

Law Enforcement - Palmdale

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # _____

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

Our Off Highway Vehicle Enforcement Team has been active since the year 2000. Initially we concentrated on issues within the city of Palmdale. The program has grown, and now includes the City of Lancaster and numerous unincorporated areas within the Antelope Valley. Our OHV program has existed with a balance of enforcement and education. Our team is regularly involved in outreach programs. We participate in Public Safety Expos, Fire Service Day, and National Night Out events. We also attend smaller community events, such as the Agua Dulce County Fair, Cherry Blossom Festival in Leona Valley and the Littlerock Fall Festival. At these events, we interact with community members and educate them on the legalities of OHV activity, safety gear, and proper equipment maintenance. We also hand out brochures outlining OHV opportunities in our area and beyond.

The area we serve is very unique. We offer inviting deserts and mountains. There is an Interstate and several major highways that intersect the Antelope Valley area. This makes Antelope Valley a final destination point for many OHV enthusiasts. Many come from the Los Angeles, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and Simi Valley areas, as well as people from Tehachapi, Kern, and San Bernardino County. There are many local residents who also utilize these areas. Most of the issues faced by the Los Angeles County, Palmdale Sheriff's Station are not related to OHV users who legally utilize OHV areas.

The problems arise when OHV enthusiasts take their adventures beyond designated areas and trespass onto private property or areas closed to such activity. During the year 2012, Palmdale Station, received and responded to roughly 900 calls for service. This shows a decrease from the prior year. We also noted a decrease in complaints coming from public offices (City officials, Supervisor's office) as well. This would indicate the efforts we have been able to put forth toward the enforcement and education of the enthusiasts have been successful.

We regularly patrol the areas which are open for OHV enthusiasts, conduct equipment checks, and provide information to trail users. Over the past several years we have stepped up our deployments in an effort to battle the recurring calls for service regarding OHV activity. Due to that, our team has been more visible in the rural areas, causing more residents to be proactive in their respective communities and call us regarding OHV violations and problems as they occur. As stated before, our program is a balance of education and enforcement. We address our OHV issues as "QUALITY of LIFE" issues, rather than crime. Our team is knowledgeable in the applicable laws. We are equipped with the knowledge in the areas of OHV laws, riding areas, equipment requirements and resource availability. We frequently direct off roaders to open recreation areas, providing them maps as well. We want our program to encourage responsible OHV activity.

Our geographical location provides our area a unique mountainous and desert environment. Our OHV team continues to patrol the Angeles National Forest, which is being threatened by OHV activities. These activities cause threats to the very survival of many of our flora and fauna. There are about 250 species of animals with some species at risk of being endangered. The area of Littlerock Dam has been a protected wildlife area, closed to motor vehicle traffic for many years now. This area is constantly being used by those who remove gates, cut fences and blaze new trails to enter the closed areas. While there was progress with the numbers of protected wildlife increasing, the usage of those areas are now posing a threat to the species that were making a comeback. We also have the presence of Native American Indians who utilize the areas within the Angeles National Forest in our jurisdiction. As seen in newscasts every year, these areas, particularly the mountains, are plagued by fire, both natural and by those set by humans. Our team consists of deploying anywhere from two to eight team members to our problem areas, on varying days and times. We also have a strong volunteer unit consisting of about 80 members. Many of whom live within these areas and have a vested interest in preserving and protecting these lands. These volunteers are our "eyes and ears" and advise us of issues as they occur. Their short response times help prevent and/or reduce the loss of life and property. Our goal is to decrease the amount of illegal activity, which we believe will make it easier for us to help identify and develop new viable sites for possible future OHV usage.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

The Palmdale Sheriff's Station has the largest patrol area of any Station within Los Angeles County. We have jurisdiction over roughly 1,300 square miles, and serve over a quarter of a million community members. Our patrol area covers the contract cities of Palmdale and Lancaster, and all the unincorporated county areas in the Antelope Valley. The largest area of our responsibility lies in rural towns surrounding both cities. These areas include Acton, Agua Dulce, Leona Valley, Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, Littlerock, Pearblossom, Llano, Wrightwood, Lake Los Angeles, and Antelope Acres. Those townships make up over 1,100 square miles of rural desert and mountainous areas. Many of these areas are not patrolled, unless by our teams of riders. On a typical deployment day, our deputies ride between 75 and 110 miles. The patrol area is approximately 50 miles across, and 40 miles top to bottom. Many days we respond to calls for service at opposite ends of our patrol areas. On days when we can afford to deploy two teams, we can share the duties and become much more effective in locating violators and addressing the issues related to the problem.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

Our OHV team typically deploys on weekends and major holidays when the OHV activity seems to be the highest. Our shifts are very flexible and can consist of 4, 8, or 10 hour shifts. We also try to schedule our deployments at alternate dates and times. We want to avoid having any type of predictable or pre-scheduled type of enforcement. We will also deploy as needed during week. Most of our team members are available for emergent or non emergent deployment within 30 minutes from notification or sooner. At times, our team will be deployed for search and rescue missions in the rural area where a rapid response is needed.

Much of our problems arise during the week in the warmer months as well. With the area being so rural, many riders originate directly from their residences and begin riding in the areas around their "neighborhood". These persons and riding times are much harder to impact by normal patrol vehicles as they are not able to follow the violators on motorcycles or all terrain vehicles. Our teams are able to deploy in the areas at the specific times in an attempt to make contact with the violators and educate them to the riding rules.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

Our deployment consists of a minimum of two deputies riding Dual Sport motorcycles. A standard deployment consists of a sergeant and four deputies. However, we can deploy up to two sergeants and eight deputies when needed. Our team now has a full sized, four wheeled drive truck for additional enforcement. This vehicle is a marked black and white Sheriff's Department emergency vehicle and is decal'd with large California State Parks OHV stickers. This vehicle will be manned as staffing permits and allows for a trained deputy and up to three civilian volunteers. With current budgetary cutbacks, we have had to significantly decrease both the frequency and number of personnel in the patrols.

LE Certification

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Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

Our whole jurisdiction is a high priority given the high volume of calls for service for OHV violations. Many issues are related to trespassing onto private and commercial lands, where "quality of life issues" and damage to property are ongoing problems. Within our jurisdiction, we have Native Indian burial grounds, precious habitats, and wildlife concerns. These areas need to be protected. Also being threatened by illegal OHV activities are the survival of many wildlife animals and plants. Some of those are the California Poppy Reserve, the Arroyo Toad and the California Desert Tortoise. We patrol large portions of the Angeles National Forest because of the high fire danger that exists. Our patrols ensure that those riding in these areas are properly equipped with the approved exhaust systems, as well as our high visibility to potential arson suspects who might strike another fire.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

Our program, through community events, allows us to teach OHV enthusiasts about proper equipment, its maintenance, specific rules and regulations for our areas and those of neighboring facilities. We hand out brochures which indicate the local areas and others available for their use. During these events we are able to indicate those areas which are "off limits" with an explanation which makes sense. We encourage responsible OHV activities. With regular patrols into these open or closed areas, we can maintain a level of protection and notification to those who violate the laws and redirect them to those areas which are open for their use.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

Many of our areas border Santa Clarita Sheriff's Station and that of the Forest Rangers of the Angeles National Forest. To the north, we also assist the Kern County Sheriff's Department with patrols of open desert at our county line. We will, and have provided manpower as needed in our collective areas. Due to our vast resources within our agency, we can respond not only with manpower but also with equipment and/or expertise to overcome our objectives. These may include patrol vehicles, off-road vehicles of various types, and air support with helicopters.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

Explain:

None of the available OHV recreation facilities provide for or subsidize any of our patrol efforts.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

Each Deputy Sheriff must graduate from an 80 hour POST approved OHV motorcycle training course which is hosted by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. These instructors are POST approved and are certified as OHV team members. Our program continues its training with in-house updates regarding local, state, and federal laws. OHV information is disseminated as it's received. Several of our sergeants, deputies, and civilian volunteers are also four wheel drive trained and have formal Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) skills. All deputies are trained in first aid and CPR. Our training includes operator awareness to the lands and remaining on trails so as not to destroy plants and habitat. Also in an effort to become more educated, we attend meetings or exchange emails with agencies such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, and other private groups which has OHV concerns or information.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
It is the policy of the Department to enforce all local, state, and federal laws. This enforcement can and will be either to the letter of the law or the spirit of the law. Sometimes using the law as an educator can produce more compliance from people than just with the issuance of citations.
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:
The OHV Grant monies will be used to pay for personnel to work the deployments only as indicated in the project cost estimate under salaries to deploy Sheriff's Department staff for law enforcement needs in our project. In addition to full time paid deputies, we will utilize civilian volunteers to provide matching funds.

