

# ***EAST CONTRA COSTA*** FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**Brian Helmick**  
Fire Chief



**SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:**

*Bethel Island  
Brentwood  
Byron*

*Discovery Bay  
Knightsen  
Morgan Territory  
Oakley*

August 14, 2019

The Honorable Rob Bonta  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 2148  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 1705 (Bonta) – Support**

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

On behalf of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, we are pleased to write to you expressing our support for Assembly Bill 1705. This bill will exempt public ambulance providers from the quality assurance fee (QAF), data reporting, and the resulting Medi-Cal add on payments resulting from revenue from the QAF, if the Public Provider Intergovernmental Transfer Program (IGT) program is implemented.

Assembly Bill 1705 is intended to correct an unforeseen consequence of SB 523 (Hernandez). At the time, public providers of EMS believed that the QAF would result in a net revenue gain. However, when DHCS began modeling the actual impact of the QAF, it soon became apparent that number of public agencies, primarily fire districts, would suffer actual net losses of revenue.

Aside from ensuring that public agencies avoid suffering an actual net loss in revenues, AB 1705 "will ensure that that private EMS service providers are held harmless from the enactment of any subsequent legislation."

Ensuring adequate compensation to public agencies that provide emergency medical transportation services will help them maintain their high levels of emergency response services and care, which will ultimately help save lives. Again, we are happy to support Assembly Bill 1705, and thank you for your work on this important policy issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Helmick', is written over the printed name.

Brian Helmick  
Fire Chief

CC: Assemblymember Jim Frazier  
Senator Steve Glazer  
Dillon Gibbons, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association  
Russell Noack, Public Policy Advocate, California Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Districts of California