

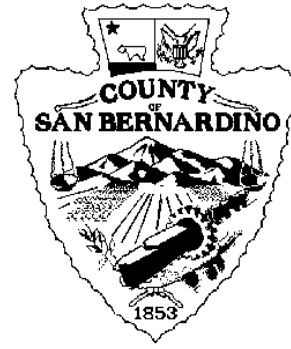
NEWS

From the Office of

Brad Mitzelfelt

Supervisor, First District
San Bernardino County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2009



For information, contact
David Zook (909) 387-4830
www.sbcounty.gov/mitzelfelt

Supervisors Approve River Patrol Grant

SAN BERNARDINO – To improve safety and enforcement efforts on the Colorado River, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors today approved a partnership with the state worth \$300,000 to supplement boat patrols through the next fiscal year.

During the nine-month busy season on the river, including the Easter break, as many as 250,000 people a day can be recreating on the river. The Sheriff's Department is responsible for patrolling 90 miles of river on the California side.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways provides funding for the expansion of boating operations on state waterways.

"This partnership provides important funding that goes a long way toward supporting our boat patrols," said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the High Desert area including the Colorado River. "Securing these funds will ensure this important recreational area is adequately patrolled to continue to allow the public to enjoy safe water and boating activities."

The Sheriff's Department coordinates with the Arizona sheriff's departments to ensure safety on the river. During Easter break and other holiday periods, there is a dramatic increase in boating under the influence, rowdy behavior, and unsafe behavior practices. The total cost to provide boat patrols along the Colorado River is more than \$1.2 million dollars.