



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: October 8, 2013

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Support for Aerial Firefighting Resources (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

San Diego County is home to a year-round fire threat. In less than a decade, this region has been engulfed by two major firestorms and battled more than 50 additional large wildfires. These fires have resulted in the destruction of thousands of homes, the devastation of nearly one-million acres and the tragic loss of innocent lives.

Recently the U.S. Department of Defense indicated that they intend to declare multiple C-27's as excess aircraft and available for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service to be used as firefighting aircraft. However, concerns have been raised about a delay in the transfer. The U.S. Forest Service has a dire shortage of firefighting aircraft. Transfer of these aircraft would help to bolster our existing aerial firefighting capabilities and enhance our region's ability to respond to wildland fires.

This Board letter will direct the Chief Administrative Office to draft a letter for the Chair's signature urging the U.S. Department of Defense to transfer up to seven excess C-27 aircraft to the U.S. Forest Service to bolster firefighting resources in San Diego County and other areas.

Recommendation:

CHAIRMAN GREG COX AND VICE-CHAIRWOMAN DIANNE JACOB

Direct the Chief Administrative Office to draft a letter for the Chair's signature urging the U.S. Department of Defense to transfer up to seven excess C-27 aircraft to the U.S. Forest Service to bolster firefighting resources in San Diego County and other areas.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

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Background

San Diego County is home to a year-round fire threat. In less than a decade, this region has been engulfed by two major firestorms and battled more than 50 additional large wildfires. These fires have resulted in the destruction of thousands of homes, the devastation of nearly one-million acres and the tragic loss of innocent lives.

According to data from the National Interagency Fire Center, fuel moisture conditions across the Western United States, including San Diego County, remain near record lows, indicating that we still can expect significant fire activity in the coming years.

Recently this issue was brought to the Chairman's attention during a visit to Washington D.C. The U.S. Department of Defense has indicated that they intend to declare multiple C-27's as excess aircraft and available for transfer to the U.S. Forest Service to be used as firefighting aircraft. The U.S. Forest Service has a dire shortage of firefighting aircraft. Transfer of these aircraft would help to bolster our existing aerial firefighting capabilities and enhance our region's ability to respond to wildland fires. Considering that these planes still need to be demilitarized and retrofit for the firefighting mission, a delay in the decision to transfer these aircraft to the U.S. Forest Service jeopardizes their use during the next fire season. We must call upon the U.S. Department of Defense to immediate transfer these aircraft.

This Board letter will direct the Chief Administrative Office to draft a letter for the Chair's signature urging the U.S. Department of Defense to transfer up to seven excess C-27 aircraft to the U.S. Forest Service to bolster firefighting resources in San Diego County and other areas.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

This request supports the Safe Communities Initiative of the County's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan by supporting activities that maximizes the County's capability to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Cox
Chairman

Dianne Jacob
Vice-Chairwoman

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Second Supervisorial District

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S):

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Robert Spanbauer
Name
619-531-5522
Phone
Robert.spanbauer@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail

Michael de la Rosa
Name
619-531-5511
Phone
Michael.delarosa@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail