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Search Schedule

The Recruitment Process

To apply for this exciting career opportunity, please visit our website:

Peckham & McKenney

Please do not hesitate to contact Phil McKenney toll-free at (866) 912-1919 or direct to (916) 616-9173 if you have any questions regarding this position or recruitment process.

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The Opportunity
This is a chance to be at the forefront of challenging and exciting projects that will frame this community’s future health care. The role of District Administrator is a unique opportunity for a person who:

• Wants to make a difference in providing important emergency medical services now and improving health care in the future.
• Is motivated to coach, train, and develop staff so they may reach their potential.
• Is attracted by professional challenges and likes to work in an interagency setting.
• Is at the stage professionally where a flexible work schedule is attractive.
• Wants to live and work in a rural setting, which also is a destination/resort location. People have moved here from all parts of the world. The high quality of life, the dramatic coastline, comparative lack of crime, and the high level of community volunteerism are among the reasons people are drawn to this beautiful area.

The Community
Coast Life Support District (CLSD) is headquartered at the southern tip of Mendocino County in the unincorporated town of Gualala, California. The District serves a population of approximately 6,200 full-time residents in northern Sonoma County and southern Mendocino County, an area renowned as a coastal tourist destination. The peak-time population can swell to 15,000 during holidays and vacation times.

CLSD’s service area stretches sixty miles along the coast, from just north of Irish Beach in Mendocino County, to Timber Cove in Sonoma County. The geography is the Pacific Ocean to the west and a coastal mountain range to the east. Communities are clustered primarily in a linear fashion along California Highway 1, which is a two-lane winding route.

The area’s economic makeup has changed dramatically over the past 50 years. Historically, the economy was driven by ranching, timber, and fishing. These activities exist today but on a much smaller scale. Now, tourism plays a significant role in the local economy. Other areas of economic importance are the construction trades, service and local retail businesses, and cottage industries. The recreational draw includes abalone diving, bird and whale watching, camping, hiking, mushroom hunting, boating, fishing, and golfing.

There is a vibrant artistic culture in the area as provided by the Arena Theater, Gualala Arts, and many other groups. Wildlife abounds with over 19,000 gray whales passing by each year. Gray foxes, Tundras swans, deer, herons, harbor seals, sea lions, hawks, and many other species live and prosper here as well.

Housing and lifestyles vary significantly within the District. Housing ranges in price from under $100,000 for a cabin or modular home in the forest to several million dollars for a house on the ocean. Lifestyle variations range from people living off the grid to being a member of a local service club. People’s backgrounds are diverse, from Nobel Prize winners, artists, retired executives and authors, to people born and raised here. The diversity and talent of District residents is considered one of the area’s most admirable resources.

Neighbor helping neighbor is the rule on the coast and not the exception. For more information on the local communities of the CLSD, please visit www.redwoodcoastchamber.com.

The Organization
Coast Life Support District was formed in 1986 following special California state legislation and a local election to form this new multi-county agency. AB 4227 created the District “to provide emergency medical services, including emergency ambulance and life support services and certain other health services to a specified area within Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.”

Medical services are scarce in CLSD’s service area. Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS) provides limited primary care and urgent care as a Federally Qualified Health Center, but full hospital facilities are a significant distance from CLSD. From the town of Gualala, the approximate center of the District, the closest 24-hour emergency medical care facilities are an average of 1.5 to 2 hours travel time by road (in good weather) – some of the longest drive times to a hospital in California. Due to the unusually long transport times to tertiary care, District paramedics routinely provide much more comprehensive stabilization and in-transport care than the standard protocols of their urban counterparts.

CLSD’s early focus was development of a reliable, high-quality ambulance service. In recent years, the District has expanded its activities in accordance with its mission statement.

In 2014, residents passed a CLSD-sponsored ballot measure to fund urgent care services. That tax allowed CLSD to contract for urgent care services seven days a week from 8 AM to 6 PM. The local Urgent Care is designated by both the Regional and State EMS authorities as an “alternative ambulance receiving facility” which helps reduce the number of transports out of the District. Currently, due to a number of factors, the long-term sustainability of the RCMS medical clinic is in question. The potential loss of this clinic and the critical urgent care services it provides would be very detrimental to this coastal region.

If RCMS should cease operations, it is estimated that a large percentage of the patients it currently sees in Urgent Care would become 911 transports by CLSD to hospital emergency rooms. Increasing CLSD’s capacity to handle a doubling or tripling of its call volume within a short time period would be a major challenge for the organization.

This issue is complex and many agencies will be impacted in the worst-case scenario. The new District Administrator should expect to be heavily involved in the resolution of this situation, whatever that resolution might be.

Overall, based on the overwhelmingly positive patient responses, and the recent renewal of the Measure J parcel taxes with Mendocino County coming at it 78% in support and Sonoma County coming in at 84% in support, the CLSD has become a responsive and capable ambulance service that is highly valued throughout this coastal area.

To learn more about the Coast Life Support District, please visit www.clsd.ca.gov.

The Position
This opportunity is due to the retirement of District Administrator David Caley, who reports to a volunteer, seven-member elected Board of Directors that meets monthly. Mr. Caley is recognized for making significant improvements in all aspects of the CLSD operations including management, finances, data driven decision making, and staff moral. He will be missed.

The administrative staff consists of the District Administrator, Operations Manager, and a bookkeeper/executive assistant. The billing function is outsourced but is supervised by the District Administrator. The current administrative structure is under review by the Board of Directors to ensure it can serve our future needs. The crews staffing the ambulances include six full-time paramedics with three full-time and eight part-time ALS EMTs. CLSD works closely with CalFire and four volunteer fire departments on the coast who also perform EMS services.

Currently, there are approximately 1,000 dispatched calls per year, with about 550 of those calls requiring transport. And based on excellent data and record keeping, the CLSD is now able to identify trends and expects to see a steady increase in the demand for services for the next several years.

The CLSD receives funds from two separate parcel taxes (mentioned above), with other sources of revenue including the recent awarding of a significant SAMHSA Rural EMS Training Grant, ambulance billing, a small ad valorem tax subsidy provided by Mendocino County, and from donations. This year’s budget totals $3.25 million.
**The Ideal Candidate**

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