

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
AND SUPERVISOR HILDA SOLIS

JANUARY 20, 2015

EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TRAUMA CARE

Los Angeles County designed and implemented the trauma care system in 1983. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for hospital trauma services was issued and both Queen of the Valley Hospital and Pomona Valley were two of twenty-two hospitals designated in 1984 as Trauma Centers. Citing significant financial losses, both hospitals withdrew from the trauma system in 1987.

Since 1987, patients who sustain significant trauma in the East San Gabriel Valley are transported to LAC+USC Medical Center or Huntington Memorial Medical Center by either ground or helicopter. In 2002, the taxpayers approved Measure B to maintain and expand the trauma network, support emergency medical services and bioterrorism responsiveness. The use of Measure B funds has not only stabilized the trauma system, but it has expanded the trauma network with the addition of California Hospital Medical Center and Antelope Valley Medical Center. Unfortunately, even with the additional funding, the largest hospitals in the East San Gabriel Valley did not feel

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that they had the physician support or financial incentive to re-establish their trauma programs.

In 2005, Measure B funds were used to support an additional helicopter from Los Angeles County Fire Department Emergency Medical Services program, to be stationed in the East San Gabriel Valley 24/7 to ensure rapid transport times to LAC+USC and Huntington Memorial Medical Centers.

In April 2014, the EMS Agency issued a Request for Information to assess the readiness of any hospitals in the East San Gabriel Valley to be a trauma center and two hospitals responded. EMS subsequently released in August 2014 a Request for Application for trauma services in the East San Gabriel Valley, with responses due on November 19, 2014, and the same two hospitals submitted applications.

In addition, as a result of expansions in private and Medi-Cal coverage under the Affordable Care Act, hospitals are now receiving payment from other sources for trauma patients, so a portion of hospital costs associated with these patients will no longer be eligible for reimbursement under Measure B. DHS has indicated this may impact how Measure B funds are allocated.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Director of Health Services to:

1. Provide a report back on the status of their evaluation of trauma hospital applications for the East San Gabriel Valley;

2. Provide a report back on the timeframe for review and analysis of the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the allocation of Measure B trauma program funds; and
3. This report should be provided to the Board in 30 days.

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