



**U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration**

www.dea.gov

Springfield, Virginia 22152

Agreement Number 2024-48

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA), provides funding and/or operational support to state and local law enforcement agencies in conducting marijuana eradication and suppression efforts. This program, known as DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP), provides funding under either or both of the below, Option 1 and/or Option 2.

Under Option 1, DEA provides DCE/SP funding and operational support to state and local law enforcement agencies who demonstrate that such support will be used for marijuana eradication and suppression operations including but not limited to the investigation of drug trafficking organizations involved in marijuana trafficking operations meeting one of the following criteria:

1. Marijuana is being cultivated by a drug trafficking organization or a transnational organized crime syndicate; or
2. Marijuana is being cultivated on federal land, including federally-recognized Tribal lands; or
3. Marijuana cultivation is causing environmental hazards, depleting or contaminating water, or otherwise harming public lands; or
4. Marijuana cultivation is suspected to involve other federal crimes, including money laundering and crimes impacting public health and safety.

Under Option 2, where the above criteria is not met by state and local law enforcement agencies, DEA will provide DCE/SP funding only to state and local law enforcement agencies who demonstrate that such funding will be used to eradicate large-scale illicit marijuana grows and for the purpose of suppression efforts including but not limited to the investigation of drug trafficking organizations involved in marijuana trafficking.

This Letter of Agreement (LOA) is entered into between the **VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**, hereinafter referred to as (**THE AGENCY**), and the DEA, because DEA has determined that (**THE AGENCY**) has satisfied the criteria under either and/or both **Option 1 or Option 2**. In that regard:

There is evidence that trafficking in marijuana (illicit cannabis) has a substantial and detrimental effect on the health and general welfare of the people of the *State of California*. The parties hereto agree that it is to their mutual benefit to cooperate in the investigation of drug trafficking organizations involved in marijuana trafficking, the location and eradication of illicit cannabis plants, and the prosecution of those cases before the courts of the United States (U.S.) and/or the courts of the *State of California*. DEA, pursuant to the authority of 21 U.S.C. § 873, proposes to provide certain necessary funds and **THE AGENCY** is desirous of securing funds.

As used in this Letter of Agreement, the terms “marijuana” and “illicit cannabis” only refer to cannabis or cannabis-derived materials that contain more than 0.3% delta-9-THC on a dry weight basis, in accordance with the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) (21 U.S.C. § 802(16)).

NOW, therefore, in consideration of the mutual covenants hereinafter contained, the parties agree as follows:

1. **THE AGENCY** will, with its own law enforcement personnel and employees, as herein after specified, perform the activities and duties described below:
 - a. Gather and report intelligence data relating to the illicit cultivation, possession, and distribution of illicit cannabis and related money laundering activity to include the complete name and nationality of any individuals associated with eradication and suppression operations. NOTE: If only the registered property owner(s) associated with indoor/outdoor grows is known, that information should be provided.
 - b. Investigate and report instances involving the trafficking in controlled substances.
 - c. Provide law enforcement personnel for the eradication of illicit cannabis located within the *State of California*.
 - d. Make arrests and refer to the appropriate prosecutorial authority cases for prosecution under controlled substances laws and other criminal laws.
 - e. Send required samples of eradicated illicit cannabis to the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) Potency Monitoring Project.
 - f. Capture, maintain, and share data and statistics with DEA on its marijuana eradication efforts.
 - g. Follow all applicable state laws and guidelines.
 - h. **FOR AGENCIES FUNDED UNDER OPTION 2.** Certify, by signing this agreement, that funding provided under this agreement will only be used for operations to eradicate large-scale illicit marijuana grows and for the purpose of suppression efforts including, but not limited to investigations targeting drug trafficking organizations involved in marijuana trafficking.
 - i. **MANDATORY requirement for THE AGENCY to utilize the interim replacement for the Web-based DEA internet Capability Endeavor (DICE) until the permanent replacement is operational or if applicable the Firebird based DEA Analysis/Response Tracking System (DARTS) to report all statistics and seizures per incident, to include the submission of significant items for de-confliction and information sharing purposes.**
 - j. Submit electronically a DEA Monthly Accounting Report, with a copy of **THE AGENCY's** general ledger that clearly identifies all expenses claimed on the Monthly Accounting Report. If applicable, include invoices for all expenses of \$2,500.00 or more for aircraft expenses, clothing and protective gear, equipment, supplies and materials, training, travel, and rental and/or leasing of vehicles or aircrafts. When overtime is claimed, the Overtime Tracker Spreadsheet is also required listing the officer's name, hours worked, and pay as reported on the Monthly Accounting Form.

