

Grant Justification –

The Sheriff's Office has had a significant reduction in the Proposition 172 half cent sales tax revenue for Public Safety. The economic crisis hitting this County has caused a drastic reduction in the sales tax collected by the State of California. This reduction in revenue resulted in the reduction in force of 17.5 FTE positions within the Sheriff's Office.

The request for funding is for 3 School Resource Officers (SRO), and 1 Meeks Bay Resident Deputy position which fulfills vital service functions to our community. The SRO positions provide direct communication, partnership, and involvement of our Department with the community. The deputies are assigned to specific schools and develop relationships with the school staff, administrators, students and parents. Many of the issues and problems that SROs handle would likely not come to light without the accessibility of these officers to the community. The Meeks Bay Resident Deputy would be serving a community that is geographically separated from our South Lake Tahoe substation. The resident deputy lives in the community and is able to develop meaningful and mutually beneficial relationships with members of the community, governmental agencies, local businesses, community groups, and private citizens. Through these relationships community problems, both criminal and quality of life, are brought to light and dealt within a cooperative atmosphere. Both of these programs enjoy huge community support, as well as, support from other governmental entities and community groups. These positions will continue beyond the three years of the grant period, as the economic crisis abates and we no longer have to eliminate discretionary but valuable positions such as these.