

PROJECT NARRATIVE
Maximum 8 pages for Narrative
Font Size no smaller than 12 pitch

Background

Established in 1852, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services throughout the county's unincorporated areas. Bill Wittman, first elected in 1995, is the county's 28th sheriff. The department's jurisdiction spans thousands of square miles across an agricultural area challenged by high levels of seasonal unemployment and poverty. The department employs 476 sworn and 193 non-sworn personnel.

The Sheriff's Department is organized into detention, investigation, patrol and administration divisions. The proposed grant program falls under our investigations division, which also has units for violent crimes, vice, narcotics, theft, crime lab, sex crimes, domestic violence, gang prevention, juvenile crimes and coroner units.

The agency has successfully operated several grant programs funded through California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control since the late 1990s: SABER I, SABER II and Minor Decoy programs. Our proposed program is named SABER III. SABER stands for Sheriff's Alcoholic Beverage Education and Resistance Program.

During these previous ABC grants, the department has conducted 33 Minor Decoy operations; more than one dozen information sessions for junior- and high-school students; conducted 20 undercover operations at bars and restaurants to check for compliance on ABC regulations regarding sales to intoxicated persons, prostitution, drink solicitation, live nudity, after-hours sales and live music/dancing. The department's patrol deputies also received comprehensive training in ABC regulations and investigative techniques during our SABER programs.

The department has embraced the concept of community-based policing since the mid-1990s. Our community-based officers in rural communities across the county have played key roles in identifying businesses in violation of alcoholic beverage control laws and participated in enforcement operations on these businesses.

In addition, the Sheriff's Department has conducted a public information campaign in conjunction with our ABC grant programs to make the general public aware of sale and legal alcoholic beverage regulations.

Problem Statement

In 2005, Tulare County's average unemployment rate was 9.7 percent, compared to 5.3 percent statewide. In the county's unincorporated areas – the jurisdiction of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department – jobless rates climb into double digits. The agricultural region has large pockets of poverty that, according to a recent Congressional study, is comparable to Appalachia.

The Census Bureau's estimated Tulare County's rapidly growing population at 395,493 in 2004 – up 28.7 percent since 1990. Just over half of residents are Hispanic. Non-Hispanic whites account for 38.5% of residents; blacks, 1.5%; and Native Americans, 0.8%.

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Latinos make up the vast majority of the 150,000 people who live in the vast rural jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department. Those residents are spread out among scores of unincorporated communities and hamlets over thousands of square miles of pancake-flat farmland and hilly terrain – stretching the department's modest manpower for coverage.

Tulare County leads the state's 58 counties in teen-aged pregnancies. So, it's not surprising that the population growth among children in the county is almost double the statewide rate, according to the Census Bureau. For young people growing up in the county's isolated rural communities, there are few movie theaters, youth centers and other wholesome places to spend long hours away from school. As a result, these areas are fertile breeding grounds for the county's growing gang problem. Though too small for a name-brand supermarket, the towns are dotted with mini marts and grocery stores – typically with coolers and shelves stocked with inexpensive beer, malt liquor, wine and hard liquor.

There are 268 ABC-licensed businesses in Tulare County within the jurisdiction of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department, according to ABC records. That includes 89 on-sale and 179 off-sale licenses.

The Sheriff's Department conducted nine Minor Decoy operations at hundreds of these off-sale ABC licensees during an 18-month ABC grant, which ended in February. Initially, our decoys purchased liquor at 27 percent of these establishments. By the end of the grant term, the citation rate was just 5.2 percent. However, that low rate came after the department conducted five operations in less than two months. Beer purchases by our decoys in late February were often halted when store clerks received warning phone calls from nearby stores, which are typically owned by relatives or friends. We will address this "phone tree" problem in the proposed SABER III program.

Hispanics account for a little over half of the county's residents. That percentage often tops 80 percent in the county's rural areas, according to the Educational Data Partnership, which tracks school enrollments statewide. The National Institute on Drug Abuse found in reviewing national drug usage surveys from 1975 to 2004 that Hispanic youth were more likely to drink and get drunk at an earlier age than non-Hispanic whites or blacks.

