



MENDOCINO COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA
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MENDOCINO COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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COUNTY TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR DISPATCH SERVICES, PARTNERSHIP WITH CALFIRE CONTINUES

In consistency with the Board of Supervisor's directed process related to the Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) sub-committee, the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSa) formed a Dispatch Services sub-committee to evaluate Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and fire dispatch services. The sub-committee is comprised of two representatives from the County's EMS Agency, three representatives of the Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association, and one representative each from the following County departments: HHSa, County Counsel, the Executive Office, and Information Services.

Currently, the County contracts with the CAL FIRE Emergency Communications Command Center at Howard Forest in Willits to provide County-wide fire and EMS dispatch services. The dispatch contract has been in place since 2007 and in July of 2015 was extended for three years by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, for an expiration date in 2018. Dispatch services for all areas of the County, except the City of Willits and City of Ukiah, are fully funded by the County through general fund dollars, a property tax assessment, and fees for service. The total budgeted contract amount for FY 2015-16 is \$648,130.

County policy requires that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be issued for any contract let to the same party for three years. This is an important policy that seeks to ensure that the County is receiving the highest level of service in the most cost effective manner. Therefore, in preparation, the County convened the Dispatch Services sub-committee to provide expertise for development of an RFP and to ensure the procurement of ongoing dispatch services. Pursuant to the CAL FIRE contract for dispatch services, the County is required to provide a one-year advance notice of termination.

Due to this obligation, a letter was sent on July 9, 2015 to notify CAL FIRE in order to meet the minimum opt-out provisions of the contract, if in fact a change is recommended as part of the RFP process. An additional letter was sent on September 28, 2015 that further clarifies the value of the partnership between CAL FIRE and the County. The County has not terminated its contract with CAL FIRE, and critical dispatch services are continuing to be provided pursuant to the agreement.

The Dispatch Services sub-committee anticipates having recommendations completed by March of 2016, with a projected RFP release date in April 2016.

Separately the County has convened a multi-agency workgroup to provide insight, recommendations, and develop an RFP for the provision of ambulance services in the inland portion of Mendocino County. Additional information on the status of this process will be provided in the near future.

Released by: 
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