

# Santa Cruz County Law Enforcement Chief's Association

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**January 18, 2018**

### **Firearms Recovery Operation**

Santa Cruz County law enforcement agencies teamed up with agents from the California Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Firearms to attempt to locate guns owned by individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms. The operation was scheduled as a compliance measure and was not in response to any specific threat or incident.

Investigators found a high-degree of compliance with firearms laws in Santa Cruz County. During the two-day operation beginning January 16<sup>th</sup> officers from the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Santa Cruz Police Department and Watsonville Police Department worked with DOJ special agents to check 47 addresses, investigate and close 31 cases, and seize one semi-automatic handgun leading to the arrest of an individual in south county who was not allowed to have a gun due to a domestic violence restraining order.

Ownership or possession of a firearm by a person who is prohibited from such ownership or possession is a criminal violation. The Armed and Prohibited Persons System (APPS) is a state database that cross-references firearms owners across the state against criminal history records, mental health records, and restraining orders to identify those individuals who have become prohibited from possessing a firearm subsequent to the legal acquisition or registration of a firearm or assault weapon. APPS records were relied upon for information leading to compliance checks.