

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

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ADDENDUM

The following statistics from the November 2010 General Election were provided by the Tulare County Election Board:

Vote By Mail (VBM):

	Ballots Issued	Ballots Returned Challenged	Ballots Returned Good	Ballots Returned Skipped	Ballots Returned Undeliverable
Per VBM	54,213	627	36,839	1	1,711
Mil-US	139	0	25	0	0
Mil-Oversea	89	2	20	0	0
Over-Civ	119	2	42	0	0
TOTAL	54,560	631	36,926	1	1,711

Provisional Ballots:

<u>Provisional Status</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Provision Reason</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Voting Method</u>	<u>Total</u>
Counted	2,459	Good	2,459	Provisional AV	1,627
Not Counted	645	Insufficient Info Prov	34	Provisional DMV	2
Partially Counted	<u>402</u>	Lives Out of County	6	Provisional Mail PCT	103
TOTAL	3,506	No signature	29	Provisional Misc	1
		Not in Election	2	Provisional No ID	6
		Not Registered	528	Prov.- Not in Roster	1,612
		Partially Counted	402	Provisional Party	6
		Returned AV	2	Provisional Voter	147
		Sig Doesn't Match	<u>44</u>	Voted by Mail Ballot	<u>2</u>
		TOTAL	3,506	TOTAL	3,506

¹ The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.A. § et. Seq.) prohibits the states and their political subdivisions from imposing voting qualifications or prerequisites to voting or standards, practices or procedures that deny or curtail the right of a U.S. citizen to vote because of race, color or membership in a language minority group. <http://www.legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Voting.riggths.act.of.1965>

EXCESSIVE MAIL COST

BACKGROUND

The Tulare County Mail Services Unit is responsible for providing all county departments with services that meet mail needs while continually seeking ways to provide services in the most efficient manner. Costs are recovered through charges to user departments.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The 2010-2011 Tulare County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) received a complaint concerning excessive mail cost by the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency.

PROCEDURES FOLLOWED

1. Relevant witnesses were interviewed.
2. Relevant documents were reviewed.
3. One Grand Jury member was recused from this report.

FINDINGS

1. The Tulare County Administrative Office has an annual budget allowance for mail services of \$1,244,915.
2. A single page document that was not time sensitive or private in any sense was delivered to multiple addressees using Federal Express (FEDEX) at a cost of \$6.88 each.
3. This document could have been sent first-class mail for 44¢ or certified mail for an additional \$2.80.
4. The option to use FEDEX is within the purview of the sending organization.
5. The Grand Jury was unable to find any documented policy within the agencies interviewed that defines the most cost-effective method to send mail.

CONCLUSION

Although there was no evidence of widespread abuse of the system, the Grand Jury was able to substantiate the complaint and found the possibility exists for abuse. In these times of tight budgets, all avenues of cutting costs must be followed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Tulare County Administrative Office establish a policy defining specific methods of using mail services to obtain the most cost-effective way available.
2. Each agency investigates its mail charges on a regular basis to ensure they are meeting their best-practice goals.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Tulare County Administrative Office

Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency

MARIJUANA GARDENS – A GROWING PROBLEM

BACKGROUND

Federal Law prohibits the cultivation of marijuana in National Parks, National Forests and State Parks. It is also illegal to export marijuana to other states. Created in 1983, the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting (CAMP) is a unique multi-agency law enforcement task force managed by the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and composed of local, state and federal agencies organized expressly to eradicate illegal marijuana cultivation and trafficking in California (see Attachment A). The Tulare County Sheriff's Department is responsible for enforcing the law throughout Tulare County.

REASONS FOR INVESTIGATION

The 2010-2011 Tulare County Grand Jury decided to investigate the illegal farming, harvesting, and distribution of marijuana because of the following:

- A death occurred in neighboring Fresno County when a legal grower of marijuana allegedly shot and killed a young man for stealing marijuana plants from his backyard.
- A home invasion robbery took place where the suspect broke in to steal marijuana from the resident.
- A grower was killed during a raid on a marijuana garden in neighboring Kern County.
- The media reported that the number of marijuana gardens on public lands is increasing.
- The Director of the Office of National Control Policy, commonly referred to as the Drug Czar, reported that a majority of marijuana exported to other states was coming from the Central Valley of California.

PROCEDURES FOLLOWED

1. Observed raids on 3 marijuana gardens in Tulare County
2. Reviewed relevant documents
3. Interviewed relevant witnesses

FINDINGS

1. At any given time, there are over 100 known illegal marijuana gardens in Tulare County.
2. The Sheriff's Department indicated that an increase in border security after 9/11 prompted the cartels to grow marijuana within the United States rather than bringing marijuana into the country through the borders. This has resulted in an increase in the number of gardens and plants in Tulare County.
3. Many of the illegal marijuana gardens are financed and controlled by cartels and tended by people who are in the United States illegally.