Also, a new study by Georgetown University in Washington reveals that teen-age girls view significantly more alcohol-related advertising than legal-aged women. Another national study reveals that girls respond more strongly to peer pressure than boys in deciding whether to drink alcoholic beverages. Our proposed program will heavily use Hispanic teen-age girls in minor decoy operations and encourage students during Every 15 Minutes presentations at schools to take "Casey's Pledge," vowing to abstain from alcoholic beverages.

Historically, Tulare County has been a strict Bible belt. But the county's rapidly growing population has brought a change in social standards, including emergence of adult-oriented businesses. We will address this issue in our proposed ABC program.

The Sheriff's Department has a strong commitment to community-based policing. Our community-based deputies have strong ties to businesses and residents in the communities they patrol. Those relationships often produce calls for service at ABC establishments. These officers will be a cornerstone of the proposed program.

Of course, alcohol abuse often appears on the county's roadways. There were a total of 2,127 arrests for DUI in Tulare County during 2005, according to the Calif.

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Highway Patrol. A CHP analysis of alcohol-related fatalities in motor vehicle accidents between 1999 and 2003 revealed that Tulare County's increased by 133 percent, compared to 23.8 percent increase statewide.

Autopsies during 2005 by the Sheriff's Department's coroner unit revealed alcohol in the bloodstream of more than half of homicide victims. When considering assailants, excessive levels of alcohol figured into almost all of the county's homicides during 2005, investigators say.

Meanwhile, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department is challenged to meet all its law-enforcement duties with its modest budget and sworn officer staff. For example, marijuana and methamphetamine operations have risen dramatically in the county since the 1990s. In 2004, California led the nation in marijuana production, with the largest seizure of plants (70,000) made by the Tulare County Sheriff's Department. Between October 2004 and October 2005, the department devoted 5,270 man-hours to marijuana eradication efforts.

Therefore, the ABC grant is particularly critical for the Sheriff's Department to continue to fully address alcoholic beverage concerns within the jurisdiction.

Project Objectives

Goal 1: Identify and train a deputy or detective to be the countywide coordinator for this grant program.

Objectives:

1. Identify best candidate from ranks of sworn staff prior to be countywide grant coordinator by beginning of grant term on **July 1, 2006**. A bilingual community-based officer will be priority selection criteria.
2. Have coordinator and project director attend ABC Grant Conference in July 2006 and Mid-Year Conference in January 2007. (**2 training conferences**)

Goal 2: Train sworn staff on alcohol-related laws and ABC investigative techniques

Objectives:

1. Conduct roll-call training sessions for all patrol deputies and select detectives in ABC laws and investigative techniques during first and second quarters (**3 sessions, 110 attendees**)

Goal 3: Reduce illegal activities at ABC licensed establishments

Objectives:

1. Identify and prioritize problem ABC establishments (**Complete quarterly**)
2. Conduct at least **4 Minor Decoy** operations with a minimum of **50** off-sale establishments per operation
3. Conduct at least **4 Shoulder Tap** operations with a minimum of **50** off-sale establishments per operation
4. Conduct **16 IMPACT** inspections (**4 per quarter**)
5. Conduct **3 undercover** operations (**1 each in Quarters 2-4**)

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Goal 4: Educate students about dangers of consuming alcohol

Objectives:

1. Conduct Every 15 Minutes presentations at **2 schools**
2. Encourage at least **300 students** to take "Casey's Pledge" to abstain from alcoholic beverage consumption and driving while drunk.

Goal 5: Educate owners of ABC-licensed business about ABC regulations

Objectives:

1. Conduct two LEAD training sessions (**complete by April 30, 2007**)
2. Conduct 16 IMPACT inspections (**complete by June 1, 2007**)

Method of Procedure

The Tulare County Sheriff's Dept. has put together a comprehensive program of education and investigation for the proposed grant program. The program is designed to incorporate successful elements of previous ABC grant programs, modify less successful elements and to respond to emerging societal and county trends regarding alcohol consumption patterns.

The major elements of the program will be:

Grant coordinator: This position will coordinate all aspects of the grant program across the vast jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department -- thousands of square miles. Identifying a sworn officer already on the force will be emphasized. Prime selection criteria will include significant community policing experience, bilingual (English-Spanish) fluency and demonstrated ability to work with diverse groups.

