

DANIEL E. LUNGREN
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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June 13, 1995

John Lusardi
Police Executive Research Forum
1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 930
Washington, D.C. 20037

RE: Herman Goldstein Excellence in Problem-Solving Award

Dear Mr. Lusardi:

It is a rare opportunity indeed to nominate a program such as the Statewide Integrated Narcotics System (SINS) for national recognition by the Police Executive Research Forum for its "Herman Goldstein Excellence in Problem-Solving Award." I am nominating SINS not only for its "ability to identify, analyze and respond to community problems", but for the team solving efforts which produced it.

SINS has evolved from the hearts and minds of truly dedicated professional law enforcement people who have devoted an intensity of effort to the system's development seldom equaled in matters of this nature. Their product has proven its worth. Not only has California State Attorney General Daniel Lungren publicly lauded its effectiveness as a powerful law enforcement tool, but the system's adaptability is such that it has become the basis for California Senate Bill 920 (Alquist) which proposes it as an expanded system designed to support and manage an even broader field of criminal investigation and activity. In addition, SINS is scheduled to be operational on a nationwide level in 1995. This expansion will utilize the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) which is a federal partnership with state and local law enforcement. The union will bring together 4,300 law enforcement agencies with a combined data base of 450,000 suspects and an expanded menu of organized crime, narcotics trafficking, violent crime, gang activity, gun trafficking and white collar crime.

I am convinced that SINS is one of the most significant developments available to law enforcement today, and as such, most worthy of your recognition and endorsement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory C. Cowart", written over a large, stylized flourish.

GREGORY C. COWART, Director
Division of Law Enforcement

Enclosures

THE STATEWIDE INTEGRATED NARCOTICS SYSTEM (SINS)

BACKGROUND

From the vast amount of literature and data available it is clear that the illegal use of drugs has consumed much of the nation's health and wealth, continues to harm citizens, and places unprecedented demands on the criminal justice system. One of the most effective tools that can be used in attacking the supply of drugs, and in reducing the demand for drugs, is the criminal justice system. Through this method law enforcement can identify, arrest and prosecute those who break the laws, and incarcerate serious offenders.

The problems and risks faced by law enforcement agencies and their personnel, in the field of narcotics investigation and operations, reveals a profound area for concern. For example, it was determined that law enforcement agencies have a limited ability to share information. This is caused by obscure methods of access to multi-layers of information contained within various indices held by numerous agencies whose systems, both manual and automated vary in complexity, responsiveness and sophistication. Additionally, advanced technological capabilities within law enforcement environments reveal severe limitations in data base storage capabilities, a restricted ability to manage case information, or other types of data such as photos and maps, limited networking, and lack of appropriate data security.

Facing a mounting tide of critical statistics concerning the issues of officer safety, conflicting narcotic operations and increased drug trafficking, it became apparent that solutions had to be found. However, the question remained as to how law enforcement could meet those challenges. The complexity of identifying and implementing optimal policies and programs to meet present and future needs in this area appeared overwhelming.

The proposed solution was finally reached at a critical time in 1990. The idea for the Statewide Integrated Narcotics System (SINS) was formed when the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and three agency groups in California decided to work together to make the most of federal grant moneys allocated for computerized narcotics handling systems. The DOJ Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement, Western States Information Network (WSIN), the Los Angeles Chiefs' Association/ Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LACRCIC), and San Diego and Imperial Counties Narcotics Information Network (NIN) had all received federal funds, notably High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grants and Office of Criminal Justice Planning grants. Instead of embarking on separate automation concepts, these agencies saw the opportunity and had the vision to pool their resources, coordinate their efforts, and set out to develop a comprehensive, integrated statewide program based on a consistent technology platform.

The immediate result was a declaration of purpose for their decision to create a system that would overcome multijurisdictional communication problems regarding narcotics information sharing, enhanced officer safety, and increased efficiency of narcotics investigations and prosecutions.

Further, it would establish an environment of advanced security and system design that included consideration of existing laws governing information collection and retention, and promote increased productivity.

CREATION: SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Security

- * Fingerprint Access - A highly-accurate biometrics technology device for identity verification (fingerprint identification). Access to the system is allowed only upon verification and validation of identity.
- * Data Encryption and Decryption - Provides a sophisticated and state-of-the-art method of encoding data to make it secret during transmission. If the encrypted information were intercepted it could not be interpreted.

