

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: April 7, 2005

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION #2005-193 SUPPORTING THE RETENTION OF THE CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY (CDF) AIR ATTACK BASE AT HEMET-RYAN
AIRPORT**

RECOMMENDED MOTION:


That the Board join with me in adopting Resolution #2005-193.

BACKGROUND:

Hemet-Ryan Airport, which is a public General Aviation airport, owned and operated by the County of Riverside, has supported an aerial firefighting/attack base ("air attack base") since 1967 and is the most active aerial firefighting base in the Country. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) has an established air attack base currently in operation at Hemet-Ryan Airport with four permanently based aircraft, providing initial attack services to over 830,000 acres of land in Riverside County and neighboring counties that is the State of California's responsibility, as well as hundreds of thousands of acres of land that are Federal and local responsibility. According to CDF, the climate, topography, fuels and weather in the area served by the air attack base at Hemet-Ryan Airport includes some of the most seriously imperiled land in the State. Hemet-Ryan Airport is located in an area that is not typically affected by the climatic factors that reduce flying hours (e.g. high winds, fog, smog, etc.), particularly during peak fire season, allowing minimal response times to the most vulnerable areas in the County of Riverside.

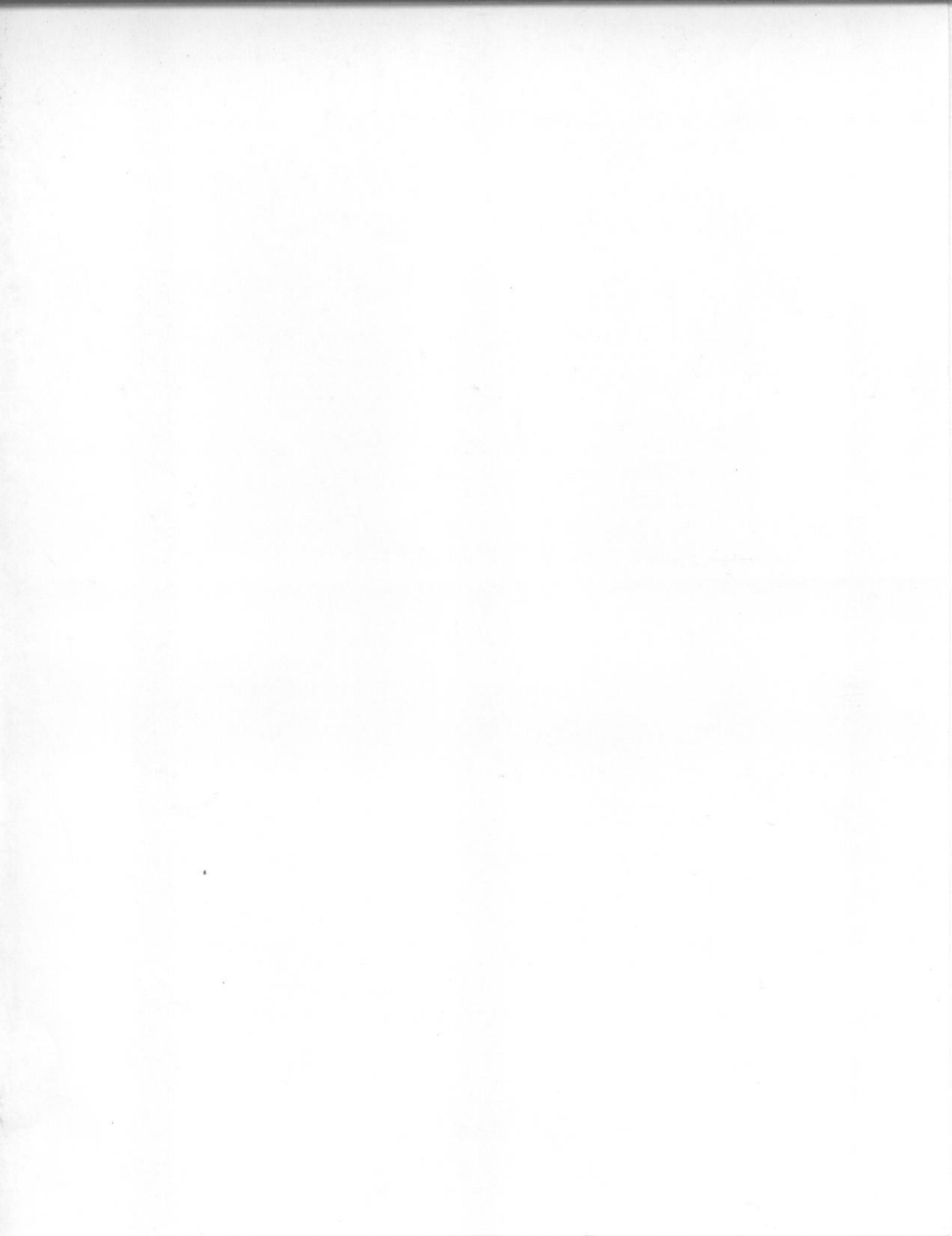
Relocation of the air attack base to any other facility would have a significant adverse impact upon aerial firefighting service for approximately 190,500 acres in Riverside County that are considered to be at very high risk. Utilizing another facility, whether in Riverside County or in any neighboring county, would increase response times by ten minutes or more, a critical factor in the success or failure in initial attack response.

