



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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LOMPICO GROW OPERATION DISMANTLED

A combined law and regulatory enforcement action has resulted in the closure of a large-scale illegal cannabis operation in Santa Cruz County's Lompico area.

During the month of December 2018, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and Cannabis Licensing Office began investigating an unpermitted and unregulated indoor cannabis cultivation operation in the 11100 block of Lake Boulevard. On January 10th, 2019, the Sheriff's Office Cannabis Compliance deputies along with Cannabis Licensing staff served a search warrant at the location, determining the residential structure had been converted into ten individual grow areas and two processing areas.

Law enforcement officials located 1956 cannabis plants, 37 pounds of processed plant material for manufacturing and 46 pounds of processed cannabis flower at the location, which included 159 1000-watt unpermitted high intensity discharge lights, posing a significant fire risk to the heavily forested surrounding neighborhood.

The site was not permitted by state or local authorities, and it is believed the cannabis was destined for the unregulated cannabis market. The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Cannabis Licensing Office and County Planning Department work collectively together, identifying and abating non-permitted cannabis sites.

In April 2018, the County Board of Supervisors passed regulations providing for a safe, permitted cannabis cultivation and manufacturing industry in Santa Cruz County. With the assistance of enforcement activities funded by local cannabis taxes, the County remains committed to the development of a regulated cannabis industry that protects neighborhoods and the environment while fostering jobs and economic development.

The case remains under investigation for potential criminal and civil penalties.