



## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Contra Costa County Probation Department Awarded Grant to Supervise People Convicted of DUI**

Martinez, Calif. –The Contra Costa County Probation Department is the recipient of a one-year, \$389,700 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to monitor high-risk, repeat DUI Probation clients. Currently, the Probation Department is supervising 202 DUI probation clients.

Grant funding will be used to make sure DUI probation clients are following the court ordered terms of their probation, including home, work and office visits, alcohol testing and warrant service operations.

In addition, funding will be used to develop the Habitual Offender Tally, also known as "HOT Sheets," that identify repeat DUI probation clients to local law enforcement agencies. The funds will also be utilized to assist Probation in working with Court officials to establish probation orders for the DUI clients being placed on probation.

This grant is aimed at reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol-related collisions as well as lower DUI recidivism rates.

"Prevention and treatment are valuable tools in reducing DUI recidivism rates," OTS Director Barbara Rooney said. "Monitoring programs are intended to steer probationers in the right direction."

The ongoing partnership between the Contra Costa County Probation Department and the Office of Traffic Safety has spanned more than 15 years.

"The support and assistance provided by OTS, coupled with strong working relationships with state and local law enforcement agencies, have allowed the Probation Department to closely monitor and rehabilitate our clients," said Chief Probation Officer, Esa Ehmen-Krause. "Reducing the traumatic impact that impaired driving causes across our community contributes to improving public safety."

The grant will fund Probation Department personnel to monitor drivers on Probation for felony DUI or multiple misdemeanor DUI convictions, including conducting unannounced fourth amendment waiver home searches, random alcohol and drug testing and ensuring those on probation are attending court-ordered DUI education and treatment programs. It will also fund the continued training of the Probation Department personnel in an effort to keep up with current trends and equipment use.

While alcohol remains the worst offender for DUI crashes, Contra Costa County Probation supports OTS in its statement, "DUI just doesn't mean booze." Prescription medications and marijuana can be impairing by themselves, but also in combination with alcohol, and can result in a DUI arrest.

The grant program runs through September 2022.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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