2. It is understood and agreed by the parties to this Agreement that the activities described in paragraph one and its subparagraphs shall be accomplished with existing personnel, and that the scope of **THE AGENCY's** program with respect to those activities by such personnel shall be consistent with California law and solely at **THE AGENCY's** discretion, subject to appropriate limitations contained in the budget adopted by **THE AGENCY**, except that **THE AGENCY** understands and agrees that DEA funds and the result of expended funds (e.g. equipment, supplies and other resources) must be directly related to and must only be used for marijuana eradication and suppression program activities in a manner consistent with the CSA, 21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.
3. DEA will provide to **THE AGENCY** Federal funds in the amount of **FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00)** for the period of October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024, to defray costs relating to the eradication and suppression of illicit cannabis. These Federal funds shall only be used for the eradication and suppression of illicit cannabis as provided in this agreement. **THE AGENCY** understands and agrees that Federal funds provided to **THE AGENCY** under this Agreement will not be used to defray costs relating to herbicidal eradication of illicit cannabis without the advance written consent of DEA. DCE/SP funding is provided for the storage, protection, and destruction of illicit cultivated marijuana. Funding is not provided nor expenditures allowed for the development of technology to assist with the identification of indoor and/or outdoor growing sites. However, funding may be provided for applications and tools used to map marijuana grow sites, but not to reimburse costs of standard police equipment. Additionally, funding and expenditures are not permitted for the eradication of "ditch weed."

THE AGENCY understands and agrees that Federal funds will not be used to perform any of the following functions: (i) issuing licenses, permits, or other forms of authorization permitting the holder to manufacture, distribute, sell, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (ii) conducting ancillary activities related to the issuance of such licenses and permits, such as background checks on applicants; (iii) collecting state or local tax or licensing revenue related to the manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (iv) preparing or issuing regulations governing the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (v) monitoring compliance with state or local laws or regulations that permit the manufacture, distribution, sale, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA; or (vi) the purchase of evidence and the purchase of information. The result of expended funds (e.g. equipment, supplies and other resources) must be directly related to and must only be used for marijuana eradication/suppression activities. While using the Federal funds provided to **THE AGENCY** under this Agreement for activities on Federal land, **THE AGENCY** agrees to notify the appropriate local office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, (Forest Service) and the U.S. Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and/or Bureau of Reclamation) of **THE AGENCY's** presence on Federal land.

4. The Federal funds provided to **THE AGENCY** are primarily intended for payment of deputies'/officers' overtime while those deputies and officers are directly engaged in the illicit cannabis eradication and suppression process, **(per DOJ policy, the annual maximum overtime reimbursement rate is based on the current year General Pay Scale, Rest of United States (RUS) and cannot exceed 25% of a GS-12, Step 1; the funds shall only be used to pay the normal overtime rate, i.e. time and a half. The overtime reimbursement rate "shall not include any cost for benefits, such as retirement, FICA, or other expenses", which is specifically prohibited by DOJ)** and for per diem and other direct costs related to the actual conduct of illicit cannabis eradication. Examples of such costs includes rental of aircraft, fuel for aircraft, and minor repairs and maintenance necessitated by use to support illicit cannabis eradication. These Federal funds are not intended as a primary source of funding for the purchase of equipment, supplies, or other resources. When DCE/SP funds are used to purchase supplies, equipment, or other resources, those items must be directly related to and must only be used for marijuana eradication activities and may not be used to perform any of the following functions: (i) issuing licenses, permits, or other forms of authorization permitting the holder to manufacture, distribute, sell, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (ii) conducting ancillary activities related to the issuance of such licenses and permits, such as background checks on applicants; (iii) collecting state or local tax or licensing revenue related to the manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (iv) preparing or issuing regulations governing the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; or (v) monitoring compliance with state or local laws or regulations that permit the manufacture, distribution, sale, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA.

