



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO
UNDERTAKE AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) MODERNIZATION PROJECT**

April 23, 2013

Dear Contra Costa County EMS Stakeholder:

The County of Contra Costa is undertaking an EMS modernization project. The purpose of this initiative is to provide direction to County EMS in responding to challenges facing the healthcare and emergency response systems in the County and address the external changes affecting state and national healthcare systems. Local issues include the closure of fire stations and the reduction of resources available for medical first response, and changes in healthcare facility capabilities and needs within Contra Costa County.

We are pleased to invite you, as key community partner, to join us in exploring innovative solutions that will lead to a sustainable and robust service-delivery system.

The County is partnering with Fitch & Associates, LLC, to assist us in developing options for modernizing our Emergency Medical Services to meet the needs of patients and the community. The process has two overriding objectives:

1. Identify and recommend actions and decisions based on the benefits to the patients and the community, and
2. Define roles and healthcare delivery services based on value – cost versus benefit.

Fitch & Associates has periodically worked with the County and is very familiar with the unique characteristics of our EMS and healthcare systems. We will be working together to identify short-term actions to address the substantive issues impacting EMS as well as developing strategic initiatives to position county out-of-hospital and emergency medical services for the next decade.

Your insight and input is essential to collaboratively address the needs of our out-of-hospital and emergency medical care services community in designing a system that will provide a high level of care and sustainable services for our residents.

- To learn more about Fitch & Associates, please visit their website at: www.fitchassoc.com
- To learn more about the project, opportunities for engagement, and upcoming community and stakeholder meetings, please visit the project informational website (cut and paste the link into your browser) at: <http://cchealth.org/ems/system-review.php>.

We invite you to be a part of this collaborative process. Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity and an obligation, to design a responsive and effective EMS system that will sustain our out-of-hospital and emergency medical services far into the future.

Please watch for more information about upcoming group meetings and stakeholder interviews. Questions about this project may be directed to the County EMS Office or directly to the Fitch & Associates' consultants at: CCCEMS@fitchassoc.com.

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Richard Keller, Founding Partner
Fitch & Associates, LLC

