

# Keeley may change vote on state **CAMP** grant

One of the Santa Cruz County supervisors who opposed acceptance of a \$240,000 state grant for marijuana suppression is now saying he might change his vote.

San Lorenzo Valley Supervisor Fred Keeley said today he will consider changing his vote if he can be convinced the grant is targeting the major dealers and growers.

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The large dealers and growers, and the violent crime that is sometimes associated with their activities "is the real problem," Keeley said.

Last week, Keeley and fellow Supervisor Gary Patton voted against accepting the grant, saying they had problems with the operation of the annual Campaign Against Marijuana Plant-

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## CAMP

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ing.

Reading statistics that showed a large number of CAMP raids results in seizures of a small number of plants, Keeley questioned whether the program was effective.

Keeley and Patton's votes blocked the spending, because a four-fifths vote is needed to spend money in the middle of the fiscal year.

At the suggestion of Supervisor Jan Beautz, supervisors voted 3-2 to see if the grant could be restructured to leave out some of items that raised objections, such as an infrared heat-seeking device.

Sheriff Al Noren said yesterday the answer from the state Office of Criminal Justice Planning is that restructuring would not be allowed.

Noren said this morning he is willing to discuss the issue with Keeley, "but I haven't changed my position."

CAMP deputies looks for the large growing operations, Noren said, but doesn't ignore the smaller growers they come across.

Keeley said he's not trying to "micromanage" the Sheriff's Office, but said some discretion can be used.

Deputies use discretion every day in such matters as giving traffic tickets, but can't overlook felonies such as marijuana culti-

vation, Noren said.

Keeley said that while he's reconsidering his vote, he's not changing his stance on how the money should be spent. "I want to make sure the money hits the target," he said.

Most of the money will go toward replacement of equipment used by the CAMP deputies. Included in the grant is \$68,000 for an assistant district attorney who would concentrate on marijuana prosecutions.

Patton said this morning he is not interested in changing his vote, but would vote to accept reimbursement for money already spent, if that's possible.

Supervisors are scheduled to discuss the issue again Dec. 14.

— Lane Wallace