Distributed Relational Database

Information in any computer system is stored in a database. Depending on how that database is designed and used, the information is retrievable in different ways with varying degrees of difficulty. A relational database allows information to be stored in a way that makes the information more easily retrievable than other types of databases. A distributed relational database indicates that the information is physically stored in different computers, but when the system is used it appears that the information is stored in one.

- * Case Management/Intelligence - Provides a system for organizing individual officer's work products, report collection and preservation, information indexing by agency, and case analysis.
- * Electronic WSIN/RISS Card - Allows the user to select information contained in his/her case management file for electronic transfer to WSIN for statewide and regional intelligence purposes.
- * WSIN Intelligence Database - Information within the database identified as releasable to WSIN/RISS will provide timely intelligence on a statewide and regional basis. It also provides officer safety by identifying agencies outside of the geographical mapped areas who are running concurrent and/or proximity related operations (War Room).

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- * Mapping - Computerized maps of designated population areas will be accessible on the network.
- * Geographical Information: Placing geographical annotations/symbols on the maps, provides investigators the ability to identify the proximity of mutual police operations, dangerous conflicts, cultural information, and information previously stored in the database. Symbols will be placed on the maps representing this information. This includes selecting location information from the symbol, i.e., photographs, diagrams, suspect information, etc. It also will allow information from the relational database to be used to identify trends, and target individuals, organizations and their areas of operation.

Imaging

- * Photographic - The ability to capture and store photographs of objects or persons associated with enforcement activities and relate them to activities, locations, and each other.
- * Document - The ability to capture and store documents as images, i.e., receipts, property titles, sales records, and investigative analytical graphics.

Office Computing

- * Case Management/Intelligence - Provides a system for organizing individual officer's work products, report collection and preservation, information indexing by agency, and case analysis.
- * Electronic Mail - Allows users to exchange data, documents (including those containing any combination of text, photos, graphics, and spreadsheets), mail, and other communications.
- * Word Processing/Desktop Publishing/Presentation Software - Preparation of investigative reports, search warrants, and other documents integrating text, photo images, and graphics data within a single document.
- * Bulletin Board - A readily accessible place where system users and administrators can place information that may be useful to all users.
- * Analytical Functions - Provides the user with graphics and spreadsheets to aid in the

production of statistics and operation projections.

Network Design

- * Communications Network - The high-speed communication capabilities will provide not only high performance (quick retrieval), but also high availability (maximized access).
- * Centralized Management - Reduces system administration and eases system and network management/enhancement capabilities. At the central site, housed at the Hawkins Data Center in Sacramento, the network and system components will be managed by technical experts. Technical support will be provided to resolve problems, to ensure that security is not compromised, and to perform routine software maintenance functions.
- * Connectivity with Existing Computer Systems - SINS communicates with most existing computers, i.e., IBM, Macintosh, etc., that are currently utilized by law enforcement agencies.

Dial

DOJ Integrated Access Link - DIAL is a sophisticated navigator developed by DOJ that provides a simple communication link to diverse databases stored at different locations and based upon varied computer environments. This allows clients to link a variety of current and future automated systems using a single sign-on procedure and a single point of entry to access a variety of data bases including CLETS, CJIS, DMV, and NCIC.

EVOLUTION

Early on, system designers had realized the capabilities inherent within SINS and foresaw the time when the system would be expanded to manage information in crime areas other than narcotics, and would extend its influence beyond the state's boundaries. They were right. Not only has SINS become the basis for California Senate Bill 920 (Alquist) which proposes it as an expanded system designed to manage even broader fields of criminal activity, but SINS will be operational in 1995 on a nationwide basis utilizing the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) which is a Federal partnership with State and local law enforcement. This action will unite 4,300 law enforcement agencies with a combined data base of 450,000 suspects and an expanded menu of organized crime, narcotics trafficking, violent crime, gang activity, gun trafficking and white collar crime.

California Attorney General Lungren said it very well when he commented, "For too long, the criminal element has been overwhelming law enforcement with technologically sophisticated operations. It is time for the men and women who put their lives on the line in defense of our citizens to have the tools necessary to track down, apprehend, prosecute, and remove these criminals from our streets." SINS is just such a tool.

THE LUNGREN LETTER

News & Commentary from Attorney General Daniel E. Lungren



'SINS' Network Will Increase Drug-Related Arrests
Release Date: August 5, 1994

In California^ Ilk© most other states, high-volume drug dealers are some of the most dangerous criminals around. In many cases, these dealers have employed sophisticated technology to expand their illegal activities. Now, law enforcement has a new weapon in the war on drugs – The Statewide Integrated Narcotics System, or "SINS" – which will offer police officers across California and the West the best criminal intelligence information available.

By tying law enforcement agencies and drug agents across California and the West together, via the SINS computer network, the state will be able to catch more drug dealers and better protect the lives of the officers who catch them.

The idea behind SINS is basic. Intelligence information that each police agency has developed about known drug dealers in their area is fed into one computer system which can be accessed by every police agency and narcotics officer in the state. Every jurisdiction in the system benefits from the information. Better intelligence information means more effective investigations and solid prosecutions_r and longer sentences for convicted dealers.

-more-

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Better intelligence also means improved officer safety. Knowing a suspect's past record, physical description, kinds of vehicles he or she drives, and any known aliases is crucial. When closing in on these dangerous criminals the information SINS will provide becomes paramount. It will save lives.

In addition, SINS uses "war rooms" to monitor ongoing narcotics investigations in a certain area and its surrounding cities. Other law enforcement jurisdictions may not know of an investigation taking place in their territory, worse yet, they might be targeting the same subjects without knowledge of the parallel efforts of a neighboring agency. When investigations cross jurisdictional lines, confusion results, putting the safety of drug agents at risk. The SINS war room map will show every ongoing narcotics investigation in the area, enabling the coordination of several law enforcement staffs from different jurisdictions.

Essentially, SINS will help increase the number of drug-related arrests and reduce the availability of illegal drugs on the street through a strengthened, better-equipped and better-informed narcotics enforcement and intelligence community.

The SINS network was planned with the knowledge that big-time drug dealers do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. We are using SINS to fight fire with fire - if drug dealers won't let jurisdictional boundaries slow them down, neither will we.

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News Release: Lungren Letter 94-14



Violent Crimes Drugs Sex Offenses Gangs

SB 920

Senator Alfred E. Alquist

Law Enforcement's

Statewide Investigative Networking System



Violent Crime

Every 16 seconds, a Violent Crime is committed, according to the 1993 Uniform Crime Reports published by the United States Department of Justice.

Violent Crime, including drug-related offenses, is occurring each year in alarming numbers, resulting in excessive number of victims, and costing the State of California and its taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

California law enforcement agencies are not equipped with the necessary tools to adequately investigate, track and apprehend violent offenders. California needs to mobilize a focused and coordinated commitment to deter and prevent the escalating drug and violent crime problem affecting today's society.

Recognizing the seriousness of this problem Attorney General, Daniel E. Lungren. asked Senator Alfred E. Alquist to introduce SB 920 to help alleviate the crime problem. SB 920 will provide officers with the tools to identify, apprehend and

arrest violent offenders by expanding the successful Statewide Integrated Narcotics System (SINS) to include violent and sexual offenders, and criminal gangs. SENS which is a computer system designed by law enforcement, currently provides the tools to track and manage narcotic-related investigations and protects the lives of police officers.

The public outcry has mandated that every effort be made to protect the lives of the citizens of California. Law enforcement's overwhelming response to the success of SENS as a tool in narcotics investigations and the recognition of its further potential, has prompted efforts to expand the system to include violent crimes, sex offenses and gang related crime.

Violent Crimes & Drugs

- Based on 1993 California crime statistics, there were 171,525 felony arrests related to violent offenses
- The following violent crimes were reported during 1993 in California:
 - 4,095 Homicides
 - 11,754 Forcible Rapes
 - 126,347 Robbery Crimes
 - 193,904 Aggravated Assaults
- 65% of all California arrestees are drug users
- \$139 million economic loss/drug related homicides in California
- \$5.8 billion projected annual cost to California

Sex Offenses

- There are 67,000 sex registrants in California, 6,000 of them are identified as high risk
- 250 sex registrants are released back into society from California prisons each month

Criminal Gangs

- In 1991, there were 1,000 gang-related killings and 3,000 drive-by shootings in California. By the year 2000, it is estimated there could be as many as 250,000 criminal gang members in California

SB 920 Proposes to:

- Based on 1993 California crime statistics, there were 171,525 felony arrests related to violent offenses
- Expand the successful "Statewide Integrated Narcotics System" to additionally manage and track:
 - Violent Crime Offenders
 - Sexual Predators
 - Illegal Gangs
- Fortify and strengthen the technology systems and support services at the California Department of Justice, providing economies to individual law enforcement agencies by centralizing technical support tasks.
- Rename the system to the "Statewide Investigative Networking System (SINS)"
- Appropriate funds supporting the law enforcement community for purchases of SINS advanced technology equipment.

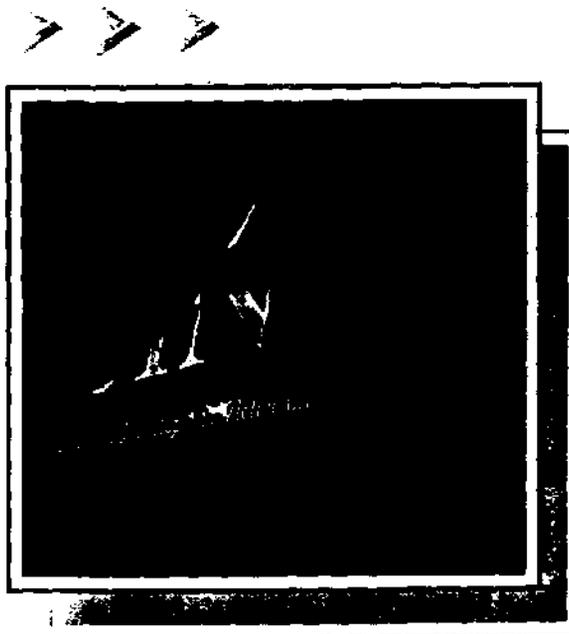
S INS Technology

The SINS technology offers law enforcement the following significant advantages:

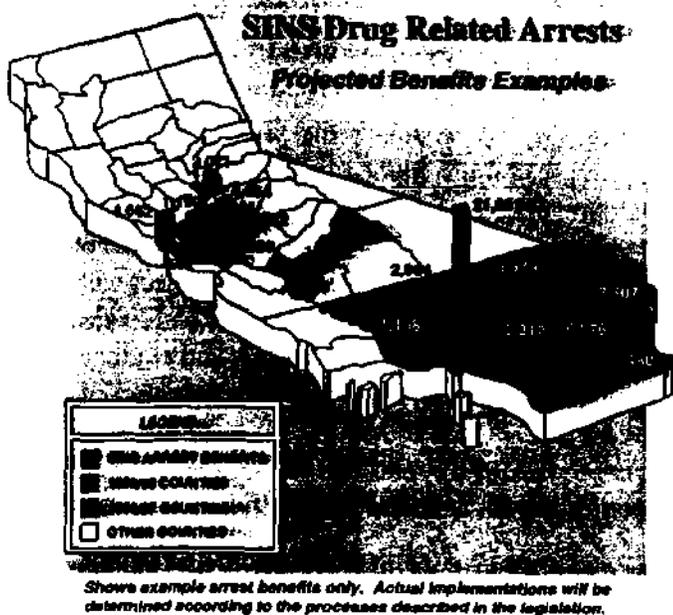
- SINS tracks and geographically displays criminal activity. In addition, the system manages law enforcement operations in the field, geographic ally displaying covert operations electronically on large electronic wall screens in the Tactical Planning Operations Center. The system identifies the overlapping of covert law enforcement operations and other dangerous situations which could jeopardize the lives of officers.
- SINS allows law enforcement organizations to rapidly share and exchange information via a statewide, highly secure network. The system offers consolidated information providing increased productivity and improved decision making ability.
- SINS continues to **SAVE OFFICERS' LIVES** by giving them information available through the SINS network.

- SINS provides a sophisticated system for managing and tracking complex case information for law enforcement. This enables officers to spend less time in the office working on paperwork and more time on the street protecting the public. It also provides a much higher quality of information for court prosecutions and a potentially higher conviction rate. Crime scene photographs and other images associated with the case can be electronically transferred into case files and printed automatically. This enables critical information and evidence to be captured and immediately become part of the case file. Once the images become part of the case file, they can be disseminated to law enforcement agencies more efficiently.

For example, in any violent crime such as kidnaping, time is of the essence in apprehending the perpetrator and ensuring the safe return of the victim. It is imperative that law enforcement officials have the capability to retrieve vital information pertaining to the identification of possible suspects and their whereabouts and method of operation before the victim becomes another statistic.