The adoption of Resolution #2005-193 will support the retention of the CDF Air Attack Base at Hemet-Ryan Airport, significantly minimizing the potential loss of life and property for the residents of Riverside County as well as residents of neighboring counties.



Jeff Stone, Supervisor
Third District

JS:vc



RESOLUTION #2005-193

1 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RETENTION OF THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT
2 OF FORESTRY (CDF) AIR ATTACK BASE AT HEMET-RYAN AIRPORT

3 WHEREAS, Inland Southern California is subject to significant
4 ongoing threats from wildfires in riparian, upland, and mountainous
5 regions;

6 WHEREAS aerial firefighting is a proven means of minimizing or
7 eliminating threats to both life and property from said wildfires;

8 WHEREAS Hemet-Ryan Airport, which is a public General Aviation
9 airport owned and operated by the County of Riverside, has supported
10 an aerial firefighting/attack base ("air attack base") since 1967
11 and is the most active aerial firefighting base in the Country;

12 WHEREAS the California Department of Forestry ("CDF") has an
13 established air attack base currently in operation at Hemet-Ryan
14 Airport with four permanently based aircraft, including two S-2T
15 Tracker firefighting tankers, one UH-1H Super Huey firefighting
16 helicopter, and one OV-10A Bronco spotter/control aircraft;

17 WHEREAS CDF has air attack bases strategically located at
18 appropriate airports throughout California to provide tactical air
19 support;

20 WHEREAS the aerial firefighting assets based at Hemet-Ryan Airport
21 provide mutual aid response to numerous areas outside Riverside
22 County on an as-needed basis;

23 WHEREAS the air attack base at Hemet-Ryan Airport provides initial
24 attack services to over 830,000 acres of land in Riverside County
25 and neighboring counties that is the State of California's
26 responsibility, as well as hundreds of thousands of acres of land
27 that are Federal and local responsibility;

28 WHEREAS according to CDF, the climate, topography, fuels, and
weather in the area served by the air attack base at Hemet-Ryan
Airport includes some of the most seriously imperiled land in the
State;

WHEREAS Hemet-Ryan Airport is located such that it minimizes
response times to the most vulnerable areas in the County of
Riverside;

WHEREAS Hemet-Ryan Airport is located in an area that is not
typically affected by the climatic factors that minimize flying
hours (e.g. high winds, fog, smog, etc.), particularly during peak
fire season;

WHEREAS The U.S. Forest Service has relocated its regional fixed-
wing aerial firefighting assets to San Bernardino County, thus
decreasing the air assets available to attack fires in the County of
Riverside;

1 WHEREAS relocation of the air attack base to any other facility
2 would have a significant adverse impact upon aerial firefighting
3 service for approximately 190,500 acres in Riverside County that are
4 considered to be at very high risk and would increase the number of
5 initial attack failures;

6 WHEREAS utilizing another facility, whether in Riverside County or
7 in any neighboring county, would increase response times by ten
8 minutes or more, and time is the critical factor in the success or
9 failure in initial attack response; and

10 WHEREAS fifteen minutes of additional response time can mean up to
11 one additional mile of fire spread depending on wind and fuel
12 conditions.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the
14 County of Riverside has concluded that retaining the CDF Air Attack
15 base at Hemet-Ryan Airport will continue to significantly minimize
16 the potential loss of life and property, and is a significant asset
17 for residents of the County of Riverside, as well as residents of
18 neighboring counties.
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