



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

Cannabis Compliance Team Serves Warrant in Cebada Canyon

Lompoc, Calif. – On Monday, December 16, 2019, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Bureau, Cannabis Compliance Team, with the assistance of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office, executed a series of search warrants in Santa Barbara County and Los Angeles County. These search warrants were authored after an extensive investigation into a commercial cannabis cultivation business on 102-acre parcel on Cebada Canyon Road. Through the investigation, it was discovered that the business had obtained several provisional cannabis licenses from the State of California through fraudulent means.

The search warrant on Cebada Canyon Road resulted in the seizure of over a million dollars of cannabis, and cannabis related products. The warrants served in Los Angeles County yielded evidence that is part of this ongoing investigation. While the investigation is continuing, initial charges of 11358(c) H&S- illegal cultivation of marijuana (felony), 115 PC- falsifying public records or documents (felony) and 182 PC- conspiracy (felony) have been requested against Eli Sheiman and Mariette Wingard.

The Santa Barbara County Cannabis Compliance Team was founded in June of 2018 and consists of personnel from many disciplines within a variety of county departments. The team primarily focuses on unlicensed and illegal cannabis operations within the county and the safety of the public. Following the approval of Proposition 64, recreational marijuana is legal. However, the law requires any person or business selling or providing marijuana to be licensed through the State of California to ensure the sale of approved and tested cannabis products with regulated and identified THC content. Additionally, the County of Santa Barbara requires that cannabis businesses must possess local land use permits and local business licenses if the operations are in the unincorporated parts of the county. More information on the state licensing and testing process can be found on the CalCannabis or Bureau of Cannabis Control websites. For information on local permitting and licensing, please visit cannabis.countyofsb.org.







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