



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA
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***Report on the Feasibility of an Exclusive Operating Area
for Ambulance Services Available to the Public***

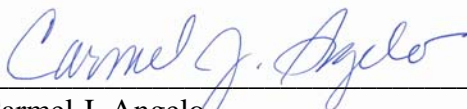
The County of Mendocino is exploring the option of establishing an exclusive operating area (EOA) for the sustainable provision of emergency ambulance services. Fitch & Associates, the County's consultant, has completed their report on the feasibility of one or more EOAs within the County. It is now available online at: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/administration/EMS.htm>

The County initiated this study to address previously identified critical issues relating to the standard of care and reliable provision of ambulance services. The County has the legal responsibility to oversee the provision of ambulance services and EMS as a whole; this study is an exploration of a strategy that could alleviate some critical issues within the EMS system. Release of this report does not necessarily imply implementation of the consultant's recommendations.

"While the consultant's report may incite some controversy," states CEO Carmel J. Angelo, "it's important that the Board of Supervisors and our community partners understand the critical issues facing the EMS system and seriously consider the options available for system sustainability."

The Executive Office anticipates much more work to be done to determine the best path forward to improve the EMS system. A Board of Supervisors workshop is tentatively planned to take place in September to consider the report and related EMS topics, but there will be no action on any of the recommendations regarding creation of EOAs at that time. The project team recommends that the Board of Supervisors commence a sustained initiative to address EMS issues, working with EMS providers and other stakeholders. Once the specific date for the workshop is determined, further details will be posted on the website.

For more information, please email ceo@co.mendocino.ca.us, or call the Executive Office at 463-4441.

Released by: 
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