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10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
Our program does not currently manage any OHV facilities.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

Project Cost Estimate

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APPLICANT NAME :	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department		
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement - Palmdale	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G12-03-10-L02
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>Our Off Highway Vehicle Enforcement Team has been active since the year 2000. Initially we concentrated on issues within the city of Palmdale. The program has grown, and now includes the City of Lancaster and numerous unincorporated areas within the Antelope Valley. Our OHV program has existed with a balance of enforcement and education. Our team is regularly involved in outreach programs. We participate in Public Safety Expos, Fire Service Day, and National Night Out events. We also attend smaller community events, such as the Agua Dulce County Fair, Cherry Blossom Festival in Leona Valley and the Littlerock Fall Festival. At these events, we interact with community members and educate them on the legalities of OHV activity, safety gear, and proper equipment maintenance. We also hand out brochures outlining OHV opportunities in our area and beyond.</p> <p>The area we serve is very unique. We offer inviting deserts and mountains. There is an Interstate and several major highways that intersect the Antelope Valley area. This makes Antelope Valley a final destination point for many OHV enthusiasts. Many come from the Los Angeles, San Fernando, Santa Clarita, and Simi Valley areas, as well as people from Tehachapi, Kern, and San Bernardino County. There are many local residents who also utilize these areas. Most of the issues faced by the Los Angeles County, Palmdale Sheriff's Station are not related to OHV users who legally utilize OHV areas.</p> <p>The problems arise when OHV enthusiasts take their adventures beyond designated areas and trespass onto private property or areas closed to such activity. During the year 2012, Palmdale Station, received and responded to roughly 900 calls for service. This shows a decrease from the prior year. We also noted a decrease in complaints coming from public offices (City officials, Supervisor's office) as well. This would indicate the efforts we have been able to put forth toward the enforcement and education of the enthusiasts have been successful.</p> <p>We regularly patrol the areas which are open for OHV enthusiasts, conduct equipment checks, and provide information to trail users. Over the past several years we have stepped up our deployments in an effort to battle the recurring calls for service regarding OHV activity. Due to that, our team has been more visible in the rural areas, causing more residents to be proactive in their respective communities and call us regarding OHV violations and problems as they occur. As stated before, our program is a balance of education and enforcement. We address our OHV issues as " QUALITY of LIFE " issues, rather than crime. Our team is knowledgeable in the applicable laws. We are equipped with the knowledge in the areas of OHV laws, riding areas, equipment requirements and resource availability. We frequently direct off roaders to open recreation areas, providing them maps as well. We want our program to encourage responsible OHV activity.</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2012/2013
 Agency: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
 Application: Law Enforcement - Palmdale

2/19/2013

Our geographical location provides our area a unique mountainous and desert environment. Our OHV team continues to patrol the Angeles National Forest, which is being threatened by OHV activities. These activities cause threats to the very survival of many of our flora and fauna. There are about 250 species of animals with some species at risk of being endangered. The area of Littlerock Dam has been a protected wildlife area, closed to motor vehicle traffic for many years now. This area is constantly being used by those who remove gates, cut fences and blaze new trails to enter the closed areas. While there was progress with the numbers of protected wildlife increasing, the usage of those areas are now posing a threat to the species that were making a comeback. We also have the presence of Native American Indians who utilize the areas within the Angeles National Forest in our jurisdiction. As seen in newscasts every year, these areas, particularly the mountains, are plagued by fire, both natural and by those set by humans. Our team consists of deploying anywhere from two to eight team members to our problem areas, on varying days and times. We also have a strong volunteer unit consisting of about 80 members. Many of whom live within these areas and have a vested interest in preserving and protecting these lands. These volunteers are our "eyes and ears" and advise us of issues as they occur. Their short response times help prevent and/or reduce the loss of life and property. Our goal is to decrease the amount of illegal activity, which we believe will make it easier for us to help identify and develop new viable sites for possible future OHV usage.

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Req.	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Sergeant	300.000	95.320	HRS	22,396.09	6,199.91	28,596.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	900.000	84.264	HRS	58,779.04	17,058.46	75,837.50
	Other-Sheriff's Volunteers Notes : A match fund that equates to personnel costs of like duties by paid personnel.	200.000	19.000	HRS	0.00	3,800.00	3,800.00
Total for Staff					81,175.13	27,058.37	108,233.50
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : Miscellaneous fuel costs related to OHV vehicle operations.	280.000	3.500	MISC	0.00	980.00	980.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2012/2013
 Agency: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
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2/19/2013

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Req.	Match	Total
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
Total Program Expenses					81,175.13	28,038.37	109,213.50
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					81,175.13	28,038.37	109,213.50
INDIRECT EXPENSES							
Indirect Costs							
1	Indirect Costs						
Total Indirect Costs					0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES					0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					81,175.13	28,038.37	109,213.50

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2012/2013
 Agency: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
 Application: Law Enforcement - Palmdale

2/19/2013

	Category	Grant Req.	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	81,175.13	27,058.37	108,233.50	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	980.00	980.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		81,175.13	28,038.37	109,213.50	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		81,175.13	28,038.37	109,213.50	
INDIRECT EXPENSES					
Indirect Costs					
1	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Indirect Costs		0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES		0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		81,175.13	28,038.37	109,213.50	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) Yes No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10.

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

- Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards:

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

- Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources:

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment