



**Health & Human Services  
Agency  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
AGENDA ITEM**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

ALLEN ISHIDA  
District One  
PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two  
PHILLIP A. COX  
District Three  
J. STEVEN WORTHLEY  
District Four  
MIKE ENNIS  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** March 6, 2012 - **REVISED**

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
CONTACT PERSON: Kevin Marks    PHONE: 624-8000				

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing for SkyLife Air Ambulance Application and approval of Agreement for Air Ambulance services.

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Conduct a public hearing for the application of Air Ambulance services to be provided in Tulare County. The ordinance requirement to hold the public hearing within 45 days of receipt of application is waived;
2. Approve a categorical exemption, pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, on the ground that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the emergency medical (ambulance) services activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment;
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk;
4. Accept a recommendation by the Tulare County Health Officer to issue an ambulance service provider license for air ambulance services from SkyLife;
5. Approve the agreement between the County of Tulare and SkyLife to provide air ambulance services in the County effective March 12, 2012 through June 30, 2017; and
6. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign three (3) copies of the Agreement with SkyLife subject to County Counsel's approval.

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing for SkyLife Air Ambulance Application and approval of Agreement for Air Ambulance services.

**DATE:** March 6, 2012

**SUMMARY:**

SkyLife of Central California would like to relocate their Air Ambulance Service, currently located in Kings County, to Tulare County at the Visalia Airport. In this effort, they have submitted an application for Air Ambulance licensure in Tulare County to the Central California Emergency Medical Services Agency (CCEMSA). CCEMSA is the agency responsible for the management of the emergency services for Tulare County and has forwarded the application to Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA). The Tulare County Health Officer has reviewed the application and is making the recommendation to accept the application and enter into an agreement with SkyLife for air ambulance services.

SkyLife has been in business since 1991, servicing the Central Valley with two Bell 407 helicopters and a fixed wing air ambulance. Using these aircraft, they are capable of transporting one critically injured patient and up to three medical attendants, in addition to the pilot. They currently serve Tulare County from their bases in Fresno and Kings Counties and have a current operating agreement with the CCEMSA. SkyLife is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS), an internationally recognized accrediting body. A license to operate from Tulare County will allow SkyLife to position equipment and staff at a central airport location in Visalia and provide rapid air ambulance transportation services to both Kings and Tulare County by helicopter and airplane.

**Environmental Review**

After conducting environmental review of this proposal, the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15061(b)(3) (General Rule Exemption), on the ground that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment primarily because the proposed air ambulance activity is regulated fully by federal, state and local law, thus ensuring as part of contract design that no significant effects may occur. A further basis for this exemption is set forth in Exhibit "A" attached to the Notice of Exemption, a copy of which is included herein.

The public notices for the Public Hearing in regard to the application were posted in the Visalia Times Delta and the Porterville Recorder on February 28, 2012.

We would like to bring to the Board's attention that the term of this agreement is for five years.

**Alternatives**

The Board could choose not to approve the issuance of the license, therefore not approving the CEQA Categorical Exemption and the Agreement with SkyLife. The Board could also choose to ask for continued investigation including further staff review if they feel that additional information is required. These alternatives are not

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recommended as they would delay the ability to begin the air ambulance services in the County.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

No cost to the County associated with the approval of the agreement with Skylife for air ambulance services.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The County's five-year Strategic Plan includes the Safety and Security Initiative that encourages planning and providing coordinated emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities for both natural and manmade disasters. This agreement increases the ability to fulfill that obligation.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

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Kevin Marks  
Director of Administration

Cc: Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel  
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s) Application  
Agreement  
CEQA Notice of Categorical Exemption

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF Public Hearing for )  
SkyLife Air Ambulance Application and ) **Resolution No.** \_\_\_\_\_  
approval of Agreement for Air Ambulance ) **Agreement No.** \_\_\_\_\_  
services.

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, SECONDED BY  
SUPERVISOR \_\_\_\_\_, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:  
NOES:  
ABSTAIN:  
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/  
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

\* \* \* \* \*

1. Conducted a public hearing for the application of Air Ambulance services to be provided in Tulare County. The ordinance requirement to hold the public hearing within 45 days of receipt of application is waived;
2. Approved a categorical exemption, pursuant to Section 15061 (b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines, on the ground that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the emergency medical (ambulance) services activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment;
3. Directed the Clerk of the Board to file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk;
4. Accepted a recommendation by the Tulare County Health Officer to accept the application for Air Ambulance services from SkyLife;

5. Approved the agreement between the County of Tulare and SkyLife to provide air ambulance services in the County effective March 12, 2012 through June 30, 2017; and
6. Authorized the Chairman of the Board to sign three (3) copies of the Agreement with SkyLife subject to County Counsel's approval.