[MS-0398.029.010.002]

News Release

PAM SLATER
Supervisor, Third District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 1993

Contact: John Weil
531-5533

SUPERVISOR SLATER DISCUSSES SHERIFF'S BUDGET

Third District County Supervisor Pam Slater today announced that she is willing to look at possible funding sources for additional Sheriff's protection, but cautioned that she will not allow public protection to become a financial chess game in the Sheriff's quest for more spending money.

"Public protection has always been my number one priority and remains my number one priority," Slater said. "It is especially important for the Sheriff to make certain that the unincorporated areas receive adequate protection. This Board is for law enforcement and we have always stood for law enforcement."

Slater said she will do all she can to find additional funding for Sheriff's protection. But not by further damaging other services demanded by the public. Nor will she raise fees or taxes. "The taxpayers of San Diego County have told us time and time again that they are not a funding trough," Slater said. "They demand that their elected officials be accountable and make due with what they have. They want a balanced budget. They are tired of the constant demands for more money."

"Should the 1/2 cent sales tax initiative fail, county services will face deeper cuts," Slater said. "The Sheriff may discover he has the best budget in town."

Slater pointed out that County Auditor Dr. Robert Booker has told her that the Sheriff's budget has actually increased the last five years. Since 1985 the Sheriff's budget has increased almost 50 percent. Over 20 percent of the county's general fund is allocated to Sheriff's protection. This year the Board cut $60 million of their general fund, cutting other services across the board.

Each year the elected Sheriff has not managed to balance their budget. "Clearly Sheriff Roache is making an attempt to be the first Sheriff in five years to balance his budget and I applaud him for that," Slater said. "Now the Board can look at his budget, see what he can give the public for $149.7 million and decide whether they can provide additional funding in key areas."

Slater said protection in the unincorporated areas would be her top priority. Contract cities must also receive the protection they pay for. She added that she would not want Sheriff's Substations in Fallbrook, Alpine, Ramona or Valley Center to be closed. Protection in Rancho Santa Fe and other unincorporated areas should not be cut.
"I support the line officers," Slater said. "I want presence. The money should go to direct enforcement, not aircraft, nicer offices, or updated uniforms."

"The Board of Supervisors responded to the Sheriff's request for a $149.7 million budget," Slater said. "We gave him what he wanted because he convinced us that he could do the job with that amount. Now we all need to look closely at what we're getting for $149.7 million. Let me emphasize that the Board fully intended to do this when the Sheriff's budget comes up for review on September 21. However, there may not be any money to give."

-30-