



Superior Court of California

County of Ventura

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

April 10, 2002

TO:

- Board of Supervisors, County of Ventura
- John F. Johnston, Chief Executive Officer County of Ventura
- Tobacco Settlement Program Evaluation and Allocation Advisory Committee
- Tobacco Settlement Program Finance Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR PROGRAM

The Superior Court has been working with the County's Emergency Medical Services Office for about three years now to help strengthen the Court's ability to provide emergency and disaster preparedness services to employees and the public alike.

For the past ten years the Court has made every effort to provide each of our units with personnel who are CPR qualified. During past Court holidays, we provided CPR training to approximately 20 of our staff. Our current emergency training plan is to conduct CPR training during normal business hours. During the first quarter of 2002 we have provided this training to 49 Court employees. Through the support of the AED Program of the County's Emergency Medical Services Unit, we will be incorporating AED training into the Court's program. The Court's recently trained 49 CPR employees are scheduled for AED training in April.

The Court recognizes the importance of our ability to provide emergency response when the need arises. We are very aware of the critical aspect of "time" in emergency situations. The Court finds the Automated Defibrillator to be another important tool in helping to save a life. Sudden cardiac arrest claims over 350,000 lives per year and the odds of survival are 1 in 20. Also, sudden cardiac arrest does not discriminate based on age.

The most effective treatment is defibrillation if rendered immediately. The time it takes to walk to a mid-point location in the HOJ from the nearest point of parking is 2.5 to 3.5 minutes. This must be added to the time it takes for paramedic services to arrive at the scene. Having an AED onboard could reduce that time to 1 minute or less. Given the survival protocol for sudden cardiac arrest, the Court determined that to maximize the benefit to a person in distress, there should be one AED on each floor and in each wing of the Hall of Justice and each floor of the East County Courthouse.

The Superior Court wholeheartedly supports the deployment of the AEDs by the County's Emergency Medical Services Office. Last year the County of Ventura funded 50 AED's and support staff from the Tobacco Settlement funds. The Superior Court would like to see the