Minor Decoy, Shoulder Tap operations: Each operation will be staffed by experienced, three-member teams -- a detective, a deputy and a teen volunteer. Minor Decoy and Shoulder Tap operations will be alternated -- to lessen the chance of "phone tree" warnings between stores during an operation. Teams will be dispatched to saturate specific areas at the same time, which also will lessen the risk of phone-tree warnings. Sworn officers will receive LEAD training before taking part in an operation. Volunteers will be selected to blend into the area of the operation; in most cases that will mean using Hispanic teen-agers. Officers and volunteers will be debriefed on ABC investigative techniques, including evidence collection, before the operation, by an ABC investigator and the grant coordinator. Volunteers also will supply photo ID and be photographed prior to visiting stores

Undercover operations: Undercover detectives will be dispatched to ABC-licensed bars suspected of illegal narcotic, alcoholic beverage sales, B-girl solicitation and other serious violations of their licenses. After several visits to establish a pattern of illegal behavior, an operation will be conducted in coordination with ABC and other appropriate state or federal agencies. Local community-based deputies will identify many of these problem ABC licensees.

Every 15 Minutes presentations: Two rural high schools in Tulare County will receive these multi-day presentations. We will partner with the California Friday Night Live Partnership on making the presentations. One school apiece in northern and

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southern Tulare County will be chosen for the presentation. To further the program's effectiveness we will encourage students to sign "Casey's Pledge" to abstain from consuming alcohol, or getting in the car with someone who has been drinking. The pledge is named after a young Tulare County woman who was killed in 2003 in a head-on collision by a drunk teen-aged driver. Presentation materials will contain a notice that talks are funded by a grant from the State Dept. of Alcohol Beverage Control.

Roll-call training: These will be conducted by the grant coordinator and an ABC representative. A PowerPoint presentation will detail applicable alcoholic beverage laws and investigative techniques, including proper evidence collection for successful prosecution of ABC infractions. Community-based officers will be among the first on the force to receive this training.

LEAD training: These will be offered to all businesses which are found to be in violation of ABC laws and regulations during Minor Decoy, Shoulder Tap or IMPACT operations. The sessions will be designed to encourage businesses to fully comply with ABC regulations. As an incentive to attend, officers will state while writing up an infraction slip at the business that the courts have discretion to reduce fines if the business attends the training session.

IMPACT inspections: These unannounced visits to ABC-licensed businesses will be conducted by a Tulare County patrol deputy and the ABC GAP investigator for the area. As a training tool, the deputy will conduct the inspection, with an ABC checklist, with the GAP investigator supervising.

Public information campaign: Local TV, radio and newspaper outlets will be informed in advanced of visits to Tulare County schools for alcoholic-abstention talks. This will encourage dialog between parents and children on the talks. We also will prepare a 30-minute segment on alcohol beverage laws and prudent drinking practices for the county's public access channel. Releases also will be promptly prepared following Minor Decoy, Shoulder Tap and other operations to inform the general public of the results of the activities and the names and locations of any businesses found to be in violation of alcoholic beverage control laws. Releases will contain a statement that the operation is funded by a grant from the State Dept. of Alcohol Beverage Control.

Following is a timetable for activities under the proposed grant program:

| QUARTER 1 (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2006) | | |
|--|--|--|
| Timeline | Activity | Staffing |
| June-July | Recruit and hire grant coordinator | Project director |
| July | Attend grant conference | Project director, grant coordinator |
| July-September | Identify problem locations (ABC licensees) | Patrol deputies, grant coordinator, ABC referrals, calls for service, coordination with community groups |
| July-August | Roll-call training in ABC regulations and investigative techniques (45 patrol deputies and detectives) | Grant coordinator, ABC representative |
| July-September | Submit monthly reports to ABC | Grant coordinator |

