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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:
Carma Roper, Public Information Officer
(760) 878-0395

Joint Enforcement Operation

A joint operation consisting of marked and unmarked units of the Inyo County Sheriff's Department, marked California Highway Patrol units, California Highway Patrol Aircraft, and the Inyo Narcotics Enforcement Team was conducted on January 3, 2010 and February 15, 2010 along Old Spanish Trail Highway in Tecopa.

According to Sheriff Lutze, "A coordinated response was mobilized after the Sheriff's Department received numerous complaints from residents regarding the dumping of sewage, waste water, and trash along Old Spanish Trail Highway. This highway is used heavily by campers and off highway enthusiasts traveling from Dumont Dunes to Las Vegas, Nevada in the winter months."

During the two operations several citations were issued for dumping waste holding tanks, children riding in trailers, out of class drivers, and misuse of license plates. Vehicles with registration violations were impounded in Pahrump, Nevada.

On January 3rd Richard Laatz was arrested after officers witnessed illegal dumping of sewage along the Old Spanish Trail Highway. A search of the vehicle produced a clear baggie of illegal mushrooms. Laatz was subsequently arrested for possession of psilocybin.

The second arrest took place on February 15th, Steaven Brabandt was taken into custody for felony alteration of vehicle registration, carrying a concealed weapon, and carrying a loaded firearm.

"The actions of the travelers in this area will be monitored, and another coordinated response will be mobilized if necessary," stated Lutze.

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