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FIRM TO DONATE \$1 MILLION FOR FIRE HELICOPTER

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A local company wants to help San Diego County get off the ground.

Sunroad Enterprises, which owns car dealerships and a golf course among other concerns, announced yesterday it will donate \$1 million over the next five years to boost the county's effort to buy a helicopter to fight fires.

The company wants to help prevent the type of deadly wildfires that hit in October, said Rick Vann, Sunroad's executive vice president.

County officials want a fleet of three helicopters. San Diego County has none now, although it is helping the city of San Diego to lease one.

The county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday will consider spending \$3.5 million to buy one helicopter, but money for operating and staffing it has yet to be secured.

Sunroad is starting the nonprofit Sunroad Fire and Rescue Foundation to coordinate the fund raising. All of its companies will participate. For instance, for every car sold at Pacific Honda and Kearny Mesa Ford, the dealerships it owns, a donation will be made.

For every boat slip rented at Sunroad Resort Marina and every round of golf sold at Maderas Golf Resort, other Sunroad entities, money also will be donated.

Fire officials from a number of departments, including San Diego and Carlsbad, attended Sunroad's announcement, saying they hope it spurs other local companies to contribute.