



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: June 14, 2019  
Contact: Jason Hoppin  
831-454-3401

### UNPERMITTED COMMERCIAL CANNABIS GROW DISMANTLED *PROPERTY RED-TAGGED, LANDSLIDE TO BE STUDIED FURTHER*

Sheriff's Office personnel with the Santa Cruz County Cannabis Licensing Office have dismantled an unpermitted commercial cannabis operation at a site that included hazardous electrical circuitry and a substantial landslide.

On June 13, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant in the 200 block of Hill House Road, Boulder Creek. Investigators found 3,321 cannabis plants under cultivation within the residence as well as nine non-permitted greenhouses. Investigators and County regulatory staff also discovered evidence of a landslide adjacent to the commercial greenhouses, with ground saturated from water runoff from the cultivation operation.

Investigators discontinued electrical service to the residence due to fire danger from multiple overloaded circuits and substandard wiring. Three people were contacted at the site and appeared to be tending to the commercial cannabis operation. One arrest was made after individual failed to properly identify themselves.

The property owner faces civil fines, and the property was red-tagged by the County Planning Department due to numerous building violations. The site will be further reviewed to establish the extent of the commercial cultivation operation's contribution to the landslide.