

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # _____

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station has a highly specialized Off-Road Enforcement Team that enforces the law as it pertains to illegal off-highway vehicle activity in the Santa Clarita Valley Station area. The team currently consists of two sergeants and ten deputies. Each team member has completed the extensive 80 hour Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) in Off-Road enforcement, and must re-certify quarterly with the Department's Motor Training Division.

The Off-Road Enforcement program is funded with grants from the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the City of Santa Clarita as well as cooperative agreements with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. The OHV enforcement operations are conducted on a random basis, typically on the weekends and occasionally in the afternoon hours during the week and specific holidays.

The focus of the program is to educate the OHV enthusiasts and the public on legal riding areas and laws related to OHV activity.

The laws enforced by the Off-Road Enforcement Team are the California Penal Code, California Vehicle Code, California Health and Safety Codes, California Food and Agriculture Code, California Public Resource Code, California Streets and Highway Code, California code of Regulations, and the Los Angeles County Code.

In addition, joint operations are conducted with the United States Department of Forestry inside the boundaries of the Angeles National Forest to prevent illegal OHV activity and resource damage.

Annually, the Off-Road team contacts thousands of OHV enthusiasts while on patrol in the over 133,000 acres of rural lands within our jurisdiction. Approximately 1,450 contacts were made this year alone. This has resulted in the issuance of over 600 warnings for various violations and over 200 citations for illegal OHV activity and equipment/registration violations over the past year.

Due to the high fire danger, the large amount of privately owned land and public-protected lands, the only legal riding areas for OHV enthusiasts in the Santa Clarita Valley area are Hungry Valley OHV Park and Alamo Mountain in Gorman, Drinkwater Flats , and Rowher Flats OHV Park. Certain portions of these areas remain closed for restoration due to the recent wildfires.

Due to the large number of registered OHV's in the Santa Clarita Valley, the fact that two of our local riding areas (Drinkwater Flats and Rowher Flats) are in close proximity to the city, and the fact that there is a great deal of protected open space where OHV's are prohibited, we have a constant problem with the "garage riders" trespassing on private lands, either making their way to the legal riding areas or simply recreating illegally on private property . Weekly enforcement is a necessity to combat this ongoing problem.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

The area patrolled by the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station is unique, with sprawling rolling hills combined with extensive new construction. This allows OHV's easy access to excellent riding areas without having to travel to dedicated OHV riding areas. Unfortunately, these areas are usually restricted due to being designated as a high fire danger zone or land that is privately owned or closed public lands. Therefore, the vehicle trespassing on private and public lands remain a constant problem and a source for hundreds of citizen to complain annually.

The Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station is responsible for 655 square miles of land. Also included under this grant request is funding to continue enforcement in the approximately 600 square miles of mountainous area that Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station is responsible for patrolling. The Off-Road Enforcement Team responds to "calls for service" for those entire areas, and patrols all the fire roads, trails, and public and private land within those areas.

There are three dedicated OHV areas within our area of responsibility: Hungry Valley OHV Park, Rowher Flats, and Drinkwater Flats. There is approximately 120 miles of fire roads/trails that are also open to OHV activity. The Santa Clarita Valley has one of the highest number of registered OHV's per capita in the State of California. That, combined with the fact that much of the community borders hills and open space areas that are attractive to OHV enthusiasts, a large number of "garage riders" exist. These "garage riders" illegally ride their OHV's from their homes, down city streets and onto private and public lands which are closed to motor vehicles. The OHV Enforcement Team also patrols these areas and routinely responds to "Search and Rescue" and "lost" OHV enthusiasts in the entire mountainous area.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

The Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station Off-Road Enforcement Team will provide OHV enforcement patrols on weekends and holidays year round. This region is seldom impacted by inclement weather, therefore OHV patrols are needed year round. Enforcement operations will typically be conducted four times a month during daylight hours, however, the hours and days of the week will vary slightly so as not to develop predictable patterns. In addition to the dedicated OHV patrol operations, our regular deputies will continue to enforce OHV violations when they are able to safely make contact.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

The Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station presently has four sergeants and ten deputies assigned to the OHV Enforcement Team. Those personnel have ten dual purpose motorcycles, a 4X4 Ford Expedition, and helicopter support that is available to respond to the OHV enforcement team's requests.

A typical eight hour OHV enforcement shift consists of one sergeant and two deputies on dual purpose motorcycles, and one deputy driving a 4X4 vehicle. This model may vary slightly depending on availability of personnel and the level of illegal OHV activity. On each operation the motorcycles will traverse approximately 80 miles of fire roads, trails, and other areas frequented by off-road enthusiasts.