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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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AGENTS DISCOVER HIDDEN MARIJUANA FIELD OVER 1,200 PLANTS VALUED AT MORE THAN \$400,000 ERADICATED

Temecula, California - Border Patrol Agents looking for illegal aliens in a remote area of Riverside County stumbled across a field of marijuana plants hidden in the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve.

The plants were well hidden in the thick brush and supported by a sophisticated irrigation system. Agents, along with officers from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department's Special Investigation Bureau and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, eradicated 1,249 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$437,150.

Border Patrol Agents working in remote terrain are often the first law enforcement officers to locate illegal narcotic grow sites. Yesterday's discovery is one of the largest seizures of unharvested marijuana plants in the San Diego sector this year.

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