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FEDERAL RAIDS

Whittier to boost immigrant aid

\$100K in outreach added; some residents urged more action

By Anissa Rivera
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Responding to the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement crackdown, the Whittier City Council has adopted a formal resolution aimed at boosting aid to immigrant families affected by the raids, directing resources to help them understand their

rights and assisting with immigration-related paperwork. The five-member council voted unanimously Tuesday to add \$100,000 to its \$30,000 donation to the Hispanic Outreach Taskforce and Interfaith Food Center to help Whittier immigrant families affected by federal immigration enforcement operations. The boost would temporarily subsidize city

fees related to passport applications, distribute “know your rights” materials at city facilities and help community groups working with residents to file immigration-related paperwork. The resolution, which passed after a raucous five-hour meeting, also directs city staffers to help local businesses that have

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An overflow crowd attends the Whittier City Council meeting on June 10 to protest federal immigration enforcement in Los Angeles County. The council approved an aid resolution Tuesday. **ANISSA RIVERA —STAFF**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Teen tackles wildfires with AI-based drones

Fighting fire with drones

One California teen is offering a new kind of front-line defense against wildfires: solar-powered, AI-enabled drones that detect, monitor and help suppress fires before they spread. Anika Jha, a 15-year-old inventor from Arcadia and the creator of Fire Drones, designed a prototype system that spots signs of wildfire early and assists firefighters with real-time data. She’s also behind apps focused on earthquake prediction and youth health, which she developed as part of the nonprofit Technovation program.

How the fire drone works

Solar panel: Will provide 2 hours of power daily. Backup batteries will provide power at night. Drone will fly back to a base when power is at 15%. It will land if power is at 2%.

Antennae: Used to communicate with fire departments and other drones.

Sensors: Will detect obstacles, temperature, raindrops, smoke and GPS.

Front camera: Switches between infrared and normal view with 120-degree swivel view.

Bottom camera: Same settings as front camera.

Flight computer and memory card: All training, algorithms and drone management will be handled and temporarily store information about the fires when communication is lost.

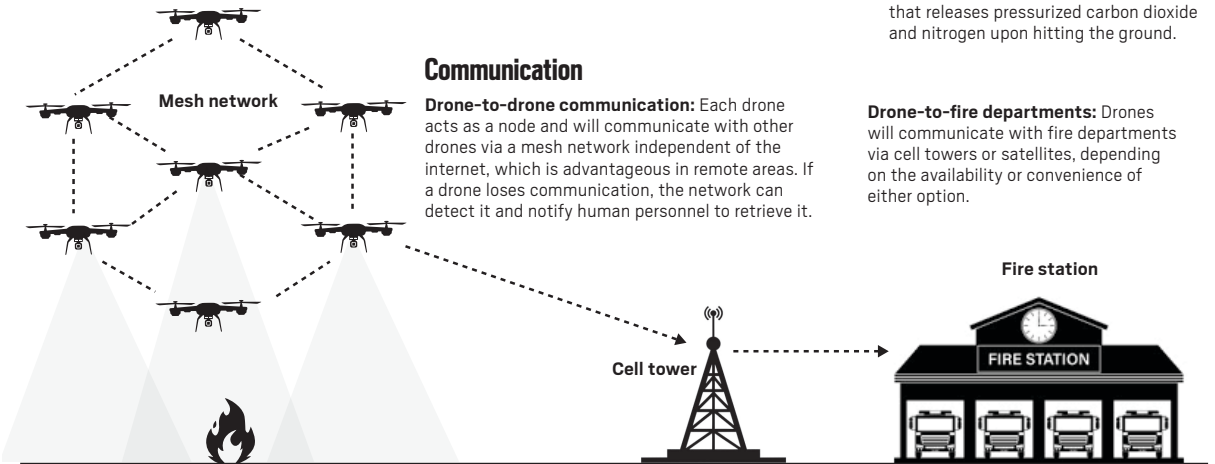
Landing gear

Fire extinguishing bomb deployment: Conveyor belt on both sides of drone holds three fire extinguishing bombs. Each bomb is a biodegradable sphere that releases pressurized carbon dioxide and nitrogen upon hitting the ground.

Communication

Drone-to-drone communication: Each drone acts as a node and will communicate with other drones via a mesh network independent of the internet, which is advantageous in remote areas. If a drone loses communication, the network can detect it and notify human personnel to retrieve it.

Drone-to-fire departments: Drones will communicate with fire departments via cell towers or satellites, depending on the availability or convenience of either option.



Source: Anika Jha; 3D model by Turbosquid

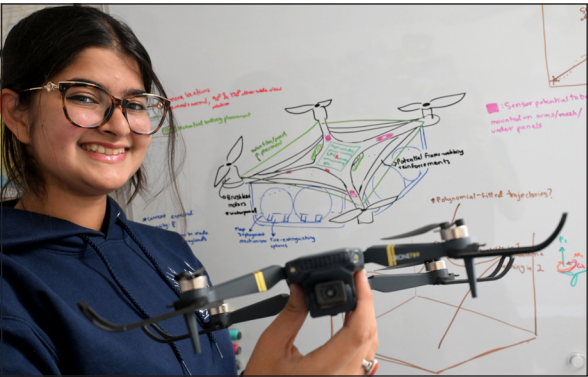
JEFF GOERTZEN, SCNG

Arcadia student creates prototype system to detect, monitor, suppress blazes

By Victoria Le
CORRESPONDENT

High school student Anika Jha pulled an all-nighter the night before an English midterm last year. But she wasn’t cramming for the exam. Instead, Anika spent the night researching and jotting down 15 pages of bullet-pointed notes — the seeds of a project she’d plan to dedicate her adolescence to.

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Anika Jha, 15, is the inventor of Fire Drones, a prototype system designed to detect, monitor and combat fires before they spread. At left, Anika holds a small drone to help develop the prototype system in Arcadia on Monday.

DEAN MUSGROVE
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

L.A. METRO

A Line project faces a key vote

San Bernardino County agency to consider paying its portion of extension into Montclair

By Steve Scauzillo
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The L.A. Metro A Line extension from Pomona to Montclair goes before the transit committee of the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority today for a crucial vote on funding its portion of the light-rail line.

Without committing the funds or failing to sign an agreement with the Monrovia-based Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority, the first line in L.A. Metro history to reach into San Bernardino County could be in jeopardy.

The project is seen as a game changer that would remove 15,000 car trips off the roads each day, including Inland Empire single-passenger commuters

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L.A. COUNTY

Mexico sends back final defendant in killing of deputy

City News Service

The final defendant charged in the 2008 shooting death of an off-duty Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputy in Cypress Park was among more than two dozen fugitives returned to the United States from Mexico, the U.S. Department of Justice announced Wednesday.

Roberto Salazar, 38, is the last of six people who were charged in the roughly 5:40 a.m. Aug. 2, 2008, killing of 27-year-old Deputy Juan Abel Escalante, who was gunned down while leaving his parents’



Escalante

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