

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



FROM: Supervisor Jeff Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: March 18, 2008

SUBJECT: State Funding for Capital Improvement Project at Hemet Ryan Air Attack Base

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors support the request to the State of California for approval of the CAL FIRE Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base capital outlay project funding. That the attached letter be approved for signature on behalf of the Board.

BACKGROUND: See attached letter for details.



Jeff Stone Third District Supervisor

3.54



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

March 18, 2008

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The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

As the Supervisors of Riverside County we are asking for your support to provide the state funding necessary for the extremely important capital outlay project at the Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base, Hemet, Riverside County, California.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the County of Riverside are partnering to fund capital improvements at the airport. We cannot emphasize enough how important this major air attack base capital outlay project is to the County of Riverside and to all of Southern California.

The County of Riverside has already committed and begun spending over \$2.5 million dollars to supplement the project. The County will also commit approximately \$15 million to lengthen the runway and relocate two major thoroughfares that are nearby. On December 18, 2007, the Board approved a Joint Development Agreement for the new base and authorized hiring an architecture firm to begin developing the working drawings and contraction documents. The architecture firm has been working since the first of the year and will have the project ready to go to bid by the end of this year or the first quarter of 2009.

The Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base is one of only two critical air attack facilities located in the very fire prone Southern California area. The recent October 2007 fire siege proved the value of the Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base when over two thirds of CAL FIRE's air tankers were responding to and from and reloading retardant at the base. During the siege, CAL FIRE committed over 17 air tankers, 7 air tactical planes and 6 helicopters to the base that flew 740 hours on all of the fires. In total, the base loaded over 428,244 gallons of fire retardant into air tankers that dropped the fire suppressing slurry at the 22 major fires

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throughout Southern California. Often, quantitative information is needed to support major capital outlay projects. For this project, the supporting numbers are and have been very humbling for over 40 years.

We urge you to push forward and approve the CAL FIRE Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base capital outlay project. Everyone knows that today's economic times are tough, but the consequences of a public safety failure are much more costly. With a facility having such a successful past history and great future potential, we must believe you will be supportive. Thank you very much for your valued consideration.

Sincerely,

Roy Wilson
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

cc: Michael Genest, Director, Department of Finance
Will Bush, Director, General Services Administration