



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: District Attorney/Sheriff  
Department No.: 021 & 032  
For Agenda Of: May 22, 2007  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme:  
Continued Item: Select\_Continued  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Select\_Vote

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** District Attorney Name & Phone: Christie Stanley, x2308  
Sheriff William F. Brown, Jr. x 4290  
Contact Info: Name & Phone: Marnie Pinsker, x2304

**SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution to Accept and Implement Rural Crimes Prevention Grant**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a resolution authorizing the District Attorney to execute a grant on behalf of the Sheriff and District Attorney to implement a Rural Crimes Prevention Program in Santa Barbara County in FY 06-07 and FY 07-08; and
- b) Approve a budget revision increasing appropriations and revenues in both departments, based on \$ 101,900 in current year grant funding from the State Office of Emergency Services (OES).

**Summary Text:**

Santa Barbara County was recently notified that State funds were allocated for a Central Coast Rural Crime Prevention Program (CCRCP), modeled after a state financed Central Valley Program, to provide a multi-county approach to rural and agricultural crime reduction. A Regional Task Force composed of representatives from the five central coast counties has been formed to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies in rural areas to detect and monitor agricultural and rural-based crimes. The Santa Barbara County program will largely involve a Deputy Sheriff to provide surveillance, arrests, community education and support, while the District Attorney will focus on vertically prosecuting rural or agricultural crime cases. The County Agricultural Commissioner will also provide specialized expertise and participate in the Regional Task Force. Given the importance of the agricultural industry in Santa Barbara County, this program is designed to enhance protection of these resources and develop more effective prevention strategies.

**Background:**

Agriculture is the largest industry in Santa Barbara County, earning \$997 million dollars per year, encompassing a wide variety of agricultural commodities. There are over 1,300 square miles of agricultural land, with many of these fields miles away from Sheriff stations and therefore susceptible to theft and vandalism. Law enforcement has seen an increase in the amount of theft, as well as more sophisticated thieves who specifically target agricultural commodities. Rural/agricultural crime is not limited to one particular area, or a particular agricultural item.

Grant funding will improve coordination of rural crime through assignment of specific deputy sheriff and deputy district attorney staff to this project. Investigations will be handled by a deputy sheriff who is trained in the investigation of rural crime. The Sheriff’s Department will investigate rural crimes, prepare investigative reports, serve arrest and search warrants, and assist the District Attorney’s Office as needed. An experienced deputy district attorney will vertically handle prosecutions from arraignment, through adjudication and sentencing, holding offenders accountable for their offenses and assuring that victim restitution is ordered. While the focus of this grant is Rural Crime that occurs in North County, the less agriculturally based south county cases will be prosecuted by an assigned Deputy DA.

Efforts will also include educating the farming/agricultural community on how to avoid becoming victims and how to assist law enforcement in the identification and apprehension of rural crime offenders. The assigned deputy sheriff will be responsible for community presentations, and as the liaison between the District Attorney’s Office, Agricultural Commissioner, and the farming community.

Consistent with the legislative intent and grant guidelines, Santa Barbara County will also execute an agreement to actively participate in the Regional Task Force. Their goal is to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies in rural areas to detect and monitor agricultural and rural-based crimes, working as a team focused on strategic agricultural crime prevention, enforcement and related issues that affect the region.

**Performance Measure:**

Improve law enforcement detection and response to agricultural and rural-based crimes in rural areas.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: No

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State	\$101,900	\$150,000	
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 101,900.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -

**Narrative:**

While the bulk of expenses occur in the Sheriff’s Department, the grant mandates that the District Attorney administer the grant. This fiscal year, Santa Barbara County was notified in February 2007 regarding this grant opportunity, with the award made effective April 2007. As a result, start up expenses will total \$ 43,000 for a patrol vehicle, night vision and rangefinder binoculars in the Sheriff’s budget and \$5,500 for a laptop, projector and publication materials in the District Attorney’s budget. Salaries and benefits for a .75 Deputy Sheriff and .15 Deputy District Attorney are estimated to cost \$51,400 for the balance of FY 06-07, along with \$2,000 in training and travel. Next fiscal year, the \$150,000 allocation will primarily finance salary & benefit costs, along with training & travel, publications and audit expenses. In addition, a 10% overhead is authorized for administrative expenses.

A final budget change will be prepared to include the FY07-08 appropriations and revenues in both the Sheriff and District Attorney Offices.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**Legal Positions:**  
0

**FTEs:**  
0

Existing positions in both departments will be re-assigned to take on the additional responsibilities of the Rural Crimes Prevention Program. As these activities are not currently performed, they reflect additional responsibilities.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return an executed Resolution to the District Attorney's Office, ATT: Marnie Pinsker

**Attachments:**

Board Resolution  
Budget Revision Request

**Authored by:**

Marnie B. Pinsker, DA Administrative Director

**cc:**