



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### Emergency Medical Services Agency

POLICY #132.00

TITLE: MERCED COUNTY EMS SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT FUNDS

APPROVED: ON-FILE

EMS Administration: Kathleen Grassi, R.D., MPH

ON-FILE

EMS Medical Director: Ajinder Singh, MD CPE

EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/2016

REVISION DATE: N/A

REVIEW DATE: 5/2018

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**Authority:** Merced County Code, Title 9 General Health and Safety, Chapter 9.44 Regulation of Ambulance Service and Convalescent Transport Service, Section 9.44.030, Establishment of Local Emergency Medical Services Agency and Emergency Medical Services System; California Health and Safety Code Section 1797.272; and Pre-hospital Emergency Medical Care Personnel Act as set forth in Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code.

**Definitions:** *Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Enhancement Funds* – means the fines generated from Merced County Ambulance Service Providers' contractual noncompliance.

*Merced County Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)* – Formed by Board of Supervisors Order June 25, 1968, the Emergency Medical Care Committee serves as an advisory committee to the Board of Supervisors and the Merced County Emergency Medical Services Agency on emergency medical services related matters.

*Public Agency* - means a governmental publicly-owned EMS stakeholder within the Merced County EMS System.

*Ineligible Ambulance Service Provider* – means a non-governmental privately-owned for-profit or not-for-profit Ambulance Service Provider from which contractual noncompliance fines are levied and collected by the Merced County EMS Agency.

*Eligible Agency* – means a public agency EMS stakeholder and public or private hospital within the Merced County EMS System.

**Purpose:** To establish a process for the use of Merced County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Enhancement Funds.

**Policy:** The Merced County EMS System Enhancement Funds exist as a result of the fines assessed and collected from Merced County Ambulance Service Providers for contractual noncompliance. Response time compliance standards are established through contractual agreements between Merced County and Merced County Ambulance Service Providers. The objective is to encourage response time compliance and thereby improve patient care for the community. Fines generated from noncompliance issues are used for the administration of the Emergency Medical Services System and to enhance the EMS System within Merced County.

1. Funds shall be allocated to projects that support the following priorities:
  - A. Administration of the Emergency Medical Services System by the Merced County Emergency Medical Services Agency.
  - B. Projects that support the recommendations found in the annual report of the Emergency Medical Care Committee's EMS Assessment Subcommittee.
  - C. Communications system enhancements.
  - D. EMS training.
  - E. Equipment needed for new standards of ALS or BLS scope of practice.
  - F. Purchases that benefit or enhance EMS services in Merced County on a system-wide basis.
  - G. EMS supplies and equipment for special events or new training programs.
2. Direct payment of cash to stakeholders is not permitted.
3. Purchases will be made in accordance with Merced County purchasing requirements and policies.
4. The Merced County EMS System Enhancement Fund shall maintain a minimum reserve balance of \$75,000.
5. Ambulance Service Providers from which contractual noncompliance fines are levied and collected by the Merced County EMS Agency are ineligible to receive EMS System Enhancement Funds.
6. The EMS Agency shall provide an accounting of fund balance upon request.

**Procedures:**

- A. Prior to requesting EMS System Enhancement Funds, other sources of funding shall be attempted or exhausted e.g., agencies' general fund or budget, State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP), Public Health Emergency Preparedness grants (HPP, PHEP, Pan Flu).
- B. Proposed projects shall be in alignment with the recommendations found in the annual report of the Emergency Medical Care Committee's EMS Assessment Subcommittee.
- C. An Eligible Agency may complete and submit an Application to Request Allocation of EMS System Enhancement Funds (Attachment A) to the Merced County EMS Agency. The application must include the following:
  - 1) Detailed description of the project.
  - 2) Amount requested with a detailed budget.

- 3) Other funding sources available.
  - 4) Justification for how the proposed project will enhance the Merced County EMS System.
  - 5) Supporting documentation, i.e., quotes, project analysis and planning documents.
- D. The EMS Agency shall review and assess the application's alignment with funding priorities and confer with the Local EMS Agency Director. When an application is determined eligible, the Agency will forward the application to the Emergency Medical Care Committee for their recommendation to the Agency of project approval or denial.
  - E. The EMS Agency retains final authority on project approval or denial.
  - F. Upon project approval, the Agency will confer with the applicant and develop a funding and purchasing plan.
  - G. Ownership of purchases funded by the Merced County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Enhancement Funds cannot be transferred to the end-user.
  - H. The end-user and County will sign an agreement for the receipt of the equipment. The end-user will be responsible for costs to maintain and repair the purchase.
  - I. For accounting purposes, all items purchased with EMS System Enhancement Funds shall be returned to the EMS Agency when damaged beyond repair, when the item becomes obsolete or when the product's useful service life has ended. Lost or stolen items that have been purchased with EMS System Enhancement Funds shall be reported to the EMS Agency as soon as practical.



**TO:** BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**THROUGH:** COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**FROM:** KATHLEEN GRASSI, R.D., M.P.H., DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
**SUBJECT:** Policy Emergency Medical Services System Enhancement Funds

**SUMMARY:**

On June 25, 1968 the Board of Supervisors (Board) established the Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC) which serves as an advisory committee to the Board and the Merced County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency on emergency medical services related matters. Fines are assessed and funds are generated from Merced County Ambulance service provider's contractual noncompliance. These funds are to be used for administration and enhancement of the EMS System within Merced County. The EMCC has drafted policy #132 Merced County EMS System Enhancement Funds to establish a policy for the use of the funds which will be kept in Trust Fund #02989. The use of funds will require EMS agency approval, and shall be used for specific program priorities as set forth in the policy. Direct payments to stakeholders are not permitted, and Ambulance Service Providers from which contractual noncompliance fines are levied by EMS are ineligible to receive funds. The policy also requires the fund to maintain a minimum reserve balance of \$75,000 and establishes procedures and forms to use in order to access funds.

**STAFFING IMPACT:** None

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

**CONTRACT / RESOLUTION / ABSTRACT/OTHER SUBMITTED:**

**REVIEW:**

Auditor-Controller       CEO       Counsel       Admin Services

**Department Contact:** Liz Smith x1241

**REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION/ACTION NEEDED:**

1) Adopt Emergency Medical Services System Enhancement Fund Policy #132 to establish a policy for the use of Merced County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Enhancement Funds.

*For Board Staff Only*

*Target Date: 5/3/16*

**BOARD ACTION:** 5/3/2016

**MCDANIEL / PEDROZO - APPROVED RECOMMENDATION**

**TO:** HLTH