

# COAST LIFE SUPPORT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1056, Gualala, CA 95445

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## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

>>> 4:30 pm Monday, January 20, 2013 <<<  
Bill Platt Training Center  
Gualala, CA

1. Call to Order Toedter
  2. Adoption of the Agenda
  3. Minutes Approval
  4. Privilege of the Floor – Public Comment
  5. Old Business – Information or Action
    - Urgent Care RFP Update – Vendor Selection Process
    - Measure J Ballot Discussion - Information
    - Strategic Planning Retreat - Information
  6. New Business
  7. Reports
    - Committee Reports
    - District Administrator
    - December A/R
  8. Other
    - General announcements
  9. Adjournment
- Scheduled Board of Director meetings (4:30 at Bill Platt Training Center unless otherwise noted):
    - o February 24 (tentative)
    - o Community Meeting Feb 26 Time TBA (not board meeting) – Gualala Community Center



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
December 9th, 2013

Call to Order. President Tom Toedter called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Present: Directors Randolph, Dodds, Perry, Schwartz, Rice, Provencher.

Adoption of the Agenda. Director Schwartz moved to adopt the Agenda. Director Dodds second, all ayes.

Approval of November 18th, 2013 Board Minutes. Director Rice moved to adopt the Minutes. Director Schwartz second, all ayes. Approval of the December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Board Minutes. Director Perry moved, Director Randolph second, all ayes.

Privilege of the Floor: Brent Klopfer referred to Resolution 221, Urgent Care Tax Increase, questioning the position of RCMS providers on the measure. Diane Agee, RCMS, said that the providers prefer urgent care for as many hours as is affordable. Thayer Walker questioned the repeal of the existing tax rate. Foster replied that both Sonoma and Mendocino County counsel will review the wording of the resolution before it is placed on the ballot. The rate, not the tax, would be repealed.

Old Business-Information or Action

- Resolution 221 Urgent Care Tax Increase: All options were presented to the board including 24/7, 12/7, 10/7, 10/5, and Do Nothing.
- Director Rice: suggested that alternatives to the tax measure be looked at such as using the current reserves to fund Urgent Care for the next year while other options are researched.
- Director Perry; Preferred 10/7, or 12/7 options.
- Director Dodds: is interested in hearing about other options and preferred to hold off on

the election but fund UC with reserves for 1 year during further study.

- Director Schwartz: agreed with Rice. She feels rushed and would like to study alternatives. In the meantime she suggested RCMS should have a plan in case a ballot measure is not passed.
- Director Provencher: Preferred 10/7 or 12/7. He also feels that CLSD has an obligation to restore UC to the community.
- Director Toedter: Preferred 10/7. He is also in agreement with Director Rice.
- Director Rice mentioned that the RCMS deficit is funded by reserves and fundraising, but as a FQHC facility they are restricted as to how much they can charge a patient. The UC facilities in Santa Rosa are not limited to what they can charge.
- Several members of the community expressed their concerns about the campaign, wanting a strong effort including a lot of education in order to guarantee passage of the measure.
- Considerable discussion of the pros and cons followed, with participation by all board members and the public.
- Director Randolph raised the previous question and moved to adopt Resolution 221 with ten hours per day, seven days per week. A roll call vote followed: Toedter, aye, Randolph, aye, Perry, aye, Dodds, aye, Schwartz, aye, Provencher, aye, Rice, no. The motion passed 6 Ayes to 1 No.

Reports:

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Write-Off Reports:

- November 2013: Director Schwartz moved, Director Randolph second, all ayes.

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Other: General Announcements:

- Director Randolph reported that he would be coordinating a public forum on the tax measure at The Sea Ranch on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- District Administrator Foster asked for someone to write the argument in favor of the ballot measure. Directors Perry, Provencher, and Schwartz volunteered. Help with the RFP volunteers will include Provencher, Foster, and Perry.

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Adjournment: Director Schwartz moved, Director Randolph second, all ayes. Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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Secretary

Date

**COAST LIFE SUPPORT DISTRICT**

**FULL TEXT OF**

**MEASURE J**

**AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A SPECIAL TAX FOR EXPANSION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF URGENT MEDICAL CARE**

**SECTION I. PURPOSE AND INTENT**

It is the purpose of this Ordinance to authorize the levy of a special tax on parcels of real property that are within the Coast Life Support District, established by Chapter 375, Statutes of 1986, in order to augment funding for expanding the availability for provision of urgent medical services.

This is a special tax within the meaning of Section 4 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, and is being enacted pursuant to the authority and procedures of Chapter 375, Statutes of 1986 and Government Code Section 50077. This tax is based on the use or the right of use of each Assessor's parcel; and is based, to the extent practical, upon the costs of providing urgent medical care services associated with each parcel, its use and the improvements thereon. Since this tax is not an ad valorem tax, the exemptions contained in or authorized by Article XIII of the California Constitution shall not apply.

