



**San Diego County Sheriff's Department**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT**

*Keeping  
the peace  
since 1850*

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Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008

## **Operation Stonegarden \$5.5 Million Awarded to San Diego County Crime Prevention, Detection, Suppression along International Border**

The San Diego Board of Supervisors today authorized the receipt of the Stonegarden Grant, which focuses crime prevention, detection, and suppression along the underserved, rural areas of East County and on the busy South Bay areas impacted by border-related crime.

The San Diego County Sheriff's Department applied for this grant, and will act as the administrator and the fiduciary agent. Other agencies receiving grant funding include:

San Diego Harbor Police  
California Department of Fish and Game  
California Highway Patrol  
Chula Vista Police Department  
San Diego County Probation Department

Stonegarden was a very competitive grant, based on risk assessment and quality of application. The funds were not guaranteed. Justification had to be articulated and a substantial plan as to how the funds are to be disbursed also had to be included. The interagency cooperation and quality of the application is reflected in the very substantial \$5.5 million awarded to San Diego County. The amount of this award – the highest given – reflects the federal government's acknowledgement of the unique challenges San Diego County faces in preventing and responding to border-related crimes. Imperial County also received a substantial award and the Sheriff's Department will continue to work to share information and ensure all law enforcement agencies along California's southern border are working together to suppress border-related crime.

This money will enhance our efforts to prevent, interdict, and arrest those involved in border-related crimes. New equipment acquisitions will consist of 'high tech' items that will enhance our abilities to observe criminal activity associated with the border. Items such as surveillance cameras and license plate readers will act as force multipliers, maximizing prevention and enforcement efforts by providing operational intelligence.

The residents of San Diego County, particularly in the remote, rural East County and in the South Bay border area will enjoy an increased law enforcement presence as law enforcement institutes additional high visibility, proactive patrols. These will also include increased flights by Sheriff's helicopters. Deputies and officers will actively be looking for criminals and criminal activities. The focus will be on reducing border-related crimes and on helping secure our borders by a strong, visible proactive presence in local communities impacted by the border.

The grant also covers costs, such as fuel and maintenance, associated with the increased enforcement.

Sheriff Kolender commented, "I am very pleased we have been able to acquire the necessary money to help make the border region safer. We will work with all our law enforcement partners – federal, state, and local – to maximize our resources and ensure success."

It is important to note, the Stonegarden Grant does not change the duties and responsibilities of local law enforcement. Local law enforcement is not empowered to enforce federal laws. It simply put, provides additional resources to local law enforcement so we can more effectively prevent and suppress border related crimes.

By sharing information and technology, and by working together with a common operational plan, security along the border will be enhanced and crime will be reduced.

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