



**Fresno County Sheriff's Department**  
**Margaret Mims, Sheriff**  
**News Release**

**June 22, 2007**

Deputy Chris Curtice – Public Information Officer  
Office 559.488.2699 Fax 559.262.4032  
E-mail: christian.curtice@fresnosheriff.org

**MEDIA ADVISORY: Marijuana Grow Discovered. Four Arrested.**

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the arrest of four people after the discovery of a large marijuana grow in eastern Fresno County.

As a result of an ongoing investigation, detectives from the Sheriff's METRO Narcotics Enforcement Team eradicated the marijuana grow in a heavily wooded area near Watts Valley Rd. and Big Springs.

The marijuana grow consisted of 5375 mature plants with an estimated street value of \$21,500,000.00. Also located was approximately 250 pounds of processed marijuana with an estimated street value of \$1,000,000.00. Two campsites were also located at the grow site.

Detectives served a search warrant at a nearby trailer that was believed to be connected to the marijuana grow. Nothing was found at the trailer.

During the investigation, two subjects were stopped in a vehicle, driving in the area. Investigation revealed that the two subjects were connected to the marijuana grow and they were arrested.

During the arrests, one of the suspect's kept receiving calls on his cell phone. A check of the cell phone found that the calls were coming from one particular number.

Posing as one of the arrested suspects, a detective dialed the number and spoke to the subject who had called. Detectives determined that there were two other suspects in the area that were connected to the marijuana grow.

Detectives then responded to the area where the other two suspects wanted to be picked up and arrested them without incident.

Arrested were 24 year old Socrates Gaytan Gonzalez, 27 year old Julio Cesar Gaytan Gonzalez, 27 year old Michelle Saucedo Pineda and a 17 year old juvenile. All of the suspects are from Mexico.

**All were arrested on charges of cultivation of marijuana, possession of marijuana for sales, and conspiracy.**

**Anyone with information regarding this case, or anyone who may have knowledge of these subjects being in the area of the marijuana grow, is asked to contact the Sheriff's Narcotics Unit at 452-1295, the Fresno County Sheriff's Department at 488-3111, or CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867).**