COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 23, 2013 **18**

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO SAVE THE RAMONA AIRPORT TOWER (DISTRICTS: ALL)

SUMMARY

Overview

On March 12, 2013, the Board of Supervisors registered opposition to the closing of the Ramona Airport Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) after learning that the tower could possibly be shut down as a result of the federal government's sequestration. Despite the fact that the airport serves as an air attack base for CAL FIRE and U.S. Forest Service firefighting aircraft, the FAA announced on March 22, 2013 that Ramona Airport was one of 149 airports that would lose ATCT funding. On April 5, 2013 the FAA delayed the closure of the towers until June 15, 2013.

S. 687 is a bi-partisan piece of legislation which will prohibit the closure of air traffic control towers (ATCT) in FY 2013 and FY 2014. H.R. 1432 will transfer funding within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to keep the towers open. Today's action would register this Board of Supervisors' support for S. 687 and H.R. 1432, and add to the County Legislative Program support for maintaining air traffic control towers at County airports.

Recommendation(s)

VICE CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SUPERVISOR R. ROBERTS

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to draft a letter expressing this Board of Supervisors' support for S. 687 and H.R. 1432 to the appropriate members of the United States Congress and the federal administration.

2. Direct the CAO to include support in the County's Legislative Program for state or federal legislative efforts that would maintain air traffic control towers at County airports.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO SAVE THE RAMONA AIRPORT TOWER (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Business Impact Statement
N/A

Advisory Board Statement
N/A

Background
On March 12, 2013, the Board of Supervisors registered opposition to the closing of the Ramona Airport Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) after learning that the tower could possibly be shut down as a result of the federal government's sequestration. The FAA announced on March 22, 2013 that Ramona Airport was one of 149 airports that would lose ATCT funding. On April 5, 2013 the FAA delayed the closure of the towers until June 15, 2013.

The Ramona Airport ATCT operates under an FAA contract with Serco Inc. and the airport serves as an air attack base for CAL FIRE and U.S. Forest Service firefighting aircraft. This jointly-operated base is crucial to maintaining public safety in Southern California and its continued operation significantly supports the national interest. This base served as a key location and partner during the 2003 and 2007 wildfires in San Diego County and continues to provide essential firefighting services throughout the year. The air attack base responds to an average of over 400 calls a year and protects more than 1.7 million acres, including U.S. Forest Service land.

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Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan
N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB
Vice Chairwoman, Second District

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A

SUBJECT: FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO SAVE THE RAMONA AIRPORT TOWER (DISTRICTS: ALL)

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: [ ] Yes [X] No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
[ ] Yes [X] No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

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

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Vice Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Supervisor Ron Roberts

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Amber Tarrac (Jacob)	Sterling McHale (Roberts)
Name	Name
619-531-5522	619-531-5544
Phone	Phone
Amber.tarrac@sdcounty.ca.gov	Sterling.mchale@sdcounty.ca.gov
E-mail	E-mail