
NASA GRANT PROPOSAL: GREAT CALIFORNIA DRONE DEBATE



Project Proposal

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Permission To propose to The National Aeronautics and Space Association (NASA)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a request for permission for the Davis High School Speech And Debate Team to propose a new NASA project and then to participate in the project were our proposal accepted. We would like to ask NASA to fund an online public debate on some of the controversial facets of drone technology. In working with adult project mentors this grant would help provide hands on experience for our students in a number of different fields. Through the project our students would be able to build skills in press relations, graphic arts, administrative processes, remote sensing, aeronautics, law, natural resources management, fire suppression and computer science. We would also raise \$3,000 for the project with any remaining funds going to the Speech And Debate Team.

This project would be coordinated with 9 other high schools. It is expected that this list would include high schools in 4 other areas where adult mentors have helped us with the planning process. These schools would be in Arbuckle, Berkeley, Ridgecrest, and San Diego. Each of these schools would receive \$1500 from NASA for their participation in the project. Davis high would receive more funds because we would be planning the project from Davis High this summer, adding the schools that have already been contacted and devising strategies to add the remaining 4 regions. In Fall we expect the project to have between one and two hundred students and 100 adult mentors.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

California could greatly benefit from a public debate on the use of UAS technology. This is a difficult debate to hold because different regions in California have different prevailing views and understand the issues related to the technology in very different

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ways. In large part this is because UAS technology is proposed to be used differently in different parts of the State.

In urban parts of the state the first proposals have come from police groups wanting to use the technology for surveillance — These proposals have not always received a warm reception. There are also peeping tom issues and concerns over data mining companies selling information on citizen's gathered by drones.

In rural California, issues can be quite different. In the Sierra foothills the California's exceptionally dry conditions are expected to produce a difficult fire season. There is little resistance in these areas to using UAS systems for fire fighting.

California's agricultural areas will be particularly hard hit by the drought. The use of remote sensing technology including UAS systems offers the chance to inexpensively increase on farm efficiency reducing the amount of pesticide, herbicide, fertilizer and water needed by farmers. However, issues on conflicts with crop dusters and concern over surveillance of farm operations and general government surveillance exist in rural areas as well.

One way to assure a fair and even handed regional debate would be to use high school debate teams as moderators of an on-line discussion of the issues surrounding UAS systems. The students would moderate a public discussion of the technology for their region. Then each school would produce a well organized summary document describing the various points of view that were expressed in their on-line public debate.

In each high school selected, the group would differ because of regional differences for example, the entity receiving the funds may be the parent group like the "Davis debate

and speech team boosters" or Arbuckle Future Farmers of America (FFA) supporters. Grant funds will be administered as a typical high school fundraising event.

FUND ADMINISTRATION

Funds would be transferred from the earth science division of Ames NASA to Dr. Susan Ustin of the University of California at Davis.

University of California, Davis
Susan Ustin
Department of Land, Air & Water Resources
One Shields Avenue
University of California, Davis
Davis, CA 95616
phone: (530) 752-0621 or (530) 752-5092
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calspace@ucdavis.edu
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The Great California Drone Debate project would be added to an the existing space grant program as a task order. A description of the space grant program can be found at:

<http://casgc.ucsd.edu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2014-03-28-CaSGC-Meeting-Presentation.pdf>

As appropriate the University of California would distribute funds to entities designated by participating high school principals. For Davis Senior High School I ask that we designate the Davis Senior High School Speech and Debate Boosters to receive the NASA funds.

Davis Senior High School Speech and Debate Boosters
3054 Carmelo Ln
Davis CA 95618

Project checks would be made payable to the Davis Senior High School Speech and Debate Boosters. This group is registered with the California Secretary of State as a 501 (C3) with tax ID number 46-4666978.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns. I can be reached by e-mail at: ryan_darling@sbcglobal.net

If you are comfortable signing this document, please return via Ms. Widman, the teacher leading the Davis Senior High School Speech and Debate Team"

Signed: _____

Date: _____