

MVC's sUAS Policy  
Chris Seidel, MVC 1/9/19

**Intended Use:** The MVC acquired a sUAS (Small Unmanned Aircraft System) to observe and document traffic and pedestrian circulation patterns at critical locations within Dukes County, evaluating various sites for land cover and development factors, and mapping remote areas that are difficult to reach otherwise.

To assist the local conservation commissions and local non-profit conservation groups, the MVC will use the sUAS to map invasive species (i.e. phragmites) and eelgrass in local ponds. Additionally, the MVC may use the sUAS to gather imagery for educating the public on local traffic and environmental issues (i.e. pond health). Lastly, with the applicant's prior consent, the MVC may use the sUAS for certain DRI (Developments of Regional Impact) imagery should such prove a benefit during the review process.

**Regulations:** The MVC will fly under Part 107 FAA regulations and adhere to any additional Federal, State, & Local sUAS regulations. The MVC has one Certified sUAS Remote Pilot (issued by the Dept. of Transportation - Federal Aviation Administration) who is responsible for all aspects of the sUAS flight operation.

**Flight Notification:** It will be custom practice of the MVC to provide at least 48 hours advance public notification for official imagery acquiring flights. Given that the flights are subject to strict weather conditions, the MVC will indicate a 3-day flight window on all flight notices.

**Flying Protocol:**

- Safety at all times
- Follow FAA Part 107 and any additional Federal, State, & Local sUAS regulations
- The flight team will, at a minimum, include a team of two persons; the Remote Pilot in Command and the Visual Observer.
- All items on the MVC's sUAS Pre-Flight Checklist will be reviewed
- Minimum Acceptable Weather Conditions:
  - Chance of precipitation less than 10%
  - Minimum of 3 statute miles visibility
  - Wind speed under 15 knots (less than 20 mph)
  - Cloud base minimum of 500ft
- Fly during daylight and civil twilight hours only
- The sUAS will remain within visual line of sight
- Maximum flying altitude is 400ft above ground level
- No flying directly over people unless they are part of the flight operation and have been briefed prior to the flight
- The sUAS operator will avoid manned aircraft

**Requesting Aerial Imagery Acquisition:** The MVC's aerial imagery acquisition service, via the sUAS, is only available to municipal departments in the 7 towns within Dukes County, local conservation groups, and local non-profit environmental groups (i.e. Edgartown Great Pond Foundation, Tisbury Great Pond Foundation). This service is not for hire to commercial organizations or individuals. To request imagery acquisition, please contact Chris Seidel at 508-693-3453 or [seidel@mvccommission.org](mailto:seidel@mvccommission.org).