

**CITY OF DANA POINT  
AGENDA REPORT**

Reviewed By:	
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**DATE:**                   **SEPTEMBER 24, 2003**

**TO:**                      **CITY MANAGER/CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM:**                 **MARK BILLINGS, CHIEF OF POLICE SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:**            **APPROPRIATION OF CITIZENS OPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY  
(COPS) PROGRAM FUNDS – (AB 1913)**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Adjust the FY 2003/04 budget with the addition of \$100,000 to the Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Fund (SLESF) account, and
2. Appropriate funds from the SLESF to implement the following programs:
  - Approve funding for the School Resource Officer position for this school year.
  - Approve funding for Project STOP (Stop Trashing Our Parks).

**BACKGROUND:**

State Assembly Bill 3229 was signed into law on July 10, 1996, creating the Citizens Option for Public Safety program (COPS). This program provides \$116 million statewide exclusively for front line law enforcement with another \$116 million allocated for juvenile justice programs. The County of Orange, and all thirty-one cities within the county, will receive approximately \$8.2 million during FY 03/04. The statewide distribution formula for these funds is 5.15% to sheriff's departments for jail construction and operation, 5.15% to district attorney's offices for prosecution costs, 39.7% to cities and unincorporated county areas distributed on a per-capita basis with the remaining 50% allocated to implement a comprehensive multi-agency juvenile justice program. The City of Dana Point will receive approximately \$100,000.

These funds are meant to supplement funding currently available for public safety, including personnel, equipment, and programs. These funds are not meant to supplant any other existing funding and there is a prohibition on reducing general fund/regular budget appropriations for law enforcement. The legislation contains specific requirements on both the County and the City for the use and accounting of these funds.

**DISCUSSION:****Supplemental Law Enforcement Oversight Committee (SLEOC)**

The legislation requires the formation of an oversight committee for the expenditure of COPS funds. This committee must be comprised of one municipal police chief, the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the county Chief Executive Officer, and one city manager. The Board of Supervisors, in cooperation with the Orange County Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Association has created the required SLEOC. The current members are:

1. Sheriff Mike Carona, Chairman
2. Chief Steven Foster, Tustin Police Department
3. District Attorney Tony R. Rackauckas
4. Interim County Executive Officer, James D. Ruth, County of Orange
5. City Manager Allan Roeder, City of Costa Mesa

The SLEOC shall determine whether recipient entities have expended monies received from the SLESF in compliance with the legislation. The SLEOC shall review these expenditures, at least annually, and make their report public.

**City Council Appropriations of COPS funds**

The City Council shall appropriate the monies in accordance with written requests submitted annually by the Chief of Police Services. The City Council shall, in each year the legislature appropriates COPS funds, consider the written requests in a regularly scheduled meeting open to public comment. The City Council shall consider these requests separate and apart from the regular budget process.

The legislation requires the City to expend funds exclusively to provide front line law enforcement services. The funds shall supplement existing services, and shall not be used to supplant any existing funding for services provided by the City. These front line law enforcement services include personnel, equipment, and programs including anti-gang and anti-drug programs. The presentation of this report meets the requirement that the Chief of Police Services present a written request for appropriations.

Staff has identified the following options for consideration by the City Council:

**School Resource Officer**

During FY 97/98, and all subsequent years, the City Council appropriated a portion of our COPS funds to provide a School Resource Officer to our three public schools on a full time basis during the school year. A deputy is assigned to the schools during the year and the resulting vacancy in patrol is back filled with overtime from the COPS funds. This program is very successful and should be continued.

Cost: Approximately \$68,000.

Project STOP (Stop Trashing Our Parks)

The parks in Dana Point have suffered an increase in vandalism during the past several years. Project STOP will allow Dana Point Police Services staff to target our parks with saturation enforcement without reducing patrol staffing levels or diminishing the level of service to the citizens. Due to the cyclical nature of these problems, it is not cost effective to permanently increase staffing. Through this project, deputies will be assigned on overtime to target the parks as needed, particularly during the summer months. The goal of this project is to reduce crime in our parks and create a safer environment for the community.

Cost: Approximately \$32,000.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:**

Appropriate funds for other front line law enforcement expenditures as identified by the City Council.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The allocation of COPS funds from our Supplemental Law Enforcement Service Fund will fund all of the previously identified programs; no general fund monies will be used.

School Resource Officer .....	\$68,000.
Project STOP .....	\$32,000.