



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
POLICY MANUAL**

**No. 03-13**

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**EFFECTIVE DATE** May 23, 2023

**POLICY: UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS  
GOVERNANCE AND USAGE**

**APPROVED**

DAWN ROWE  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

**POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE**

All Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), which include Unmanned Aircraft (UA), operated by personnel of San Bernardino County (County) and Board of Supervisors/Directors-governed districts, including, but not limited to the San Bernardino County Flood Control District and the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (collectively referred to as "County") shall be operated in a responsible manner and maintained in compliance with this policy, the standard practice issued by the Chief Executive Officer, other County policies, department/district Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the U.S. Constitution and the California Constitution, as well as all applicable State and Federal laws, rules and regulations and local ordinances.

**POLICY AMPLIFICATION**

This policy and the Standard Practice on UAS shall be known as the San Bernardino County Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program. The San Bernardino County UAS program shall provide an enhanced level of operational capability, situational awareness, and safety to the County and Board-governed districts personnel that utilize UAS. The County's UAS program provides UAS-relevant services while continuing to maintain the public trust and respecting the law and the people the County serves. UAS serve to augment existing and emerging air and ground operations and are tools to deploy as needed to enhance safety, cost, and mission effectiveness for the County's UAS Program. All County agencies, departments, and Board-governed districts are responsible for the safe and legal operation of UAS. All procurements, including competitive and non-competitive procurements, of UAS shall be submitted to and reviewed in advance by the County Administrative Office and must receive an authorization to proceed forward with the procurement by the Chief Executive Officer. The policy and standard practice define the conditions and parameters under which County personnel may operate and deploy UAS in support of and in assistance to the County pursuant to their department's/district's mission and requirements. SOPs, which are written and tested department or district-specific procedures that are applied uniformly and consistently and involve all aspects of flight operations and UA/UAS practices and activities, specific to each department/district, reviewed by County Counsel and the County Administrative Office and approved by the Chief Executive Officer, will supplement this policy and standard practice and define specific department/district guidelines and practices.

**DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED**

All County agencies, departments, separate entities and Board-governed Special Districts.

**LEAD DEPARTMENT**

County Administrative Office

**APPROVAL HISTORY**

**Adopted** May 23, 2023

**REVIEW DATES**

May 2028