All purchases of equipment, supplies, and other resources must be requested in writing and specify whether these items will be purchased under criteria Option 1 and/or Option 2 as indicated on Page 1 of this agreement through the respective DEA Division, **to the Investigative Support Section (ODS)**. Requests must include manufacturer specifications, pricing of the item (including tax, if applicable) to be purchased, and justification for the purchase. The DEA Division personnel will notify the state/local agency whether or not the purchase has been approved. Expenditures for equipment, supplies, and other resources should not exceed 10% of the total Federal funds awarded. Although equipment, supplies, and other resources may be specifically itemized in the Operation Plan, they **are not automatically approved for purchase**. All requests for purchases must be received by HQ/ODS by July 30th. Exemptions to any of these requirements must have prior HQ/ODS approval.

Per DOJ, none of the funds allocated to **THE AGENCY** may be used to purchase promotional items, gifts, trinkets, mementos, tokens of appreciation, or other similar items. Prohibited purchases include items justified as training aids if they are embossed, engraved or printed with **THE AGENCY** or program logos. Additionally, the use of DCE/SP funds for Demand Reduction expenses is no longer authorized.

5. In compliance with Section 623 of Public Law 102-141, **THE AGENCY** agrees that no amount of these funds shall be used to finance the acquisition of goods or services unless **THE AGENCY**:
 - (a) Specifies in any announcement of the awarding of the contract for the procurement of the goods and services involved the amount of Federal funds that will be used to finance the acquisition; and
 - (b) Expresses the amount announced pursuant to paragraph (a) as a percentage of the total cost of the planned acquisition.

The above requirements only apply to procurements for goods or services that have an aggregate value of \$500,000 or more. Any goods or services acquired under this provision of the agreement must be directly related to and must only be used for marijuana eradication activities and may not be used to perform any of the following functions: (i) issuing licenses, permits, or other forms of authorization permitting the holder to manufacture, distribute, sell, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (ii) conducting ancillary activities related to the issuance of such licenses and permits, such as background checks on applicants; (iii) collecting state or local tax or licensing revenue related to the manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (iv) preparing or issuing regulations governing the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; or (v) monitoring compliance with state or local laws or regulations that permit the manufacture, distribution, sale, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA.

6. If DEA approves the purchase of supplies (all tangible personal property other than “equipment” as defined by 2 C.F.R. § 200.1), and there is a residual inventory of unused supplies exceeding \$5,000 in total aggregate fair market value upon termination or completion of this Agreement, and if the supplies are not needed for any other federally sponsored programs or projects, **THE AGENCY** shall compensate DEA for DEA’s share and in any case the supplies will not be used directly or indirectly to support any state, county or local entity that authorizes cultivating marijuana or has direct oversight or regulatory responsibilities for a state authorized marijuana program, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.314. **THE AGENCY** agrees that any unused supplies not exceeding \$5,000 in total aggregate fair market value upon termination or completion of this Agreement will either be used for the marijuana eradication activities, returned to DEA, or destroyed, but in any case will not be used to perform any of the following functions: (i) issuing licenses, permits, or other forms of authorization permitting the holder to manufacture, distribute, sell, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (ii) conducting ancillary activities related to the issuance of such licenses and permits, such as background checks on applicants; (iii) collecting state or local tax or licensing revenue related to the manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (iv) preparing or issuing regulations governing the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; or (v) monitoring compliance with state or local laws or regulations that permit the manufacture, distribution, sale, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA.