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| Timeline | Activity | Staffing |
|------------------|---|---|
| August-September | Minor Decoy operation (minimum of 50 ABC-licensed off-sale stores) | Grant coordinator, 4 detectives, 4 deputies, 4 teen volunteers |
| August-September | Shoulder tap operation (minimum of 50 ABC off-sale licensees) | Grant coordinator, 4 detectives, 4 deputies, 4 teen volunteers |
| August-September | IMPACT inspections, with checklist, of ABC-licensed on-sale or off-sale premises | 1 patrol deputy and ABC investigator per inspection |
| August-September | Write and distribute media releases to local newspaper, television and radio outlets | Grant coordinator, public information officer for Sheriff's Dept. |
| August-September | Schedule and conduct grant program progress meetings with GAP investigator at ABC | Grant coordinator |
| September | Set up school talks on dangers of alcoholic beverage consumption, in coordination with California Friday Night Live Partnership | Grant coordinator |

| QUARTER 2 (OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2006) | | |
|--|--|--|
| Timeline | Activity | Staffing |
| October | Casey's Pledge presentations to 4 schools | Grant coordinator, California Friday Night Live Partnership representative |
| October | LEAD training for ABC licensees | Grant coordinator, ABC representative |
| October-December | Media releases to local newspaper, TV, radio outlets | Grant coordinator, public information officer of Sheriff's Dept. |
| October-December | Maintain liaison with community groups | Grant coordinator |
| October-December | Identify problem ABC licensees | Patrol deputies, grant coordinator, calls for service |
| October-December | Submit monthly progress reports to ABC | Grant coordinator |
| November | IMPACT inspections | 1 patrol deputy and ABC investigator per inspection |
| November-December | Minor decoy operation | Grant coordinator, 4 detectives, 4 deputies, 4 teen volunteers |

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| Timeline | Activity | Staffing |
|-------------------|------------------------|--|
| November-December | Shoulder tap operation | Grant coordinator, 4 detectives, 4 deputies, 4 teen volunteers |

QUARTER 3 (JANUARY-MARCH 2007)

| Timeline | Activity | Staffing |
|-----------------|---|---|
| January | Attend mid-year grant conference | Grant coordinator, project director |
| January-March | Maintain contact with community groups | Grant coordinator |
| January-March | Identify problem ABC licensees | Patrol deputies, grant coordinator, calls for service |
| January-March | Media releases to local newspaper, TV and radio outlets | Grant coordinator, public information officer for Sheriff's Dept. |
| January-March | Submit monthly progress reports to ABC | Grant coordinator |
| February | Shoulder tap operation | Grant coordinator, 4 detectives, 4 deputies, 4 teen volunteers |
| February | Casey's Pledge presentations at 4 schools | Grant coordinator, California Friday Night Live Partnership |
| February-March | IMPACT inspections | 1 patrol deputy and ABC investigator per inspection |

QUARTER 4 (APRIL-JUNE 2007)

| Timeline | Activity | Staffing |
|-----------------|---|---|
| April | LEAD training for ABC licensees | Grant coordinator, ABC representative |
| April-May | Identify problem ABC licensees | Patrol deputies, grant coordinator, calls for service |
| April-June | Maintain liaison with community groups | Grant coordinator |
| April-June | Media releases to local newspaper, TV and radio outlets | Grant coordinator, public information officer for Sheriff's Dept. |
| April-June | Submit monthly progress reports to ABC | Grant coordinator |

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| Timeline | Activity | Staffing |
|-----------------|--|--|
| May | Minor decoy operation | Grant coordinator, 4 detectives, 4 deputies, 4 teen volunteers |
| May | Shoulder tap operation | Grant coordinator, 4 detectives, 4 deputies, 4 teen volunteers |
| June | Prepare and submit final report to ABC | Grant coordinator, project director |

Method of Evaluation

Progress towards fully obtaining program objectives will be closely monitored by the grant coordinator. Immediately after each activity, appropriate data will be loaded into an electronic database. Required monthly reports will be promptly sent to ABC. Also, frequent calls will be placed by grant coordinator to ABC field representatives to discuss grant program progress.

Whenever any program objective falls more than 25 percent behind anticipated program-to-date levels, the grant coordinator will discuss corrective action with the project director. Our ABC field representatives in Fresno will be included in the discussion if appropriate.

ABC Liaison

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department has enjoyed a close working relationship with the Fresno regional office of the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for many years. That relationship has become even closer since the late 1990s with two grants from ABC to the Sheriff's Department – a SABER grant for \$90,920 from July 1998 through June 1999 and a mini grant for \$20,000 from September 2004 to February 2006.

Sworn officers with the Sheriff's Department received training in ABC regulations and investigative techniques during the SABER grant. Roll-call training of all patrol staff will be a key feature of the proposed grant program.

