: Agreement with Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Inc. (Emergency Medical Services Base Contractor Agreement)

RECOMMENDATION
Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign the renewal of revenue Agreement No. 7135 with the Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Inc. (QVMC) for a maximum of $21,000 for the term July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, designating QVMC as a base hospital to provide medical control and direction to advanced life support (ALS) pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services units, and for QVMC to reimburse the County for the staff time required to work with QVMC as a base hospital.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Approval of the recommended agreement will: 1) establish the Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Inc. (QVMC) as a base hospital to provide medical control and direction to Advanced Life Support (ALS) pre-hospital Emergency Services units, and 2) provide for QVMC to reimburse the County for staff time required to work with QVMC as a base hospital.

FISCAL IMPACT
Is there a Fiscal Impact? Yes
Is it currently budgeted? Yes
Where is it budgeted? Public Health
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary
Discretionary Justification: Approval of the requested action is discretionary in that there is no mandate to contract with this provider. The County does not currently have the resources to provide medical control and direction to the EMS field units serving County residents. Approval of the recommended agreement will enable QVMC to serve as a base hospital and provide the needed medical control and direction to field EMS units. Approval will also enable the County to be reimbursed by QVMC for staff time required to work with QVMC as a base hospital.

Is the general fund affected? No

Future fiscal impact: The agreement expires June 30, 2011.

Consequences if not approved: If this agreement is not approved, QVMC will not provide needed medical control and direction services to EMS field units, and the County will not be reimbursed for HHSA Public Health Division’s staff time spent working with QVMC on the provision of these services.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Napa County Health and Human Services Agency’s (HHSA) Public Health Division, which serves as the local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency, has selected the Queen of the Valley Medical Center, Inc. (QVMC) to operate as a base hospital serving the EMS system in Napa County. Currently, QVMC provides medical control for the City of Napa Fire Department and Piner Ambulance EMS personnel. The next closest hospital authorized to provide medical control for ALS personnel is located in Santa Rosa. Furthermore, QVMC is a receiving hospital, a STEMI receiving hospital (a receiving hospital with a cardiac catheterization lab) and a Level III trauma center.

A base hospital provides medical control in accordance with the Health and Safety Code and local EMS policies and procedures. The recommended base hospital agreement specifies the qualifications and responsibilities of the hospital, medical director and pre-hospital liaison nurse. The base hospital’s responsibilities include maintaining a basic emergency medical service, staffing its emergency department in conformance with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, and designating a physician to serve as Medical Director. The emergency department must have trained emergency department physicians to provide online medical control and direction to advanced life support (ALS) pre-hospital personnel in accordance with State and local laws and regulations and EMS policies and procedures.

Approval of the recommended renewal agreement will provide for QVMC, as a base hospital, to continue: 1) providing physician’s directions and medical control directly to field personnel; 2) coordinating and providing continuing education programs; and 3) ensuring the maintenance of tapes of field calls and pre-hospital written records. QVMC’s physicians and pre-hospital liaison nurse will also attend and participate in the Coastal Valleys’ and Napa County Emergency Medical Care Committee’s (EMCC) meetings and other appropriate EMS-related meetings on a regular basis.
Additionally, approval of the recommended agreement will require QVMC to pay a fee to the County to compensate the local EMS Agency for staff time required to work with the hospital. As the local EMS Agency, HHSA's Public Health Division: 1) provides quality assurance; 2) participates in audits; 3) reviews trauma and aircraft calls; 4) works with the hospital and providers on operational issues regarding concerns in the field; and 5) acts as liaison between hospital and EMS aircraft providers.

Queen of the Valley Medical Center is a local vendor.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve
Reviewed By: Karen Collins