The taxes imposed by this Ordinance may be collected by the Counties on behalf of the District in the same manner and subject to the same penalty as other charges and taxes fixed and collected by the Counties.

The revenues raised by this tax are to be used solely for the purposes of obtaining, furnishing, operating and maintaining urgent medical care services, and for other necessary operating expenses of the District, consistent with Section 40 of Chapter 375, Statutes of 1986. (Coast Life Support District Act.)

**SECTION II. SPECIAL TAX**

The District's Board of Directors is authorized to levy a special tax within the boundaries of the Coast Life Support District each year, for the purposes stated in Section I, on each parcel of land shown on the respective County Assessor's parcel maps and carried on the County secured property tax rolls; provided, however, that such a special tax shall not be imposed upon a federal or state governmental agency or another local agency. This special tax shall be imposed in accordance with the following schedule.

*Measure J - continued*

The following are the special tax rates for the Coast Life Support District:

<u>Actual Land Use</u>	<u>Units of Benefit</u>
Undevelopable agricultural, timber, pasture, or waste land	0
Vacant Buildable Lot	1
Developed Lot	2

**SECTION III. SPECIAL TAX LIMIT**

The special tax authorized by this Ordinance shall not exceed \$74 per unit of benefit per year.

**SECTION IV. REPORT AND HEARING**

Each year prior to the imposition of said tax the District's Board of Directors shall cause a report to be prepared showing each parcel, the owner(s) thereof, and the proposed levy thereon. Upon the receipt of such report, the Board of Directors shall set a date for a hearing thereof and shall cause notice of such hearing to be posted at three (3) public places within the District, or, in lieu of posting, by mailing notice of hearing to each property owner at the address disclosed on the latest tax roll. At said hearing, the Board of Directors shall make such corrections to the taxes proposed to be levied as may be required to conform to the schedule as set forth above.

**SECTION V. COLLECTION**

The tax shall be collected in the same manner and subject to the same penalty as other property taxes collected by the Counties.

**SECTION VI. APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT**

The appropriations limit for the District shall be increased by the amount of the additional tax money raised by imposition of this tax.

**SECTION VII. REPEAL OF EXISTING SPECIAL TAX**

Upon the approval of this ordinance by two-thirds of the voters voting on this question, the existing special tax, limited to \$18.00 per unit of benefit per year, shall be repealed. The appropriation limit for the District shall be increased by the amount of the additional tax money raised by imposition of this tax, for the maximum period permitted by law.

Measure J – continued

**SECTION VIII. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE**

If any section, subsection, sentence, phrase or clause of this Ordinance for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The Directors of the District hereby declare that they would have adopted the Ordinance and each section thereof despite the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, phrases or clauses be declared invalid.

**SECTION IX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its confirmation by two-thirds of the voters in the District voting in an election to be held on April 8, 2014.

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS**

**AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A SPECIAL TAX FOR EXPANSION OF THE AVAILABILITY OF URGENT MEDICAL CARE**

**MEASURE J**

Pursuant to Government Code Section 50077 the Coast Life Support District Board of Directors proposes an ordinance authorizing a special tax increase to be voted upon by the voters of the District for the expansion of urgent medical care availability to seven days per week to replace the existing tax. The proposed ordinance will also increase the District's spending limit to allow use of the increased proceeds of the tax.

The following are the special tax rates for the District:

<u>Actual Land Use</u>	<u>Units of Benefit</u>
Undevelopable agricultural, timber, pasture, or waste land	0
Vacant Buildable Lot	1
Developed Lot	2

The current tax rate is \$18.00 per unit of benefit per year. The proposed tax rate authorized by this ordinance shall not exceed \$74.00 per unit of benefit per year. Approval of the proposed Ordinance by two thirds (2/3) of the votes cast is required for the increase in the special tax to become effective. The revenue generated by the increase in the special tax shall be used solely for the purposes of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining urgent medical services, and for other necessary operating expenses of the District, consistent with Section 40 of Chapter 375, Statutes of 1986. (Coast Life Support District Act)

The tax will take effect upon the approval by the voters and will be reflected on the Secured Property Tax bill beginning with those issued for fiscal year 2014-2015.

A "YES" vote will authorize the increase of the special tax for each unit of benefit as depicted in the Resolution No. 221 of the Board of Directors of the Coast Life Support District.