The relationship between the department and the ABC regional office in Fresno has strengthened in recent years with the assignment of ABC investigator Michael Poore as the agency's Minor Decoy grant manager for Tulare County. Poore is very familiar with Tulare County. Prior to joining ABC, Poore worked for the Tulare County Probation Department. Poore recently noted that the Sheriff's Department has an excellent track record of fully complying with ABC evidence techniques in passing along incidents of violations of the state's alcoholic beverage laws for successful prosecution by the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

Statement of Intent

The Tulare County Sheriff's Department plans to maintain its close working relationship with the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Board after the proposed grant program expires. The department will ensure that deputies continue to efficiently process complaints from businesses and the general public regarding violations of the state's alcoholic beverage laws at ABC licensed on-sale and off-sale businesses, as well as unlicensed premises.

BUDGET ESTIMATE

| BUDGET CATEGORY AND LINE-ITEM DETAIL | COST |
|--|--|
| A. Personnel Services (salaries, overtime, and benefits) | (Round all budget amounts to nearest dollar) |
| 1. Salary 1.0 Detective (\$2,230/pay period; 26 X \$2,230) 2. Overtime Estimated 700 hours @ \$41.76 3. Employee Benefits Estimated at 30% X \$58,000 | \$58,000 \$30,000 \$17,400 |
| TOTAL PERSONNEL SERVICES | \$105,400 |
| B. Operating Expenses (maximum \$2,500) | |
| \$100 X 12 operations | \$1,200 |
| TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES | \$1,200 |
| C. Equipment (maximum \$3,000) | |
| Hand-held radio XTS2500 w/ DVP-XL UHF | \$2,950 |
| TOTAL EQUIPMENT | \$2,950 |
| D. Travel Expense/Registration Fees (maximum \$3,500) | |
| July 2006 and January 2007 grant program meetings Registration fees | \$2,750 \$750 |
| TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENSE | \$3,500 |
| TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE, ALL CATEGORIES | \$113,050 |

OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Complete the following to report the total funds available to support the activities related to accomplishing the goals and objectives of the contract. In the "Grant Funds" column, report the ABC funds requested by category. In the "Other Funds" column, report all other funds available to support the project by category. Then calculate the totals by category in the "Program Total" column. Total each column down to arrive at the total program funds available. **(Round all budget amounts to the nearest dollar.)**

| BUDGET CATEGORY | GRANT FUNDS | OTHER FUNDS | PROGRAM TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Personnel Services | | | |
| 1.0 Detective | | | |
| \$2,230 / pay period; 26 X | | | |
| \$2,230 | \$58,000 | | \$58,000 |
| Employee Benefits | | | |
| Estimated at 30% X \$58,000 | \$17,400 | \$6,900 | \$24,300 |
| Overtime | | | |
| Estimated at 700 hrs. X | | | |
| \$41.76 | \$30,000 | | \$30,000 |
| Supervision | | | |
| \$64,000 annual; Est. 20% X | | | |
| \$64,000 | | \$12,800 | \$12,800 |
| Benefits est. 30% X \$12,800 | | \$ 3,800 | \$ 3,800 |
| Vehicle | | | |
| 12 months (prorated) | | \$11,000 | \$11,000 |
| Fuel and maintenance (est.) | | \$ 9,000 | \$ 9,000 |
| Safety Equipment | | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 |
| Operating Expenses | | | |
| \$100 X 12 operations | \$ 1,200 | | \$ 1,200 |
| Office supplies \$40 X 12 months | | \$ 480 | \$ 480 |
| Presentation supplies | | \$1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| Expenses related to Every 15 | | | |
| Minutes programs Est. @ \$1,500 | | | |
| per program; 2 X \$1,500 | | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| (Budget continued next page) | | | |

| BUDGET CATEGORY | GRANT FUNDS | OTHER FUNDS | PROGRAM TOTAL |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Travel/Registration Fees | | | |
| July 2006 and January 2007 Grant Conferences | \$2,750 | | \$2,750 |
| Registration fees | \$ 750 | | \$ 750 |
| Equipment | | | |
| Hand-held radio | \$2,950 | \$ 700 | \$2,950 |
| Cell Phone and Pager | | | \$ 700 |
| TOTALS | \$113,050 | \$49,430 | \$162,480 |

(This form does not become a part of the contract.)