

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



**ITEM
3.2
(ID # 7587)**

MEETING DATE:

Tuesday, July 17, 2018


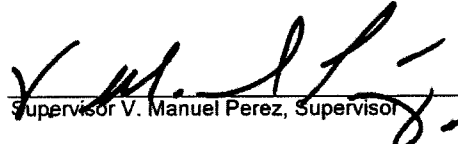
FROM : SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES AND Supervisor Supervisor V. Manuel Perez :

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR KEVIN JEFFRIES & SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ: Legislative Request to Expedite Use of National Guard RPVs to Fight Wildfires

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors directs the following be added to the Federal Legislative Platform:

- 1.) Authorizes the County Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, Deputy County Executive Officer- Legislative Affairs, and the County Federal Lobby Team in Washington, D.C. to engage our Senators and Congressional delegation to seek a change to federal policy regarding the procedure for the authorization for use of remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) assigned to the California National Guard during major wild land fires.
- 2.) Authorizes the above county executive team members to execute a letter of support to our congressional delegation in support of the change to the policy memorandum issued by the Department of Defense in February of 2015. The change will allow the Adjutant General to approve the deployment of RPV's to support fire & rescue missions.

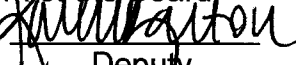
ACTION: Policy


Supervisor Kevin Jeffries, Vice Chairman 7/12/2018 
Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Supervisor 7/12/2018

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Tavaglione, seconded by Supervisor Jeffries and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Perez and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: July 17, 2018
xc: Supvr. Jeffries, Supvr. Perez, EO

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By 
Deputy

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

BACKGROUND:

The California National Guard's 163rd Reconnaissance Wing is based in the County of Riverside and operates remotely piloted vehicles such as the MQ -9. In August of 2013 the predecessor to the MQ-9 , the MQ -1 took off from March ARB and headed north to provide aerial imagery for the Incident Command Team and 4000 firefighters battling the Rim Fire. On that date the fire was 20 percent contained and had burned some 160,000 acres. In support of the Incident Command team the Remotely Piloted Vehicle flew 150 hours in support of the firefighters, identifying where the fire was spreading and mapping the perimeter of the blaze. This was the very first time a remotely piloted vehicle was used for a domestic mission. The fire service praised the RPV's performance and have come to rely on the RPVs assigned in 12 states to support fire & rescue operations. Current federal policy, developed in 2015, requires the authorization to use these RPV's be approved by the Secretary of Defense. Additionally, a 72 hour timetable must pass before the Secretary grants the request. Fire and National Guard officials agree that the approval for authorization - assignment of the RPVs should be delegated to the Adjutant Generals of the States that have been assigned to RPV mission. This speeds up the actual generation of missions in support of fire and search & rescue officials. As of this writing California has 7 wildland fires burning across the state. RPVs have proven their value to Incident Commanders and expediting the approval process may save lives and property.

This Form 11 directs the Executive Office and our federal lobbyist team to work with our Congressional and Senate delegations to craft legislation that would allow a more expedited approval of RPVs in fighting wildfires, potentially by allowing the state's Adjutant General to make such an authorization, and removing the mandatory 72 hour waiting period.

IMPACT ON CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES:

Allowing RPVs to be more quickly authorized to assist in the fighting of wildfires could save lives and property throughout California, and particularly in Riverside County, where RPVs are based.