7. If DEA approves the purchase of equipment (tangible, non-expendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit) for the use of **THE AGENCY**'s personnel engaged in illicit cannabis eradication under this Agreement, **THE AGENCY** will use, manage, and dispose of the equipment in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.313, except that in no case, regardless of useful life and acquisition cost, will the equipment be used directly or indirectly to perform any of the following functions: (i) issuing licenses, permits, or other forms of authorization permitting the holder to manufacture, distribute, sell, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (ii) conducting ancillary activities related to the issuance of such licenses and permits, such as background checks on applicants; (iii) collecting state or local tax or licensing revenue related to the manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (iv) preparing or issuing regulations governing the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; or (v) monitoring compliance with state or local laws or regulations that permit the manufacture, distribution, sale, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA.
8. Payment by DEA to **THE AGENCY** will be in accordance with a schedule determined by DEA. However, no funds will be paid by DEA to **THE AGENCY** under this Agreement until DEA has received to its satisfaction an accounting of the expenditures of all funds paid to **THE AGENCY** during the previous year Agreement. The final/closeout expenditure report will be documented on the September (FINAL) Accounting Form.
9. It is understood and agreed by **THE AGENCY** that, in return for DEA's payment to **THE AGENCY** for Federal funds, **THE AGENCY** will comply with all applicable Federal statutes, regulations, guidance, and orders, including previous OMB guidance under OMB Circular A-102 (Grants and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments), OMB Circular A-87 (Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments), and OMB Circular A-133 (Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations), which have been combined in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, effective December 26, 2014. In addition, 2 C.F.R. Part 2867 (Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension), 28 C.F.R. Part 83 (Drug-Free Workplace Act common rule), and 28 C.F.R. Part 69 (Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment common rule) apply. (Note: The LOA is a reimbursable agreement, not a grant; therefore, for purposes of the DCE/SP, DEA requires an audit completed regardless of the threshold amount listed in 2 C.F.R. Part 200. The DCE/SP does not have an assigned Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number. Audits can be conducted without a CFDA number. The auditor must send an email to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse efrd.fac@census.gov with their agency's name and EIN number and the information will be forwarded to them. In conjunction with the beginning date of the award, the audit report period of **THE AGENCY** under the single audit requirement is **FY24 (10/01/2023 through 09/30/2024)**).

10. **THE AGENCY** acknowledges that arrangements have been made for any required financial and compliance audits and will be made within the prescribed audit reporting cycle. **THE AGENCY** understands that failure to furnish an acceptable audit as determined by the cognizant Federal agency may be a basis for denial of future Federal funds and/or refunding of Federal funds and may be a basis for limiting **THE AGENCY** to payment by reimbursement on a cash basis. **THE AGENCY** further understands that its use of DEA funds or the result of expended DEA funds (e.g. equipment, supplies and other resources) for any use other than the marijuana eradication program activities, including but not limited to its use directly or indirectly to perform any of the following functions: (i) issuing licenses, permits, or other forms of authorization permitting the holder to manufacture, distribute, sell, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (ii) conducting ancillary activities related to the issuance of such licenses and permits, such as background checks on applicants; (iii) collecting state or local tax or licensing revenue related to the manufacture, distribution, or sale of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; (iv) preparing or issuing regulations governing the manufacture, distribution, sale, or possession of marijuana in contravention of the CSA; or (v) monitoring compliance with state or local laws or regulations that permit the manufacture, distribution, sale, or use marijuana in contravention of the CSA, will be a basis for denial of future Federal funds and/or refunding of Federal funds and may be a basis for limiting **THE AGENCY** to payment by reimbursement on a cash basis.
11. **THE AGENCY** shall maintain complete and accurate reports, records, and accounts of all obligations and expenditures of DEA funds under this Agreement in accordance with generally accepted government accounting principles and in accordance with state laws and procedures for expending and accounting for its own funds. **THE AGENCY** shall further maintain its records of all obligations and expenditures of DEA funds under this Agreement in accordance with all instructions provided by DEA to facilitate on-site inspection and auditing of such records and accounts.
12. **THE AGENCY** shall permit and have available for examination and auditing by DEA, the DOJ Office of Inspector General, the Government Accountability Office, and any of their duly authorized agents and representatives, any and all investigative reports, records, documents, accounts, invoices, receipts, and expenditures relating to this Agreement. In addition, **THE AGENCY** will maintain all such foregoing reports and records for **six** years after termination of this Agreement or until after all audits and examinations are completed and resolved, whichever is longer.
13. **THE AGENCY** agrees that an authorized officer or employee will execute and return to the DEA Regional Contractor, the LOA; Electronic Funds Transfer Memorandum; Certifications Regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension, & Other Responsibility Matters; Drug Free Workplace Requirements (OJP Form 406 1/6); and the Assurances (OJP Form 4000/3). **THE AGENCY** acknowledges that this Agreement will not take effect and that no Federal funds will be awarded by DEA until DEA receives the completed LOA package.
14. Employees of **THE AGENCY** shall at no time be considered employees of the U.S. Government or DEA for any purpose, nor will this Agreement establish an agency relationship between **THE AGENCY** and DEA.

