

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JULY 21, 2015

Camera-equipped drones have gained significant popularity and are being spotted more frequently throughout our airspace. Enthusiasts use these crafts to take aerial photos and videos.

Proponents of drones insist that there is no need to create new laws because the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) already has sufficient laws in place. However, last Friday, five such "unmanned aircraft systems" prevented firefighters from dispatching water dropping helicopters for up to 20 minutes over a wildfire that blazed onto a freeway in San Bernardino County. While drones used by fire or law enforcement can be beneficial during an incident, drones used by enthusiasts trying to take close up video and photos of a wildfire could have disastrous impacts to public safety.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with County Counsel, the Fire Chief and Sheriff, to report back to the Board in 30 days on:

1. The FAA guidelines regarding the use of drones, including but not limited to distance from airports, altitude restrictions, privacy laws, and obstruction of public safety;
2. The effectiveness of FAA regulations;
3. Whether fire and law enforcement have adequate training to enforce regulations pertaining to drones or is special training necessary;

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4. Whether the Sheriff and Fire Department had received complaints regarding drones; and
5. Whether Los Angeles County has the authority to restrict drones; and
6. Whether a County ordinance should be enacted to address any deficiencies in current law.

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