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PRESS RELEASE

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Large Local Gang Drug Sweep Involving 134 Officers Today

Multiple local gang members were arrested today for transporting and selling drugs following a months long investigation.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey announced that “Operation Northern Connection” culminated today in the execution of multiple arrest and search warrants across the North Valley.

According to Ramsey, “Operation Northern Connection” involved federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The investigation was led by the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. Over the course of the months’ long investigation, it was revealed that local members of a criminal street gang were involved in the importation of large amounts of cocaine and methamphetamine into the North Valley. The cocaine and methamphetamine were distributed to Butte and Glenn County gang members for sales throughout the area. Ramsey said the gang-based operation was involved in moving “multiple pounds” of drugs into the region per month.

At 7:00 a.m. this morning, over 134 officers, including narcotics agents, gang officers and 6 SWAT teams, began serving the arrest and search warrants. During the operation law enforcement recovered 6 firearms, approximately \$11,000 in cash, methamphetamine and criminal street gang paraphernalia and clothing.

Ramsey said he expects the arrests to put a “substantial dent” in narcotics traffic in the North Valley. Ramsey said this investigation pointed out a disturbing new trend in local gang activity.

Multiple law enforcement agencies participated in the investigation including Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force, Chico Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Butte County Sheriff’s Department, Butte County District Attorney’s Office, California Department of Justice - Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the Glenn County Interagency Narcotics Task Force and the Shasta County Interagency Narcotics Task Force.

Further information and additional details will be present at a press briefing on Friday, October 2, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at the Chico Police Department.