

# Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative (SEMSC) Update

Presented to the Board of Supervisors

On October 28, 2025

By Benjamin Gammon, Health & Social  
Service (H&SS), Emergency Medical  
Services (EMS)



# SEMSC Formation and Legal Authority

The Solano Emergency Medical Services Cooperative (SEMSC) was established in 1996 under the authority of Government Code 6500.

Formed through a **Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)** between:

- The County of Solano
- The cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, and Vallejo
- The Fire Protection Districts of Cordelia, Montezuma, Ryer Island, Suisun, East Vallejo, Dixon, and Vacaville

**Designation:** Recognized as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency under Health & Safety Code §1797.50

- Authorized by Solano County Board of Supervisors (BOS) Ordinance No. 1527

# SEMSC Powers and Duties as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA)

- Manage property and assets
- Accept public and private funding
- Allocate annual revenues among member agencies
- Enter into contracts and hire personnel
- Exercise legal authority (sue/be sued)
- Incur budgeted debts and obligations
- Collect fees and cover operational costs
- Adopt policies and regulations
- Invest surplus funds per Gov. Code §53601
- Deliver pre-hospital emergency medical services

# SEMSC Board Composition

This Board follows the Keene Act and Maddy Act

- Solano County Administrator (Chair)
- City Manager (appointed by City Managers group)
- Fire Chief (appointed by Fire Chiefs Organization)
- Two Medical Professionals (from separate local hospitals)
- Emergency Room Physician (appointed by Physicians Forum)
- Health Care Consumer (appointed by Board majority)

# SEMSC Board Meetings

Quarterly meetings on the second Thursday of January, April, July, and October, unless otherwise specified.

9:00 a.m.

