

## ALTURAS RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

310 Rine Street · Alturas, CA 96101 · Phone: (530) 653-4300

Fire Chief, Erick Kinney

1st Assistant Fire Chief, John Sweet

2nd Assistant Fire Chief, Jacob Hughes

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re:

Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing:

04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

#### Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of Alturas Rural Fire Protection District, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Chief, Erick Kinney

Alturas Rural Fire Department

310 N. Rine St. Alturas, CA 96101 (530) 653-4300

CC:



### April 5, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf the Berkeley Fire Department, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

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AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

DAVID SPRAGUE / FIRE CHIEF 2100 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR WAY 510.981.3473 DSPRAGUE@BERKELEYCA.GOV



1015 K Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95814-3803 Tel 916.441.0702 Fax 916.441.3549

April 3, 2024

The Honorable Gregg Hart California State Assembly, District 37 1021 O Street, Room 6230 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Assembly Member Hart:

On behalf of our clients, the California Fire Chiefs Association (CalChiefs) and the Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC), I write to express their support for your Assembly Bill 2973. This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons, CalChiefs and FDAC support AB 2973 and urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Public Policy Advocates, LLC

July Walnut Fully

Julee Malinowski-Ball, Managing Partner

JMB/OF/kmg

cc:



# CARPINTERIA~SUMMERLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

April 4, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

> Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024 Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Robert Kovach, Fire Chief

cc: Honorable Members, Assembly Committee on Emergency Management Mike Dayton, Chief Consultant; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management Nick Dokoozlian, Consultant; Assembly Republican Caucus

"Pride in Service"



# City of Merced Fire Department

Casey Wilson, Acting Fire Chief

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

#### Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf the City of Merced Fire Department, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.



### Sincerely,

Casey Wilson
Acting Fire Chief
City of Merced Fire Department
(209)388-8835
WilsonC@CityofMerced.org

#### cc:

April 07, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re:

Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing:

04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of Pasadena Fire Department, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Chad Augustin

Pasadena Fire Chief

cc:

### City of El Paso de Robles

Fire and Emergency Services Department



April 6, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of Paso Robles Fire and Emergency Services, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Stornetta

Fire Chief, City of Paso Robles



AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE DELIVERY OF EXCEPTIONAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SERVICES THROUGH COLLABORATION AND TEAMWORK

April 4, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

As President of the Western Placer Fire Chiefs Association, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Rick Bartee Rick Bartee, CFO

Mick bartee, Ci

Fire Chief

Roseville Fire Department

CC:



April 5, 2024

The Honorable Gregg Hart State Assembly 1021 O Street, Suite 6230 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart)—Emergency Services

Dear Assemblymember Hart:

NATALIE ROGERS

Vice Mayor

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our support for your bill, Assembly Bill 2973). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within MARK STAPP California.

JEFF OKREPKIE

EDDIE ALVAREZ The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles VICTORIA FLEMING and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-DIANNA MACDONALD needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency CHRIS ROGERS medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

> AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

> For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa supports AB 2973. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Alyssa Silhi with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers, Mayor

#### **DAS WILLIAMS**

First District, Chair

#### LAURA CAPPS

Second District

### **JOAN HARTMANN**

Third District, Chair

#### **BOB NELSON**

Fourth District

#### STEVE LAVAGNINO

Fifth District, Vice Chair



#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

County Administration Building 105 East Anapamu Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 Telephone: (805) 568-2190 www.countyofsb.org

#### **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

April 8, 2024

The Honorable Gregg Hart California State Assembly 1021 O Street, Suite 6230 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2973 (Hart): Emergency services

As Proposed to be Amended - SUPPORT

Set for hearing 4/8/24 – Assembly Emergency Management Committee

Dear Assembly Member Hart:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of your Assembly Bill 2973, a measure that will help ensure that the County of Santa Barbara can choose to utilize its county fire department personnel to provide prehospital emergency medical services (EMS) and ambulance services in the County.

The County of Santa Barbra is seeking the authority to call upon its own staff to provide critical community services that it is demonstrably capable of providing, and in fact, already provides in certain areas of the county. We appreciate the amendments to AB 2973 – including those that are proposed today– to ensure that the Board of Supervisors' goals are met.

AB 2973 maintains the appropriate level of oversight and authority for Boards of Supervisors in designing prehospital EMS and ambulance services. As the elected body, it's important that county supervisors have the authority to decide what local services look like in their communities.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved the 2024 Legislative Platform, which includes a local control principle that expresses support for ensuring "local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community's preferences." To that

end, we are grateful for the efforts of you and your staff to help facilitate a resolution on this important measure and are pleased to offer our support for AB 2973. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at (916) 272-0010, or jkh@hbeadvocacy.com.

