

February 4, 2018

Dear Board of supervisors and Carmel,

I have heard that the county is considering pulling out of Coastal Valley EMS. I think this would be a huge loss to our county if we were to do so.

CVEMS brings us many resources that Mendocino County as a standalone EMS agency would not be able to match. The staff at CVEMS are superb and have gone out of their way to work with our county and help us improve our services. This staff has been at it for decades and they are very well connected on state, county and local levels. With Mark Luoto, MD as medical director we benefit enormously by opportunities that we might not otherwise be privy to. The quality of teaching provided at all levels—EMT training, trauma audit reviews and medical reviews—is always excellent. CVEMS is a leader in the state with regard to updating protocols and surfing on the edge with the newest evidence based literature. CVEMS is viewed in the EMS world as setting a high bar for excellence. For this reason they were recently awarded a state contract to help with developing innovative approaches for end of life care in the EMS system.

I am sure that if we went to our own county's EMS system, we could find a decent medical director. We could also find some good staff. But, it would take years to develop a strong agency and we would never be able to do all the research and reports we currently do simply based on the small numbers we have in Mendocino County. It would undoubtedly cost us much more without the economies of scale we get with CVEMS.

I feel we have been very fortunate to enjoy the benefits of a multicounty agency with CVEMS. If you see a problem with it I strongly encourage you to renegotiate the contract to get what you need rather than starting from scratch and developing our own agency. I would be happy to discuss this with you or any of the supervisors at your convenience. We have a great resource with CVEMS, let's continue to work with the agency that sets the bar for quality.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Evans, MD, FACEP

CEO, emeritus, Pacific Redwood Medical Group