

**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA**

For the Agenda of:
February 9, 2021

To: Board of Supervisors

Through: Ann Edwards, Acting County Executive

From: Scott R. Jones, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office

Subject: Authorization To Accept Grant Funding For The Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program From The United States Department Of Justice In The Amount Of \$100,000 For The Retroactive Period Of October 1, 2020, Through September 30, 2021

District(s): All

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Sheriff, or his designee, to accept grant funding from the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) for the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) in the amount of \$100,000, for the retroactive period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, and authorize the Sheriff, or his designee, to have signature authority on all grant-related documents.

BACKGROUND

On October 6, 2020, the Board retroactively authorized the Sacramento Sheriff's Office (SSO) to apply for DCE/SP grant funding in the amount of \$170,000 from the DOJ, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for the period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, (Resolution No. 2020-0642). On December 14, 2020 the SSO received an award letter for the amount of \$100,000, for the retroactive period of October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021, and is now returning to the Board of Supervisors for authorization to accept this grant award.

The SSO has requested and received DCE/SP grant funding from the DOJ, DEA since Fiscal Year 2010-11. During the most recent grant period ending September 31, 2020, \$90,000 in DCE/SP funding was received by SSO. The award of \$100,000 in DCE/SP grant funds will help defray the costs of domestic cannabis eradication. The noncompetitive grant funding will be used to cover overtime costs and related supplies for deputies directly engaged in the cannabis eradication process. Investigating and eradicating illegal grow locations in Sacramento County is costly and resource intensive. Eradication of illicit cannabis will result in a reduction in criminal activity.

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Page 2

The SSO will continue to use a three-phase approach to address domestic cannabis eradication and suppression. Phase 1 is an evaluation phase where the SSO Marijuana Task Force locates and documents active marijuana grows, both illegal grows and those related to medical marijuana recommendations. Phase 2 is the intelligence/analysis phase where analysts identify subjects having multiple grow locations, duplicate medical recommendations, and the subject's probation/parole status. Phase 3 is the eradication phase involving coordinated sweeps, search warrants, and eradication operations throughout Sacramento County.

For the 2020 calendar year the SSO Impact Division, Patrol Divisions, Air Operations, Communication Center, Central Valley California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Investigative Support Center, and Campaign Against Marijuana Planting Program has conducted no less than 20 enforcement operations that include the following; residential, rural, farm, state and federal land, and farm land. The SSO has also cooperated with other agencies that requested to participate in the operations. The SSO has eradicated in excess of 5200 marijuana plants from both indoor and outdoor grows. We have seen that while indoor grows are still prevalent, with over 600 being identified within the County of Sacramento, growers are again moving their operations outdoors. Numerous outdoor grows have been located within our area of operation and we have several major eradication operations upcoming. Similar operations in the past have yielded in excess of 60,000 plants.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Approximately half of the \$100,000 grant funding has been included in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Adopted Budget. The remaining amount will be included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Proposed Budget. All funding will be used to cover overtime costs and related supplies for deputies involved in the cannabis eradication process. There is no match requirement for these funds and no additional net cost to the County.

Attachment(s): RES – Resolution