

ATTACHMENT D



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Drew Sugars
Public Information Officer
(805) 681-4192

Date: October 12, 2010
Time: 1:00pm

News Release

SBSO Dismantles Drug Trafficking Organization **Narcotics Detectives seize drugs, make nine arrests**

Santa Barbara--After a year long investigation, a large scale marijuana trafficking organization has been dismantled by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department Narcotics Unit.

During the investigation, it was found that the primary suspect, Erik Bjorklund, was growing marijuana at his residence in the 2900 block of San Marcos Pass Road. Additionally, Bjorklund also had a property in the Tepusquet Road area of Santa Maria where he was growing marijuana with another suspect, Kelsey O'Reilly. The investigation found that Bjorklund was exploiting Proposition 215 / Senate Bill 420 and selling mass amounts of marijuana throughout Southern California for profit.

An additional business partner of Bjorklund's, Jeffrey Vines of Ojai, was found to be bottling large quantities of a liquid mixture with alcohol and cannabis for Bjorklund. He was also found to be a high-risk sex offender on active CDCR Parole with GPS monitoring. A large amount of suspected child pornography was located at Jeffrey Vines' residence in Ojai.

Search warrants were served at (7) separate locations in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The following was located and seized at the Santa Barbara and Santa Maria locations:

- Over 900 active marijuana plants. (Indoor and outdoor) Outdoor could yield over 4 lbs per plant. Rarely seen in SBSO history.
- Over 300 pounds of processed/bagged marijuana for sales.
- Over 50 pounds of hash.
- (28) 5 pound containers of hash oil, full hash/hash oil conversion lab (worth several million dollars street value).
- Over \$125,000.00 cash, (1) 2010 Porsche Panorama, (9) motorcycles seized pursuant to State Asset Forfeiture laws.

It should also be noted that several pounds of processed marijuana were located in a child's room at Bjorklund's residence.

(more)

(continued)

The suspects arrested and booked with the charges requested are as follows:

Erik Bjorklund DOB: 09/02/55 (of Santa Barbara)

Arrested at the San Marcos property and Booked on a \$2,000,000.00 Ramey warrant for 35 counts of Money Laundering; 11370.9 H&S / 186.10 PC, Additional Charges: 11360 H&S Sales / Transportation of Marijuana, 11358 H&S Cultivation of Marijuana. 11359 H&S Possession of marijuana for Sales, 273a (a) PC Child Endangerment, and 11379.6 H&S – Hash conversion lab.

Rachel Ziemer DOB: 09/19/86 (of Santa Barbara)

Arrested at her residence in Santa Barbara and Booked on 11360 H&S Sales and Transportation of Marijuana, and 11359 H&S Possession of Marijuana for Sales

Jeffrey Vines DOB: 07/24/48 (of Ojai)

Arrested at his residence in Ojai and Booked on 3056 PC Felony Parole Violation, 11358 H&S Cultivate Marijuana, 182 PC Conspiracy, and 311 PC Possession of Child Pornography

Christopher Hawkins DOB: 12/14/50 (of Santa Barbara)

Arrested at the San Marcos property and Booked on 11360 (a) H&S Marijuana Sales, 11358 H&S Cultivate Marijuana, and 182 PC Conspiracy

Kelsey O'Reilly DOB: 08/02/77 (of Santa Barbara)

Arrested at his residence in Santa Barbara and Booked on 11360 (a) H&S Marijuana Sales, 11358 H&S Cultivate Marijuana, 15 counts of Money Laundering; 11370.9 H&S / 186.10 PC and 182 PC Conspiracy

David Ziemer DOB: 09/18/57 (of Santa Barbara)

Arrested at his residence in Santa Barbara and Booked on 11360 (a) H&S Marijuana Sales, 11358 H&S Cultivate Marijuana, and 182 PC Conspiracy

Kevin Howe DOB: 12/11/69 (of Santa Maria)

Arrested at the Tepusquet grow and Booked on 11358 H&S Cultivate Marijuana, and 182 PC Conspiracy

Alina Stillwell DOB: 02/28/86 (of Santa Maria)

Arrested at the Tepusquet grow and Booked on 11358 H&S Cultivate Marijuana, and 182 PC Conspiracy

Ryan Brown DOB: 09/03/83 (of Santa Maria)

Arrested at the Tepusquet grow and Booked on 11358 H&S Cultivate Marijuana, and 182 PC Conspiracy

###