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Version # _____

APP # _____

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Calaveras County Sheriff's Department is requesting funds to continue its OHV lower interface program. The funding received will allow the Sheriff's Department to continue to utilize (1) full time OHV deputy and (1) auxiliary assignment weekend FTE deputy. The auxiliary FTE deputy is used to accompany the full time OHV deputy on the weekends and during times of heavy usage. This allows the department to safely deploy the OHV deputies while saving money. With a greater degree of officer/public safety, the deputies can access extremely remote areas thus offering additional law enforcement coverage for those participating in OHV activities in the Stanislaus National Forest, Lower Interface and surrounding areas. This is especially true during winter months when snowmobile use is required. The OHV deputy is not permitted to operate snowmobiles as a solo officer due to safety concerns.

The Calaveras OHV deputy is responsible for pro actively and reactively enforcing OHV laws, specifically in the Arnold Interface OHV Routes, and areas in Calaveras County that are utilized for OHV recreation or suffer from unlawful OHV usage.

For the past several years, the Sheriff's Department has provided the OHV law enforcement services by patrolling in marked department vehicles, focusing on deterring illegal riding to reduce the number of violations and lessen the environmental damage. Minimizing the negative impact will promote continued use of the approved trail system. The Arnold Interface is a case in point, having been closed due to illegal trails and OHV trespassing onto private property and improved roadways. The OHV Deputy conducts numerous patrols in the closed area, providing educational information and citations to citizens who continue to ride in the restricted and surrounding areas. Subsequently the number of citizen complaints regarding illegal OHV use has dropped significantly. However, there continues to be illegal usage due in part to the illegal trails that had become etched into the forest floor. In the summer, it is not uncommon for the Calaveras OHV deputy to be the only law enforcement representatives in the listed patrol areas. Without the OHV deputy's presence, OHV users would have little or no law enforcement contact, leaving a great opportunity for resource damage and creating unapproved trails.

The Sheriff's Department has and will use its OHV equipment appropriately. By utilizing the mechanical knowledge of the OHV deputy, the department is able to save money by having most of the routine maintenance done without expensive dealer costs.

All OHV equipment operators are trained in the proper use and care of the equipment. They are required to demonstrate equipment use, wear proper protective clothing and carry survival and medical emergency supplies. The OHV deputy and program offers multiple training sessions per year to both the Calaveras County Volunteer Search and Rescue Team and allied law enforcement agencies.

The deputies will enforce all laws. The deputy will respond to accidents, medical emergencies and Search and Rescue operations which relate to OHV; the designated OHV patrol vehicle is equipped as a general patrol vehicle. During the 2009 grant, the full time OHV deputy was specifically requested to assist in Search and Rescue operations. The OHV deputies will maintain clear lines of communication with private property owners, allowing them to work with these landowners to reduce trespass by OHV enthusiasts. The Sheriff's Department had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Sierra Pacific Industries, the counties largest private landowner, regarding trespassers. To maintain these communication channels, the OHV deputy will attend homeowner, community, or other meetings relevant to the Departments goal of sustaining long-term recreation. The OHV deputy will also maintain a working relationship with the U.S. Forest Service. The Sheriff's Department is dedicated to the OHV program as evidenced by sustaining it's OHV program during times of uncertain funding, especially during the fiscal years of 2009 and 2010. The department has been fiscally responsible during previous years and has maintained successful ongoing programs. The department ensures that each payment request is complete with all forms of documentation.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

The following is a description of project coverage areas.

ROUTES AVAILIABLE OHV

- Total miles of routes currently available for OHV recreation: 950
 - ATV's (green/red sticker) 16
 - Motorcycles (Green/red and street legal) 25
 - Four Wheeled vehicles other than listed above 32
 - Street legal vehicles only (registered for highway) 16.3
- ACKERAGE AVAILIABLE TO OHV 1000 square miles

This does not include illegal trails or private property that is open to the public that have OHV opportunity.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

FREQUENCY OF PATROLS.

The deputies will primarily patrol four or more days a week, particularly weekends. If funding permits extra deputies will partner with the OHV deputy during holidays, weekends, and special events. The hours will be flexible to match the existing usage trend by OHV visitors in the lower interface.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

NUMBER OF OFFICERS

The Calaveras County Sheriff Department will be seeking funding for one full time plus extra funding for weekend extra assignment deputies. The use of an extra deputy is a tactic used by the Calaveras County Sheriff Department to reduce the total cost of the Lower Interface OHV program. Volunteers from the Search and Rescue Team will accompany deputies to assist with posting signs, searching for lost OHV users and trail repairs. The volunteers further lower the total cost of the program.

With the potential closing of the Carnegie SVRA the Calaveras Sheriff's Department foresees a substantial increase in OHV/recreational vehicle usage in our area from those that are unable to use the Carnegie area. We are located approximately 1.5 hours east of the Carnegie SVRA. This potential increase in usage will put a substantial burden on our current single OHV full-time deputy. In anticipation of this SVRA closure during the 2009/2010 grant cycle, and in order to get a jump on maintaining adequate staffing levels in response to the increased usage, we are requesting funding for two additional full-time OHV deputies.