A "NO" vote will disallow the special tax increase.

s/Douglas L. Losak  
Douglas L. Losak  
Chief Deputy County Counsel  
Mendocino County

s/Bruce D. Goldstein  
Bruce D. Goldstein  
County Counsel  
Sonoma County

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF  
MEASURE J**

For 20+ years Redwood Coast Medical Services (RCMS) provided urgent medical care services 7 days per week. RCMS stopped providing direct after hours urgent care services in 2009 due to financial constraints. Since then **urgent care medical services have not been available to coastal residents 70% of every week, particularly there is no weekend coverage** for the 62 hour prior between Friday evening and Monday morning.

Medical issues like cuts and wounds, burns, sprains or broken bones requiring x-rays, bronchitis, fevers and various infections can require a three to four hour round trip to Fort Bragg or Santa Rosa. The waiting and treatment time at hospital emergency rooms averages over five hours, and can be shockingly expensive. For most of us RCMS is a relatively short drive and the average urgent care visit at RCMS, including waiting time, takes slightly more than an hour.

Currently the annual parcel tax funds less than half of the annual deficit of weekday urgent care. The remaining \$170,000 comes from donations to RCMS leaving no money for diagnostic equipment expansion, etc. **It is important to provide weekend coverage and find a sustainable method to fund urgent care service – we can't rely on ongoing community donations.**

A just completed community health survey concluded that 86% of district residents feel that after hours care is a highly important or important service. Having 10 hour, 7 day per week coverage will increase our tax for developed parcels to \$112 which is 31 cents a day – much less than a cup of coffee.

**VOTE YES ON J for the peace of mind of knowing that urgent care will be available on weekends and during the week at a reasonable cost, and is minutes instead of hours away.**

s/Richard Perry  
Member, Board of Directors  
Coast Life Support District

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF  
MEASURE J**

Medical services continue to be available, 24/7. If you call 911, a superbly trained Paramedic/EMT ambulance team will respond. If you and they think you need to see a doctor, you can choose between going to the hospital and RCMS, via helicopter, ambulance or car. CLSD's \$175,000.00 study projects urgent care usage will remain much the same, even if offered 24/7 (Camden; 11/06/2013, pages 5-6). For non-emergencies, if you chose to go to Santa Rosa, you will continue to do so. If you chose to be seen at RCMS, you will continue to do so. People will choose where they receive their care just as they always have. No deaths have resulted from four-years without after-hours urgent care. More urgent care hours offered does not mean more care delivered.

If you answered the RCMS survey, you know the question asked was general. Urgent care specifically offered in Gualala was not the subject. About the \$148.00 taxation rate, refer to Measure J language.

The proponent author has addressed his argument to those that live "minutes" from Gualala. He knows that Manchester northward, Annapolis, and Stewarts Point southward residents are angry about this tax. The cost to those living close to RCMS is more than morning coffee, that is, if one values the good will of one's neighboring communities. Fairness is important. Unexplored options exist and further scrutiny is needed. Let's do better and try again in November. **PLEASE VOTE NO ON MEASURE J.**

s/Scott Farmer  
Voter

s/Don Dunning  
Resident of Fort Ross School District and Voter

s/John P. Rosson  
Resident of Fort Ross School District and voter

s/Rita Miller  
Resident of Annapolis and Voter

**ARGUMENT AGAINST  
MEASURE J**

The CLSD Board has wasted up to \$30,000.00 of your tax money to fund this special election when they could have saved your money by waiting two months to have their measure appear on the general ballot in June. They freely and cynically admit that fewer voters will vote. This means that this tax increase has a better chance of passing.

“Urgent care” is a non-emergency visit with a medical provider when you do not have a prior appointment. Measure J offers no additional clinic hours on weekdays and ten on-call hours each Saturday and Sunday while **raising taxes 400 percent**, up to \$148 per year for each lot with a home. Vacant parcels that can be developed are half that amount. Furthermore, the board has over \$200,000.00 in unspent reserve funds dedicated to urgent service. **AMBULANCE SERVICES ARE NOT AFFECTED.**

Many district residents live far from Gualala and RCMS and logically choose to go to Healdsburg, Fort Bragg or Santa Rosa for care. This growing tax burden is unfair to them.

In addition to the \$30,000.00 spent to pay for this special election, \$175,000.00 was spent on a feasibility study (Camden Study) to guide this process. The direction this board has chosen is to build an extended hours system that is too centralized, is heavily reliant on property taxes and is too expensive for what is being offered.

