Atascadero City Council
Staff Report - City Manager’s Office

San Luis Obispo County Narcotics Task Force
Memorandum of Understanding

RECOMMENDATION:

Council authorize the City Manager to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the State Office of the Attorney General, State Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE), and the City of Atascadero for operation of the county Narcotics Task Force.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Atascadero is a continuing participant in the County Narcotics Task Force (NTF). NTF consists of twelve municipal, county, and state agencies working in conjunction to effectively enforce controlled substance laws of the State of California and applicable federal laws relating to the trafficking of controlled substances. Agencies participating in the Task Force target their investigations toward the apprehension of all levels of violators, to include gang activity, organized crimes, and outlaw motorcycle groups. NTF is managed by two commanders assigned from the State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement. The commanders answer to a Board of Governors consisting of the Chiefs of Police or directors of participating agencies, the Sheriff, and the District Attorney.

The term of agreement shall be from July 1, 2007 and shall remain in effect indefinitely, or until the Task Force is dissolved or participating agencies agree that significant modification and/or renewal of the agreement are appropriate. Any participating agency shall be able to withdraw from this agreement by providing notice in writing to the Board of Governors, and such withdrawal shall be effective within thirty (30) days after such notification.

Although this Document is dated July 1, 2007, it has only been recently submitted to the Board of Governors for signature after the necessary state signatures were obtained. NTF continues to function using this MOU as a guideline, however, the state has
requested the date remain as is, to ensure that state funding of NTF remains consistent without a break in the Agreement.

The City of Atascadero currently supplies one full time officer, one equipped undercover vehicle, and necessary safety equipment to NTF. The City has full access to NTF resources, and therefore has the added benefits of being able to use officers from other jurisdictions assigned to NTF on narcotic operations within this City just as other cities benefit from the use of the assigned officers. Additionally, because the City is a principal member (provides personnel and equipment) with regards to larger, more complex cases, the NTF Commanders, as members of the State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement have access to both State and federal resources to offer assistance in these complex cases.

The officer assigned task force is also available to assist, train, and consult with other Atascadero City Police officers in narcotics detection, surveillance, and investigative techniques, culminating in an increased level of narcotic awareness and appropriate courtroom testimony leading to a higher conviction and incarceration rate. In addition, this position is highly sought after by police officers and provides another retention tool of experienced officers.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact is approximately $150,000 of budgeted funds consisting of one full time police officer, and related equipment.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Do not sign the MOU and therefore, withdraw from NTF. Doing so would limit the City’s access to NTF’s resources.

2. Request more information from staff.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

San Luis Obispo County Narcotic Task Force Memorandum of Understanding with effective date of July 1, 2007.