

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date / / **Held Until** / /
Agenda Item No: _____ **Agenda Item No:** _____

Department: District Attorney

() **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:
Karen Martin

Phone:
(707) 565-2319

Board Date:
11/10/09

Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Sonoma County Auto Theft Task Force (SONCATT) MOU

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

Authorize the District Attorney to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sonoma County District Attorney, California Highway Patrol, the City of Petaluma Police Department and the City of Santa Rosa Police Department for FY 09/10

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Estimated Cost \$ 467,100

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted \$ 467,100

Unanticipated Revenue \$
(Source:)

Other Avail Approp. \$
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Additional Requested: \$ 0

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Explanation (if required): All funds are included in the FY 09/10 Adopted Budget

Prior Board Action(s): Since FY 98-99, the District Attorney's Adopted Budget has included funds for agreements with Santa Rosa and Petaluma Police Departments for staffing the Sonoma County Auto Theft Task Force.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: SONCATT will not obtain additional police services.

Background:

In 1991, the California State Legislature passed SB2139, later codified as California Vehicle Code, section 9250.14: Fee: Vehicle Theft Deterrence, Investigation, and Prosecution. This Vehicle Code section established a process to collect money from vehicle registration fees in order to fund programs which enhance the capacity of local police and prosecutors to deter, investigate, and prosecute vehicle theft crimes. Funding is generated from a one dollar assessment on vehicle license fees.

In 1998, the Sonoma County District Attorney and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) established a Sonoma County Auto Theft Task Force (SONCATT; formerly SCATT) to reduce the incidence of vehicle theft-related crimes in Sonoma County. Funding for the County's share of costs is allocated from the revenues generated by the vehicle license fees authorized by Section 9250.14 of the Vehicle Code, and adopted by the Board of Supervisors Resolution 92-1040 on June 23, 1992. These fees are to be used only for county-wide auto theft investigation and prosecution.

The CHP is the lead agency, with the District Attorney's Office assuming the responsibility for coordinating and managing the task force budget and purchases. SONCATT is governed by a Task Force Council. The funding for this program is estimated to be \$460,000 for FY 09/10, plus a carry-over amount of \$7,100 from FY 08/09. The total budget for FY 08/09 is \$467,100.

For FY 2009/10, these funds will cover the cost of 1.0 FTE Deputy District Attorney (\$172,325), and 1.0 FTE Secretary (\$92,074), both allocated to the Office of the District Attorney. In the past, the cost of a .50 FTE DA Investigator was covered; however, funds are not sufficient to do so this year. The Task Force Council has agreed to revisit this issue next year.

Funds are also allocated to the Santa Rosa Police Department for a Detective (\$50,000) and for a Field Evidence Technician (\$37,500), and to the Petaluma Police Department for a Detective (\$50,000), with the balance of funds allocated for services and supplies to support the task force (\$65,172).

The CHP does not receive funding for the Sergeant and two Detectives assigned to SONCATT, nor does the District Attorney receive any funding for the administrative support provided to this program.

Each of the parties involved in SONCATT have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which outlines the specific responsibilities of each agency, and also provides for the distribution of the funds to the Santa Rosa Police Department and to the Petaluma Police Department. The term of the MOU is for one year, commencing on July 1, 2009 and terminating on June 30, 2010.

Attachments: Resolution

On File With Clerk: Memorandum of Understanding

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Background: (Continued)

The Sonoma County Auto Theft Task Force has been successful in Sonoma County. According to statistics from the CHP Vehicle Theft Information System, motor vehicle theft in Sonoma County decreased in 2007. The number of motor vehicle thefts reported for the previous four years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2005	1,238	-10.5%
2006	981	-20.8%
2007	906	-7.6%
2008	775	-14.5%

The goals of the taskforce for 2009/10 include focused enforcement, with priority enforcement on identified crews and repeat offenders; priority response to law enforcement call-outs; quality training and interactions with allied agencies, and pro-active enforcement.

REQUESTED ACTION: Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sonoma County District Attorney, California Highway Patrol, the City of Petaluma Police Department and the City of Santa Rosa Police Department for FY 09/10