Suisun City Council Chambers  
701 Civic Center Blvd,  
Suisun City, CA

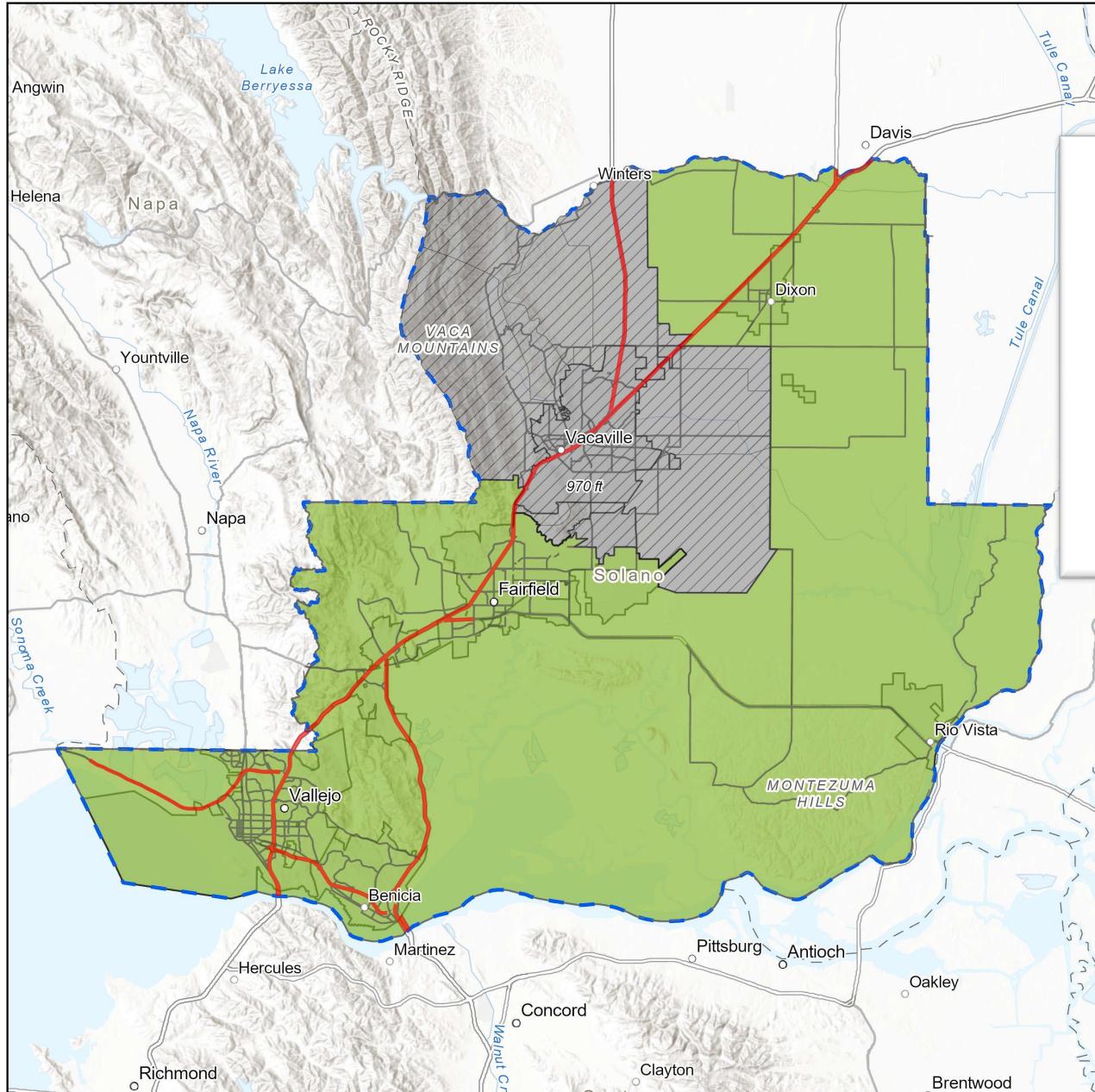
## **Purpose/Responsibilities:**

The SEMSC Board provides strategic oversight, ensures regulatory compliance, and guides systemwide improvements in emergency medical services. Board members review performance indicators, support collaborative efforts across jurisdictions to enhance patient care and operational efficiency.

## **Oversight Activities:**

EMS Staff presents data collected from the previous quarter, including:

- EMS Application metrics
- General EMS system data
- Specialty Care Program performance topics rotated each quarter
- Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) trends
- New and ongoing policy initiatives



## SOLANO COUNTY EXCLUSIVE OPERATING AREA

### Legend

- Exclusive Operating Area 1
- Exclusive Operating Area 2
- Road Centerlines
  - State
  - County
  - City
- City Boundary
- County Boundary



**Solano County GIS Services**  
Department of Information Technology  
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Monday, September 30, 2024

Disclaimer: <https://egis.solanocounty.com/disclaimer>



# Solano County Service Area

### Area 1:

- EOA included in active RFP
- Currently served by Medic Ambulance

### Area 2:

- Vacaville Fire Ambulance service area
- Includes Vacaville Fire Protection District
- Designated as a **201 rights area**

# How SEMSC Navigates 201 Rights

Section 201 rights refer to a provision in California law that allows certain cities and fire districts to continue providing emergency medical services (EMS) independently, even after a Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) is established.

Under **Health & Safety Code §1797.201**, cities and fire districts that were providing EMS (including ambulance transport) as of June 1, 1980, may retain the right to continue those services **without needing a contract or agreement with the LEMSA**, unless they voluntarily relinquish those rights.

**Zone 2** in Solano County is governed by this statute. SEMSC works with 201 providers to align protocols, data sharing, and performance standards. SEMSC honors 201 rights while promoting system-wide integration and accountability.

# Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)



**Purpose:** To ensure integrated, efficient, and high-quality emergency medical services across Solano County.

## Key Partners in the PPP Agreement

- Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) Oversees system design, coordination, and regulatory compliance
- Fire Agencies provide first-response services and initial patient care
- Private Ambulance Providers deliver advanced life support and patient transport

## Goal of the PPP is to:

- Maintain rapid response times across all service areas
- Ensure consistent coverage and resource availability
- Promote collaboration between public and private entities
- Support data-driven oversight and continuous system improvement

# SEMSC Agreements

## Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) Provider Agreement

**Current Provider:**  
Medic Ambulance  
**Agreement Expiration:**  
May 1, 2026

*Status: Request for Proposals (RFP) process underway to identify next provider.*

