



Sheriff/Coroner

COUNTY OF TULARE

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: April 1, 2025

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

CONTACT PERSON: Maria Alvarez-Villagran PHONE: 5598029462

SUBJECT: Approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the California Eradication and Prevention of Illicit Cannabis Program

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Tulare County Sheriff's Office and the California Eradication and Prevention of Illicit Cannabis Program to provide task force services effective from July 1, 2025 through October 30, 2025.
2. Authorize the Sheriff, or designee, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.
3. Direct the Sheriff's Office to provide a copy of the executed agreement to the Clerk of the Board.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this California Eradication and Prevention of Illicit Cannabis (EPIC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), formerly known as the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting Program (CAMP), is to identify agency responsibilities related to marijuana eradication operations conducted in Tulare County.

Created in 1983, EPIC is a unique multi-agency law enforcement task force managed by the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and composed of local, state and federal agencies organized expressly to eradicate illegal marijuana cultivation and trafficking in California. With approximately 110 agencies involved, EPIC is the largest law enforcement task force in the United States. The Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) has participated in EPIC since 2009. The Board approved the previous MOU to participate in EPIC on August 13, 2024, Resolution No. 2024-0755, Agreement No.

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The MOU delineates EPIC and TCSO responsibilities only. An eradication team will be assigned to a region that provides eradication services for Tulare County and will be comprised of law enforcement personnel from local, state, and federal agencies. TCSO staff will be responsible for carrying out the law enforcement function of the team. The EPIC Operations Commander and the Regional Operations Commander will be responsible for the overall coordination of team efforts, including general operating procedures and coordinating priorities.

A prior agreement, identical except for the term, was approved as to form by County Counsel on July 29, 2024. The substantive deviation from the standard County boilerplate identified in the prior agenda item was the agreement includes a mutual indemnification clause. The proposed renewal agreement does not include any additional deviations from the standard County boilerplate. The only change from the prior agreement is the term.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

Each agency contributing personnel resources to the teams will be responsible for their own salaries and benefits of all participating staff except for those hired by EPIC as state emergency personnel, in which case, EPIC will be responsible for salaries and benefits of such staff. The salaries and benefits for Sheriff's personnel will be included in the Sheriff's Fiscal Year 2025/26 operating budget. Sheriff personnel participating in EPIC are included in the Sheriff's existing staff position allocations. There is no additional net County cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Safety and Security initiative to effectively and fairly investigate arrest, prosecute and punish individuals who engage in criminal behaviors. The EPIC MOU will support the initiative by reducing the supply of marijuana to the illegal drug trade by eradicating the large marijuana crop sites; increasing public and environmental safety by removing marijuana growers from public and private lands; investigating indoor growing operations; deterring potential growers; and promoting public information and education on marijuana.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Captain Buddy Hirayama
Mike Boudreaux
Sheriff-Coroner

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: EPIC Memorandum of Understanding