



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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UNPERMITTED CANNABIS OPERATION DISMANTLED

Sheriff's Office personnel with the Santa Cruz County Cannabis Licensing Office have identified and dismantled a large-scale, unpermitted commercial processing and distribution operation in the Summit Road area of Santa Cruz County.

On June 4th, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant in the 1500 block of Summit Road near Russell Ridge. The search located 369 cannabis plants, 695 pounds of processed cannabis flower, 100 pounds of cannabis plant material for manufacturing, more than 11 pounds of concentrated cannabis wax, scales, a commercial money counter, packaging material and \$126,469 in U.S. currency.

Additional evidence of interstate sales and transportation was located, including commercial vacuum sealers, oversized airtight bags and weather-tight duffle bags. Based on evidence located at the site, investigators determined cannabis was being transported to the site from other locations for processing and distribution.

The property is adjacent to a parcel subject to a prior search executed May 30, where officials located an unpermitted commercial cultivation operation with 9,734 cannabis plants and numerous large, non-permitted greenhouses.

Investigators will review bank records and other documents seized from the site to determine the amount of tax liability owed to the County of Santa Cruz. No arrests were made during the search and those responsible for the unlawful operation will be referred to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

There are currently 72 authorized cultivation and manufacturing operators in Santa Cruz County including 421,000 square feet of cultivation canopy. An additional 1.4 million square feet of canopy is undergoing permitting review by the Santa Cruz County Cannabis Licensing Office.