I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued participation in the EMS System Redesign Workgroup. Because of your commitment to this process, we have made great strides towards developing a comprehensive, state-of-the-art EMS system for Alameda County that will serve all its residents and visitors.

At our last meeting, a suggestion was made to form an executive committee of the Workgroup to review recommendations, develop concepts for the RFP, and bring them back to the Workgroup for approval. The proposal was that a wide-reaching set of Workgroup participants would be members of the executive committee. I indicated that I would think about that and get back to the Workgroup at the next meeting.

Upon further reflection, I realized that while this idea could potentially streamline the Workgroup approval process, it would also create conflicts that would either undermine the integrity of the RFP process or result in the exclusion of executive committee members and their agencies from participating in the resulting procurement. To date, we have been very careful to use the Workgroup as a means of getting input from all stakeholders, with the goal that once that information had been gathered, the HCSA/EMS project managers would develop the RFP. The proposed executive committee would give the members and their agencies too much direct input into the crafting of the RFP and would result in their agencies’ disqualification as bidders.

I’m glad we realized the conflict before getting too invested in a new committee. We will continue to move forward as we have for the past 18 months in the System Redesign Workgroup making recommendations through multidisciplinary committees. All of your voices will continue to be valued and heard as we – as a group – recommend to the writers of the RFP which EMS system would be best for our community.