## Public-Private Partnership Agreement:

This Agreement is between Medic Ambulance and The cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Suisun City, and Vallejo

## Base Hospital Agreements:

Kaiser Foundation – Vacaville  
Kaiser Foundation – Vallejo  
NorthBay Healthcare Group  
Sutter Solano Medical Center

## Emergency Department Approved Pediatrics (EDAP) Agreements:

Kaiser Permanente – Vacaville  
Kaiser Permanente – Vallejo  
NorthBay Healthcare Group

## STEMI Receiving Center Agreements:

Kaiser Foundation – Vallejo  
NorthBay Healthcare Group

## Primary Stroke Center Agreements:

Kaiser Foundation – Vacaville  
Kaiser Foundation – Vallejo  
NorthBay Healthcare Group  
Sutter Solano Medical Center

## Trauma System Agreement:

Kaiser Foundation – Vacaville  
NorthBay Healthcare Group

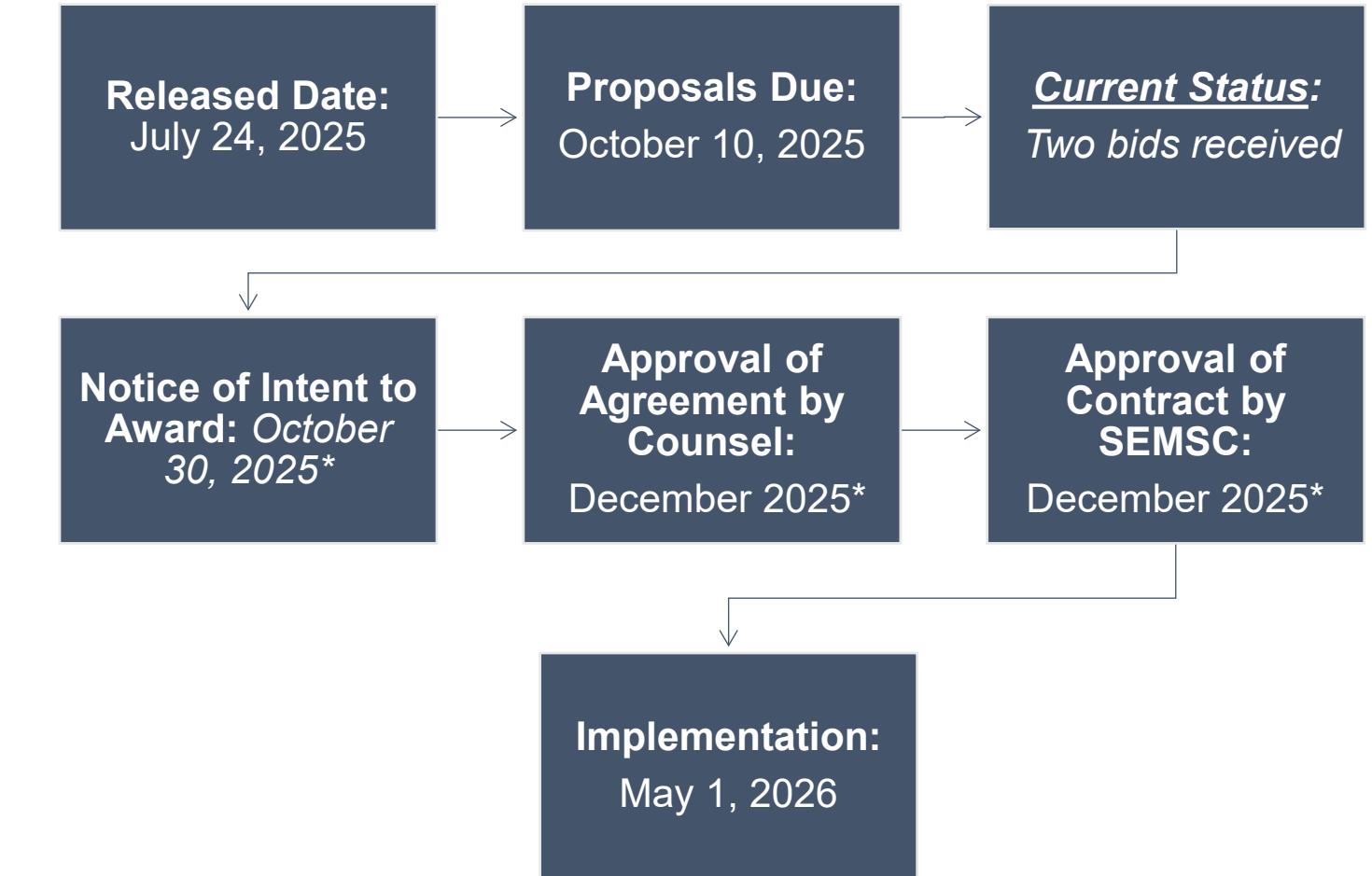
## Other Agreements:

