

News Release



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State Park Rangers Arrest Two For Marijuana Cultivation

SONOMA COUNTY, Calif.—California State Parks rangers arrested two individuals on Wednesday July 10, 2013 for a suspected illegal marijuana grow located in Sonoma Coast State Park.

State Parks officers had investigated the illegal marijuana grow since May in collaboration with the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit, Sonoma County District Attorney's Office investigators, state wildlife officers, Sebastopol Police Department and Cotati Police Department.

On the morning of July 10, two suspects were served with search warrants at two separate locations—an apartment on Calder Avenue in Sebastopol and a trailer on Crystal Drive in Cotati. The suspects, identified as 51-year-old Cotati resident Robert William Easter, and 24-year-old Sebastopol resident Vincent James Descano, were taken into custody without incident. Additional charges stemming from the search warrants, included possession of marijuana with intent for sale at the Sebastopol location and a honey oil manufacturing lab at the Cotati location. Two firearms – a .22 caliber rifle and a .45 caliber handgun were seized at the Sebastopol residence. A .357 handgun was also seized in the course of the investigation near the marijuana grow inside the park. Both suspects were booked into Sonoma County Jail and charged with marijuana cultivation, possession of a concealed firearm, littering within 150 feet of a waterway, depositing deleterious substance into a waterway, unauthorized streambed diversion, and vandalism. Easter was also charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of concentrated cannabis, and manufacturing or preparing a controlled substance. Additional charges for Descano were possession of marijuana with intent to sell and possession of psilocybin.

In May 2013, California State Parks received a report of an illegal marijuana grow in the Willow Creek area of Sonoma Coast State Park. State park peace officers assigned to the Russian River District located the marijuana grow, began surveillance of the area, and eventually identified two suspects. The Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Unit, Sonoma County District Attorney's Office investigators, California Department of Fish and Wildlife officers,

Sebastopol Police Department, and Cotati Police Department assisted State Parks rangers with the investigation and executing the search warrants. Due to the environmental damage caused by the marijuana cultivation along a sensitive tributary of Willow Creek, the case will be forwarded to the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Environmental Crimes Unit.