Extended hours care should be self-funded by medical insurance payments and less reliant on property tax support. The board should spend down the over \$200,000.00 reserve funds to continue extended care hours while we find a better way. A NO vote says we can do better, we deserve better. Please join us. **Vote NO on Measure J.**

s/Scott Farmer  
Voter

s/Don Dunning  
Resident of Fort Ross School District and Voter

s/John P. Rosson  
Resident of Fort Ross School District and voter

s/Rita Miller  
Resident of Annapolis and Voter

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST  
MEASURE J**

**The authors against Measure J are ill informed.** Urgent care at RCMS is not a “non-emergency visit when you don’t have an appointment” as claimed by the opponents. Medical issues like cuts and wounds, burns, sprains or broken bones requiring x-rays, and various infections are urgent care issues. Tell a new mother on the weekend carrying her toddler with high fevers and chest infections that our opponents have a better solution which is a three to four hour round trip to Fort Bragg or Santa Rosa and add the typical five hours of waiting and treatment time at a hospital emergency room.

The Measure J opponents state that extended hours should be self-funded by insurance. This is another example of the authors not having their facts straight. RCMS currently charges the maximum allowed by Medicare, Medical and insurance companies – legally they can’t charge higher rates.

**The arguments against Measure J fully miss the mark on what this election is about.** It’s about expanding urgent care on weekends and providing adequate financing over a multi-year period; providing significant health care and cost and time saving benefits and not relying on donations to assure urgent care services will continue to be available.

This election is not about speculated motivations of the special election or the hiring of a consultant. A vote changes none of these events. These are just smoke screens.

The real issues regarding Measure J are:

- Do you want urgent care available to you and your family 7 days a week?
- Do you want to avoid the long drive, waiting time and cost of an ER?
- Is this essential service worth the additional 31 cents per day it costs?

**If your answer is YES join us by voting YES on Measure J!**

s/Richard Perry  
CLSD Board Member

s/Alex Long  
Co-Chair, RCMS Board of Directors

s/Steve May  
Co-Owner, Surf Market

s/Phil Burfoot  
Vice Mayor, Pt. Arena City Council

s/Richard Hughes  
Chair, Community Health Care Task Force

**Coast Life Support District  
District Administrator's Report  
January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

1. Personnel.
  - a. Turnover. With the departure of EMT Bronwyn Golly from the full-time ALS crew, who is pursuing her career as a paramedic, we have initiated a search for a replacement.
  - b. Training. Our parent regulatory agency, Coastal Valley EMS Agency, has radically changed protocols for cervical spine immobilization to reduce transportation-related injuries and patient discomfort. We will begin a campaign to disseminate these new protocols to our district-area fire department EMTs and First Responders.
  
2. Finance
  - a. Medi-Cal Reimbursement. I have calculated our first half-year (FY2010) and second full year (FY10-11) reimbursement claims, which should net us about \$115K. There could be some definitional conflicts at audit that may reduce this, but only slightly if at all. We should see the funds in the spring. I beaver away on the remaining two years.
  - b. Financial Position. Although our transport volume is down from last year, we are still in pretty good shape as long as we keep building our reserve.
  
3. Community
  - a. Training. This month begins a new era in EMT training for the District, with Anthony Macedo picking up where Nick Scanlon-Hill left off last year. We have about a dozen new students from throughout the District.
  
4. Urgent Care
  - a. The RFP has yielded three responses so far: RCMS, St. Joseph Healthcare System, and Sutter Health. The response review and scoring will be worked through the sub-committee with a recommendation to the board at the February meeting.

/s/  
Scott Foster  
District Administrator



**Coast Life Support District  
Accounts Receivable Status**

December-13

ALS Transports	23
BLS Transports	6
Dry Runs	13
ALS/BLS Treat & Release	3
<b>Total Activity</b>	<b><u>45</u></b>

Accounts Receivable Balance @ 11/30/2013           \$    295,011.03

Ambulance Revenue   \$    130,528.80

Reductions to Revenue

MediCare Required	\$   (54,611.62)
Medi-Cal Required	\$   (24,061.11)
District Resident 50% Discount	\$   (8,055.28)
<b>Total Reductions for Month</b>	<b><u>\$   (86,728.01)</u></b>

*Ambulance Revenue Net*

Payments Received   \$    (29,190.22)

Write-Offs

Collections Agency	\$   (27,528.00)
Other Adjustments	
<b>Total Write-Offs for Month</b>	<b><u>\$   (27,528.00)</u></b>

Accounts Receivable Balance @ 12/31/2013           \$    282,093.60

CURRENT	\$   108,170.07
31-60 Days	\$    83,030.20
61-90 Days	\$    18,253.82
91+ Days	\$    72,639.51

Aging Report Balance @ 12/31/2013                 \$    282,093.60

Payment Plan Accounts EOM: 16 @ \$17555.93

Cash on Hand

FAMIS Account	\$   643,423.88
Redwood Credit Union Checking	\$    51,107.59
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b><u>\$   694,531.47</u></b>

Board Approval/Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)