



County of San Bernardino
Office of the District Attorney
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PRESS RELEASE

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District Attorney Prosecutes Conspirators in Massive Subterranean Illegal Marijuana Grow

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY - On August 20, 2020, a search warrant was served on an illegal cannabis grow located in the City of Newberry Springs. The property owner at the time was Cheng Lin. Deputies observed a single-story residence on the property, and located 8 greenhouses, over 2,000 live cannabis plants and over 100 pounds of processed marijuana.

Detained at the property were additional defendants Zhonggui He, and Wenren He.

On November 19th 2020, Cheng Lin sold the Newberry Springs property to Qiao Yan Liu.

On March 3rd, 2022, just over a year and a half from the time Cheng Lin sold the property, deputies from San Bernardino County Sheriffs Marijuana Enforcement Team again served a search warrant on the same property in Newberry Springs. Observing the same single-story residence, several sheds on the property and a single red conex box.

Eight additional suspects attempted to flee and were detained at the property.

Upon searching the Conex box deputies discovered the floor opened and were able to descend into underground bunker. The length of the bunker was 230 feet in length by 60 feet in width. It was constructed with over 30 Conex boxes approximately 15 feet below the ground.

The square footage of the underground grow approximated 14,000 square feet, and in total over 6,000 marijuana plants were located.

It is estimated that it takes 1 gal. of water per plant per day, indicating the minimum water usage of a grow this size would be at least 6,000 gallons of water daily.

A cultivation this size could produce over 3,000 pounds of processed marijuana, with black market prices that amount of marijuana is valued anywhere between \$4.6 million and \$9 million dollars.

Upon further investigation, processed marijuana was found in the residence of Cheng Lin, as well as a commercial lease agreement in Cheng Lin's name, for a commercial building in which law enforcement found numerous items used for the cultivation of marijuana and over two hundred pounds of marijuana product.

The San Bernardino County District Attorney's office has formally filed the following charges: Against Zhong Gui He, Wenren He, and Cheng Lin, counts one and two;

One felony count of Health and Safety Code Section 11358(d)(3) – Cultivating More Than Six Marijuana Plants With Concurrent Violation of Environmental Law, and one misdemeanor count of Health and Safety Code Section 11359(b) Possession of Marijuana For Sale.

Counts three and four; against Weijian Liu, Qiaoyan Liu, Aiqing Lin, Zhonggui He, Wenren He, Wu Lin, Lijie Lin, Bin Li, Huang Lin , Mingfeng He and Cheng Lin- both felony counts of Cultivating More Than Six Marijuana Plants With Concurrent Violation of Environmental Law and further alleging illegal discharge of waste and intentionally and with gross negligence causing substantial harm to public lands and other public resources.

All above defendants were charged in count five, Health and Safety Code Section 11359(b) : misdemeanor possession of Marijuana for sale.

Our final count six, Defendants Qiaoyan Liu and Cheng Lin, as landowners, have been charged with felony PC 182(a)(1) Conspiracy to Commit a Crime.

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