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June 21, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

MEASURE B SPECIAL TAX FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR TRAUMA SERVICES VIA HELICOPTER TRANSPORT (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the allocation of up to $2.4 million in Measure B Special Tax (Measure B) funds in 2004-05 to reimburse the Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City Fire Departments and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for air transportation provided to trauma center criteria patients in undesignated trauma areas, identified as the East San Gabriel Valley, Antelope Valley and Malibu, and pediatric trauma air transport in the San Fernando Valley;

2. Authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to make all necessary adjustments to the 2004-05 Proposed Budget to reflect this funding allocation for the County Fire and Sheriff's Departments; and

3. Authorize the Director of Health Services to execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles County Fire Chief for the provision of paramedic and air transport services, reflecting funding provisions consistent with the proposed allocation of Measure B funds in 2004-05.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On May 18, 2004, the Director of Health Services recommended the allocation of $2.4 million in Measure B funds divided equally between the Los Angeles County Fire Department (County Fire), L.A. City Fire and County Sheriff's Departments and requested approval of an MOU between the Department of Health Services (DHS) and County Fire for the provision of paramedic and air transport services. Both of those items were referred to my office for development of an alternative funding plan with the appropriate County and city departments.

As instructed by your Board, we met with representatives from County Fire and Sheriff, the L.A. City Fire Department (LAFD) and the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association on June 9 and June 16, 2004, in an effort to craft a consensus recommendation for allocation of the $2.4 million in Measure B funds. As a result of those discussions, we are proposing the following allocation for 2004-05, summarized in the Attachment.

- up to $0.8 million for reimbursement to the Sheriff's Department for staffing and related operational costs for expanded deployment of air search and rescue services in the Antelope Valley from four 12-hour days per week to seven 12-hour days per week; and

- up to $1.6 million for reimbursement to County Fire and LAFD for staffing and related operational costs for trauma air transport in the Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys, and for LAFD pediatric trauma air transport in the San Fernando Valley. Also for reimbursement to County Fire, Sheriff and LAFD for costs associated with enhanced paramedic training required under the terms of their respective MOUs with DHS and equipment costs associated with Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport System (CAMTS) survey.

The Sheriff's Department indicates that the expanded deployment of air search and rescue services will contribute service capability and ensure that victims of severe trauma arrive at a trauma center within a reasonable timeframe to ensure a positive outcome, particularly in the Antelope Valley and eastern portion of the County where no trauma centers have been established.

DHS indicates that the reimbursement to these three agencies for trauma air transport will help preserve trauma capability in these underserved areas, just as the Measure B funds provided to County and private trauma and emergency hospitals help maintain the trauma system in other areas of the County. Further, it is proposed that the allocation include, again an interim measure, reimbursement for pediatric trauma air transport in the San Fernando Valley, where pediatric trauma services are not available. Currently, pediatric trauma patients from the San Fernando Valley are transported by LAFD to Children's Hospital in Hollywood.

This 2004-05 funding proposal was agreed to by County Fire, Sheriff and LAFD, and it was also agreed that funding recommendations for future fiscal years will be recommended by DHS following further discussions with County Fire, Sheriff and LAFD, and other agencies, as appropriate. This agreement recognizes the fact that the proposed use of the $2.4 million in Measure B funding for trauma air transport is an interim measure, with discussions continuing on establishment of potential trauma centers or alternative interim measures to maximize trauma service capability in the underserved areas.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This proposal supports the County's Strategic Goal No. 2 for Workforce Excellence by enhancing the quality and productivity of emergency and trauma services countywide.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The Sheriff's Department has identified $0.8 million in staffing and associated operations costs, for expanded deployment of air search and rescue from four 12-hour days a week to seven 12-hour days a week. Reimbursement will not exceed $0.8 million and will be based on actual costs.

The rate of reimbursement for County Fire and LAFD will be developed by DHS and my staff and the affected agencies, and will be based on actual staffing and associated operational costs for their respective air transport operations. Similarly, reimbursement for all training and equipment costs will be based on actual costs submitted, pending review and approval by DHS. Reimbursement for these costs will not exceed $1.6 million.

An amount of $2.4 million is available in the Measure B Special Fund in 2004-05 for these purposes. If this allocation is approved by the Board, adjustments will be made to the 2004-05 Proposed Budget for the County Fire and Sheriff's Departments and to the Measure B Special Fund to reflect this allocation.

Any Measure B funds unused at the end of the fiscal year will remain in the Measure B Special Fund, pending additional uses recommended by DHS and approval by your Board.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The proposed use of funds is consistent with Measure B provisions and the July 30, 2002 action of the Board placing this measure on the November 5, 2002 ballot. As identified, funding would be used to, among other purposes, expand the system of trauma centers to cover all areas of the County, including underserved areas, and to provide trauma service to the Antelope Valley via medical air transport while those additional resources are being developed.

With respect to the MOU between DHS and County Fire, DHS advises that execution of this agreement meets the requirements of Title 22, California Code of Regulations, requiring Paramedic Service Providers "to have a written agreement with the local EMS agency to participate in the EMS system." When this was presented to the Board for consideration on May 18, 2004, this item was also referred back to my office because it contained an Exhibit which identified the allocation of Measure B funding. If our recommendations are approved by your Board, DHS will revise that Exhibit to ensure it reflects the proposed allocation of funds in this letter prior to its execution by DHS and County Fire. A copy of the executed MOU can be provided to your office as requested.

A substantially similar MOU will be executed with the County Sheriff's Department, which likewise will reflect the allocation of funds as approved by your Board. In addition, an agreement is being negotiated with LAFD which will be presented by DHS for consideration by your Board in the near future.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

DHS indicates that approval of the recommended allocation of Measure B funds will preserve and enhance the critical response capabilities of the three approved public provider agencies with aircraft transport capabilities in underserved areas of the County.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:DIL
SAS:GP:bjs

Attachment (1)

c: County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Department of Health Services
County Fire
Sheriff
Los Angeles City Fire

MEASURE B TRAUMA AIR TRANSPORT

Proposal for Reimbursment of Actual Costs up to $2.4 Million

***Funding may be redirected from EMS aircraft program to support newly designated trauma centers in these underserved areas**

Provider Agency	Category	Annual Cost*
L.A. County Sheriff	Increase service from four 12-hr days/week to seven 12-hr days/week in the Antelope Valley area	$0.8m
	Training costs associated with enhanced paramedic training	**
	Equipment associated with Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport System (CAMTS) survey	**
L.A. County Fire	Staffing costs and associated operational costs for trauma air transport in Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys	**
	Training costs associated with enhanced paramedic training	**
	Equipment associated with CAMTS survey	**
L.A. City Fire	Staffing costs and associated operational costs for trauma air transport in Antelope and San Gabriel Valleys and pediatric trauma air transport in San Fernando Valley	**
	Training costs associated with enhanced paramedic training	**
	Equipment associated with CAMTS survey	**

**Subject to discusions with CAO, DHS, and affected agencies.