RECOMMENDATION

First reading and intention to adopt an ordinance adding a new Division VI, Emergency Medical Services, Chapter 8.70 (Ambulance) to the Napa County Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, has no cumulative impact, there is no reasonable possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, will not result in damage to scenic resources, is not located on a list of hazardous waste sites, cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or extract groundwater in excess of the Phase 1 groundwater extraction standards as set by the Department of Public Works. [See Class 5 (“Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations”) which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15305; see also Napa County’s Local Procedures for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act, Appendix B.]

(CONTINUED FROM JUNE 8, 2010)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa County Department of Health and Human Services Agency is designated as Napa County’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency. The EMS Agency’s primary responsibility is to plan, implement and evaluate an EMS system that meets the minimum standards developed by the California EMS Authority. The State guidelines recommend written provider agreements or an ordinance as a mechanism to ensure that EMS system participants comply with applicable policies and procedures regarding system operations and clinical care. Napa County currently does not have an ambulance ordinance as recommended by the guidelines and currently has written agreements only with the current 9-1-1 emergency response ambulance companies -- Piner's Napa Ambulance (Piner's) and Angwin
Community Ambulance (ACA).

The proposed ordinance will:

- Establish formal policies and regulations for issuing certificates and permits, and regulating the operation of ground ambulance services in Napa County;
- Protect the public by assuring that ambulances operate safely and meet certain minimum levels and standards of equipment, staffing, and mechanical reliability;
- Allow for adequate, appropriate, and efficient ambulance services in all areas of Napa County;
- Allow for the orderly and lawful operation of a local emergency and non-emergency medical services system pursuant to the provisions of Health and Safety Code Section 1797 et seq.;
- Allow for all ambulance services to be a part of the county EMS system with the necessary training, policies, procedures, and communication systems; and
- Establish application fees and ambulance inspection fees that are required to obtain an initial and renewal ambulance Certificate of Operation.

PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Open Public Hearing.
2. Staff reports.
3. Public comments.
5. Clerk reads the Ordinance Title.
6. Motion, second, discussion and vote to waive the balance of the reading of the ordinance.
7. Motion, second, discussion and vote on intention to adopt the ordinance.

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: The proposed Ambulance Provider Certification and Ambulance Inspection fees are discretionary in that the collection of fees is not specifically mandated. However, the fees are necessary to recover the costs incurred by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency in meeting its primary responsibility to plan, implement and evaluate an EMS system in accordance with the minimum standards developed by the California EMS Authority.
Is the general fund affected? No
Future fiscal impact: In the future, HHSA will review workflow tasks and costs associated with each ambulance fee to determine if any changes to the fees are warranted and correspondingly seek Board adoption of an appropriate fee schedule for the delivery of EMS Agency services related to this ordinance.
Consequences if not approved: If the ordinance is not approved, the EMS Agency will need to seek alternative ways to meet minimum standards developed by the California EMS Authority.
or perform these services without recouping the costs of the services.

Additional Information:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, has no cumulative impact, there is no reasonable possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, will not result in damage to scenic resources, is not located on a list of hazardous waste sites, cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or extract groundwater in excess of the Phase 1 groundwater extraction standards as set by the Department of Public Works. [See Class 5 (“Minor Alterations in Land Use Limitations”) which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15305; see also Napa County’s Local Procedures for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act, Appendix B.]

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 1797.200, Napa County has designated the Napa County Department of Health and Human Services Agency as its Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency. The EMS Agency's primary responsibility is to plan, implement and evaluate an EMS system that meets the minimum standards developed by the California EMS Authority.

The State Emergency Medical Service Authority (EMSA) Universal Standards and Guidelines state that the Local Emergency Medical Service Agency (LEMSA) shall coordinate EMS system operations through State regulations and local ordinances, LEMSA policies and procedures, collaboration, and day-to-day system management.

The guidelines recommend written provider agreements or an ordinance as a mechanism to ensure that EMS system participants comply with applicable policies and procedures regarding system operations and clinical care. A component of this includes integration of all licensed ambulances operating in Napa County into the EMS system. Napa County currently does not have an ambulance ordinance as recommended by the guidelines. The EMS Agency currently has written agreements only with the current 9-1-1 emergency response ambulance companies -- Piner's Napa Ambulance (Piner's) and Angwin Community Ambulance (ACA). The EMS Agency has no accurate information regarding the other companies providing patient transportation services to residents of the County. The ambulance ordinance will provide a mechanism for the EMS Agency to ensure that companies providing patient transport services comply with applicable regulations, statutes, policies and procedures regarding system operations and clinical care.

The ordinance will integrate all licensed ambulances operating in Napa County into the EMS system, thus enhancing the County’s ability to respond to major disasters and increasing its ability to respond to surge events with a minimum impact on resources in contiguous counties. The ambulance ordinance also will allow the LEMSA to ensure compliance of safety standards, vehicle licensure and staff training for all patient transport units operating in Napa County, as well as bring the EMS agency into compliance with the recommendations of the ESMA Universal Standards and Guidelines.

The proposed ordinance establishes application fees and ambulance inspection fees that are required for an
ambulance provider to obtain an initial and renewal ambulance Certificate of Operation. If approved, the fees will recover the costs incurred by the EMS Agency to review and ensure that the company and ambulance meet the standards establish by the California EMS Authority. The proposed fees are as follows:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulance Provider Certification $2,500
- BLS Ambulance Inspection $150
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Ambulance Provider Certification $1,500
- ALS Ambulance Inspection $250
- Critical Care Transport (CCT) Ambulance Provider Certification $1,500
- CCT Ambulance Inspection $250

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A. Ordinance

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Karen Collins