



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

William F. Honsal, Sheriff

Media Release

Date: September 21, 2018

Prepared by: Lieutenant Ernie Stewart

Case Number: Multiple

Subject: DEU Search Warrants

Over the last two days the Humboldt Sheriff's Drug Enforcement Unit served two search warrants in the southern and eastern areas of Humboldt County. The first warrant was served on four privately owned parcels in Rancho Sequoia. Approximately 5000 marijuana plants were eradicated from this site.

A second search warrant was served in the Blake Mountain area near Hyampom in the Mad River watershed. Approximately 7000 marijuana plants were eradicated from this location.

Agencies involved in this operation included Wardens from the Fish and Wildlife, environmental scientists from Fish and Wildlife, County Code Enforcement, specialists with the Environmental Health Hazmat team, and the State Water Board.

All properties were outside the scope of medical marijuana guidelines and did not possess the necessary permits or interim permits for commercial cannabis cultivation. Multiple environmental violations were observed including water diversion, sediment pollution and trash dumped in waterways. County Code Enforcement observed multiple commercial cannabis building code violations, grading violations, streamside management violations and improper waste disposal violations. The Environmental health Hazmat team discovered unauthorized hazardous waste storage violations, spill prevention and counter measurement plan violations, and mismanagement of universal waste violations.

Information on the involved suspects continues to be confirmed and when these investigations are completed it is anticipated that they will be forwarded to the Humboldt County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Anyone with information about this case or related criminal activity is encouraged to call the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office at (707) 445-7251 or the Sheriff's Office Crime Tip line at (707) 268-2539.















