



June 23, 2025

Mr. Daniel J. Lynch
EMS Director
Fresno County Department of Public Health
1221 Fulton Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Subject: Ambulance User Fee Adjustment Request Due to Increased Monitoring Costs

Dear Mr. Lynch:

Thank you for your letter dated June 13, 2025, regarding the County's increase to EMS monitoring costs. We value our continued partnership with Fresno County and appreciate the opportunity to respond to this request.

As noted in your correspondence, the annual contract monitoring cost will increase to \$1,500,000 from \$770,403 —an increase of \$729,597. While we understand the operational needs prompting this adjustment, this substantial increase represents a significant new cost that cannot be absorbed without adversely impacting service delivery and sustainability.

We respectfully request an ambulance user fee increase of \$85.70 to each base rate to offset the increased cost. Our current user fees have been unchanged since August 2022 and the proposed adjustment would result in the following revised rates:

Service	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
BLS Scheduled Base Rate	\$1,234.00	\$1,319.70
BLS Emergency Base Rate	\$1,974.00	\$2,059.70
ALS-1 Scheduled Base Rate	\$1,481.00	\$1,566.70
ALS-1 Emergency Base Rate	\$2,344.00	\$2,429.70
ALS-2 Base Rate	\$2,736.25	\$2,821.95
Specialty Care Transport (CCT)	\$3,233.75	\$3,319.45
Mileage (per loaded mile)	\$49.00	\$49.00
Non-transport Assessment	\$200.00	\$200.00
Non-transport ALS Treatment	\$500.00	\$500.00
Standby Rate (per 15 minutes)	\$40.00	\$40.00



We estimate that only a small portion of patients—approximately 8.8% with private insurance—will be subject to the increased rates. More than 91% of our patients are covered by government payers that reimburse at fixed rates, regardless of billed charges, and therefore would not be affected by this adjustment.

For those with private insurance, California Assembly Bill 716 (effective January 1, 2024) provides consumer protection by limiting out-of-pocket costs to in-network cost-sharing amounts. Ambulance providers are required to bill the patient's insurer directly for the remainder. For uninsured patients, AB 716 limits billed charges to the lower of the Medicare or Medi-Cal rate. As a result, the proposed fee increase is expected to have negligible—if any—financial impact on patients.

We believe the requested adjustment is both necessary and reasonable in light of the County's increased monitoring costs and our limited ability to recover the added expense. We remain committed to providing high-quality service while upholding financial accountability and transparency.

Thank you for your continued collaboration. Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd Valeri', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Todd Valeri
Chief Executive Officer