Basic Life Support (BLS) and Critical Care Technician (CCT) services, along with certifications for Interfacility Hospital Transports (IFT).  
Continued Education (CE)

# SEMSC Current Focus

Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) RFP  
To identify the next provider for Solano County

Date: October 28, 2025



\* Tentative Date

SEMSC Presentation 2025

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# SEMSC Evolving Priorities for a Stronger Future

**Assembly Bill 40 (AB 40) Ambulance Patient Offload Time (APOT) January 1, 2026.** EMS system reforms under updated Title 22 regulations. *(Passed in 2023)*

**Assembly Bill 645 (AB 645) – Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)** This bill focuses on enhancing Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) by requiring public safety agencies that handle 911 calls to implement standardized dispatcher training and pre-arrival medical instructions by January 1, 2027. *(Passed in 2025)*

Continue implementing and updating protocols for Stroke, STEMI, Trauma, Pediatric (EDAP), and CARES programs to align with CCR Title 22 Division 9 Chapter 6 of the revised regulations, including training, equipment, and quality assurance standards.

# SEMSC Governance Considerations

01

**Evolving Legal Framework:** Health & Safety Code §1797.230(c) now requires counties to adopt ambulance contracting policies, reinforcing the Board's public accountability for EMS decisions.

02

**Governance Structure:** Some SEMSC Board members are also EMS system participants, which supports collaboration but may raise concerns about perceived conflicts of interest.

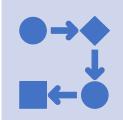
03

**Maintaining SEMSC's Role:** Redesignating the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) would not eliminate SEMSC. It could continue as an advisory body under §1797.270, preserving regional input while ensuring final authority rests with the Board.

# SEMSC Governance, Accountability & Future Direction



**Strategic Timing:** The current ambulance RFP presents a key decision point. Addressing governance now ensures clarity and alignment before a long-term contract is awarded.



**Next Steps:** Staff seeks Board direction on governance options moving forward.

# SEMSC Board Considerations & Strategic Options

## Option 1: Maintain Status Quo

- No action taken
- SEMSC remains the designated LEMSA under HSC §1797.200
- JPA structure and RFP process continue as-is

## Option 2: Revoke LEMSA Designation

- Direct staff to draft ordinance amending Solano County Code §§ 7.1-12 & 7.1-13
- SEMSC transitions to an advisory role focused on consumer-oriented EMS services
- County assumes LEMSA authority, enhancing direct accountability

## Option 3: Terminate SEMSC Participation

- Determine SEMSC has fulfilled its purpose
- Provide notice of termination from the JPA
- Direct staff to explore the creation of a new advisory committee under HSC §1797.270

# SEMSC Board Additional Considerations

**If LEMSA designation is revoked, Board may:**

- Continue RFP evaluation and scoring
- Review and approve final contract with best apparent bidder

**Alternatively, Board may:**

- Maintain current JPA and RFP process
- Direct staff to formally terminate County's role in SEMSC and/or redesignate LEMSA

We encourage you to share any questions or feedback you may have.

Thank you for your time and commitment to improving emergency medical services in Solano County!

**Contact Information:**

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- ✉ For **EMS Agency** related questions, email: [EMSA@solanocounty.gov](mailto:EMSA@solanocounty.gov)

- 🌐 Visit the [EMS Agency](#) & [SEMSC](#) website for more Information