Sincerely,

Jean Kinney Hurst

Legislative Representative

cc: The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair, Assembly Emergency Management Committee

Members and Consultants, Assembly Emergency Management Committee The Honorable Mia Bonta, Chair, Assembly Health Committee Members and Consultants, Assembly Health Committee County of Santa Barbara Legislative Delegation April 7, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf <u>Fremont Fire Department</u>, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

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AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Zoraida Diaz
Fire Chief

cc:

# LAKE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

"Serving the Community Since 1947" Chad Stephen, Fire Chief

Board of Directors John Rice Leona Allen Brian Hogan Irene Kaelin Tim Cain



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

#### Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

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AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely, Chad Stephen Fire Chief

cc:



April 8, 2024

The Honorable Gregg Hart Member, California State Assembly 1021 O Street, Room 6230 Sacramento, California 95814

RE: AB 2973 (Hart) Emergency Medical Services Coordination
Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended April 2 2024)

Dear Assembly Member Hart,

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) is pleased to **support** your measure AB 2973 (Hart). This measure would clarify the statutory responsibility of counties, board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies regarding EMS and ambulance services.

Specifically, AB 2973 would provide that counties may provide ambulance services to persons located within their jurisdiction by any of the following means:

- Creating a separate county department to provide ambulance services
- Assigning the duty of providing ambulance services to residents of the county to an existing county department
- Contracting with cities or local public agencies located within the county to provide ambulance services within areas under the jurisdiction of the county, the cities, or the local public agencies
- Contracting with private ambulance companies as provided under statute.

This bill also states that the board of supervisors will have the authority to approve the award of agreements or operating rights for prehospital EMS or ambulance services by the county or the local EMS agency under a competitive process.

Most importantly, this bill states that nothing in this bill shall supersede section 1797.201.

This bill would provide important clarifications regarding the process of awarding contracts and at the same time would not change any of the existing law regarding 201 rights. Therefore, Cal Cities is in support of AB 2973.

For these reasons, Cal Cities supports your measure AB 2973 (Hart). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at <a href="mailto:jvoorhis@calcities.org">jvoorhis@calcities.org</a>.



Sincerely,

Jolena Voorhis

Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

cc: Members, Assembly Emergency Management Committee



Marina Fire Department 211 Hillcrest Ave. Marina, CA 93933 Office - 831-275-1700 FAX - 831-884-1222



April 5, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re:

Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing:

04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

#### Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of the Marina Fire Department, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

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AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Doug McCoun Fire Chief, Marina Fire

dmccoun@cityofmarina.org

cc:



### NAPA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

April 6, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

#### Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of the Napa County Fire Chiefs Association, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

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AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely, Zach Curren, President

Napa County Fire Chiefs Association zcurren@napacountyfirechiefs.com

CC:



# **North County Fire Authority**

Serving the Cities of Brisbane, Daly City, Pacifica

Ron D. Myers Fire Chief 10 Wembley Drive Daly City, California 94015-4314 Administration Phone 650-991-8138 Fax 650-991-8090

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

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AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Sincerely,

Ron D. Myers Fire Chief

cc:



# CITY OF PETALUMA

Post Office Box 61 PETALUMA, CA 94953-0061

Kevin McDonnell Mayor

April 4, 2024

**Brian Barnacle** Janice Cader-Thompson, Dist. 1 Mike Healy Karen Nau, Dist. 3 **Dennis Pocekay** John Shribbs, Dist. 2 Councilmembers

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez, Chair Assembly Committee on Emergency Management 1021 O Street, Room 5140 Sacramento, CA 95814

> Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart), As Amended 04/02/2024 Re:

Hearing: 04/08/2024; Assembly Committee on Emergency Management

Dear Chair Rodriguez:

On behalf of Petaluma Fire Department, I write to express our support for Assembly Bill 2973 (Hart). This critical legislation aims to clarify and codify the statutory responsibilities of counties, the board of supervisors, and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs) in managing emergency medical and ambulance services within California. AB 2973 seeks to eliminate ambiguities and streamline the coordination and delivery of emergency medical services (EMS) across the state.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Act has left room for confusion regarding the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. AB 2973 addresses this by providing much-needed clarity that will enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of providing emergency medical services. Specifically, the bill provides for the establishment of Exclusive Operating Areas (EOAs) through a competitive process, the requirement for board of supervisors' approval of LEMSA-developed plans, and the outlined procedural requirements for EOAs underscore a commitment to transparency, accountability, and best practices in the provision of EMS.

AB 2973 enhances the accessibility, accountability, and coordination of EMS, and promises to strengthen our emergency response infrastructure and ensure that Californians receive timely and effective medical care.

Fire Department 198 "D" Street Petaluma, CA 94952

For these reasons we urge an "AYE" vote when the bill is heard in committee.

Phone (707) 778-4390 Fax (707) 931-0668

Sincerely,

Email: firedept@cityofpetaluma.org

> Fire Prevention Bureau 11 English Street Petaluma, CA 94952

Phone (707) 778-4389 Fax (707) 206-6036

Email: firemarshal@cityofpetaluma.org Jeff Schach, Petaluma Fire Chief