15. **THE AGENCY** shall be responsible for the acts or omissions of **THE AGENCY's** personnel. **THE AGENCY** and **THE AGENCY's** employees shall not be considered as the agent of any other participating entity. Nothing herein is intended to waive or limit sovereign immunity under other federal or state statutory or constitutional authority. This Agreement creates no liability on the part of the DEA, its agents or employees, or the U.S. Government for any claims, demands, suits, liabilities, or causes of action of whatever kind and designation, and wherever located in the **State of California** resulting from the DCE/SP funded by DEA.
16. **THE AGENCY** shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and all requirements imposed by or pursuant to DOJ regulations implementing those laws, 28 C.F.R. Part 42, Subparts C, F, G, H, and I.
17. Upon termination of the Agreement, **THE AGENCY** will prepare a September (FINAL) Accounting Form and a general ledger itemizing the breakdown of final expenditures and completion of the overtime spreadsheet tracker. If applicable, attach invoices reflecting the expenditures for equipment in excess of \$2,500, which was previously approved by DEA Headquarters, and the expenses associated with rental or leasing of aircraft. The report should be submitted electronically to the DEA Regional Contractor by October 31st.
18. The duration of this Agreement shall be as specified in Paragraph 3, except that this Agreement may be terminated by either party after thirty (30) day written notice to the other party. All obligations that are outstanding on the above prescribed termination date or on the date of any thirty (30) day notice of termination shall be liquidated by **THE AGENCY** within sixty (60) days thereof, in which event DEA will only be liable for obligations incurred by **THE AGENCY** before the notice of termination. In no event shall **THE AGENCY** incur any new obligations during the period of notice of termination. In the event that the agreement is terminated, any DEA funds that have been obligated or expended and the result of expended funds (e.g. equipment, supplies and other resources) will be used and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.
19. **THE AGENCY** must be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) to receive payment of Federal funds. **THE AGENCY** must have a unique entity identifier known as the Unique Entity ID (UEI). The UEI (formerly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number) is a 12-character alphanumeric value assigned to all entities (public and private companies, individuals, institutions or organizations) who must register to do business with the federal government in SAMS. The UEI is required when there is a need for more than one.

THE AGENCY may obtain the UEI via the internet (www.sam.gov) or for additional information, call by phone at 1-844-472-4111. Both the registration in SAM and the UEI are free of charge.

Note: It is *THE AGENCY's* responsibility to update their SAM registration annually or whenever a change occurs.

Failure to abide by the terms of the LOA, or provide the required reports, may result in the cancellation of the current LOA and jeopardize future funding.

THE AGENCY's current UEI is_____.

THE AGENCY's opportunity to enter into this Agreement with DEA and to receive the Federal funds expires ninety (90) days from date of issuance. Agreement issued on _____.

(VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)

Printed Name & Signature:_____

Title:_____ Date:_____

Agency, please submit original signed LOA & associated paperwork to your DEA Regional Contractor

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Printed Name & Signature:_____

Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Field Division Date:_____

SAC, please submit original signed LOA & associated paperwork to your Fiscal Office.

DEA DIVISIONAL FISCAL CLERK MUST INPUT INTO UFMS & COMPLETE THE BOTTOM OF THIS SECTION

ACCOUNTING CLASSIFICATION/OBLIGATION NUMBER:

2024/AFF-B-OP-OD/6610000/DEA-JLE-JDCE-OD009

UFMS Input Date: _____ DNC No. _____

DNO No. _____ DDP No. _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Fiscal, please submit original signed LOA & associated paperwork to your DEA Regional Contractor.