● A Comprehensive & Progressive System in Support of the Criminal Justice Community



Benefits

The need for a comprehensive statewide strategy and consistent advanced technology tools is critical toward the efforts in combating crime more effectively. Without them law enforcement will continue to be overwhelmed by violent offenders, sex offenders, criminal gangs, and narcotic organizations that are capable of outspending us several times over. We must make an investment to gain the tremendous benefits that this system can offer to law enforcement and the citizens of California.

The enhanced SINS project will arm law enforcement with effective advanced technology tools that will give them measurable advantages over today's manual processes.

This bill appropriates funds for the research and development of advanced technology features to increase the capability of interfacing with other existing law enforcement systems statewide. The results of this development will allow the criminal justice community access to multiple databases for information critical to officer safety and the apprehension of criminals through a single terminal.

This one-stop shopping concept called the "California Crime Net", enables law enforcement to retrieve information from various databases such as the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (CLETS), the Automated Criminal History System (ACHS), the California Fingerprint Identification System (CAL-TD), the California Firearms Information System (CFIS), the Forensic Laboratory Systems, and the Violent Crime Information Network (VCIN).

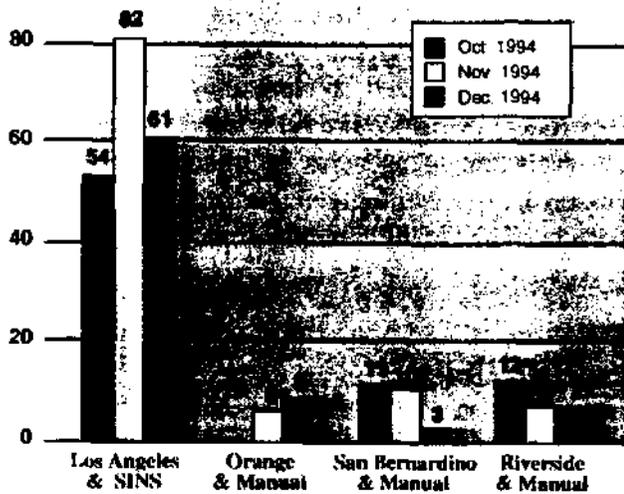
The result of this research and development will be a strategic plan which delineates strategies to achieve global integration, identify key technologies which can be applied, identify objectives, projected benefits and timelines, and develop projected costs for the California Crime Net Project.

SINS Benefits:

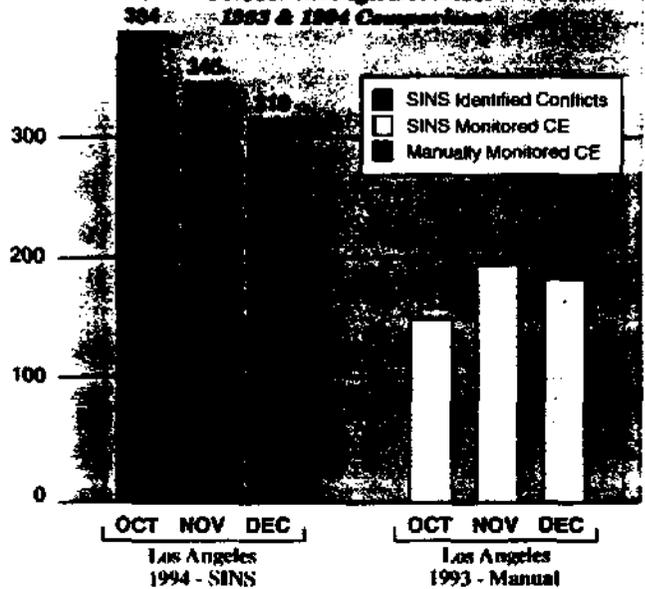
SINS investigative tools used to track and manage investigations related to violent crimes, sex offenders and narcotics offenders will result in the following benefits.

- Increase in officer safety
- Reduction in violent crime and narcotics in California through a strengthened, better equipped, better informed, law enforcement community
- 35% increase in the number of narcotic and violent offender arrests
- 30% increase in the detection of operational conflicts in the field resulting in increased officer safety during critical events
- 25% increase in the number of narcotic and violent offender investigations
- 25% reduction in the length of time spent on investigations

SINS Critical Event Conflict Statistics October through December 1994



LA County Critical Event (CE) Statistics October through December 1993 & 1994 Comparison



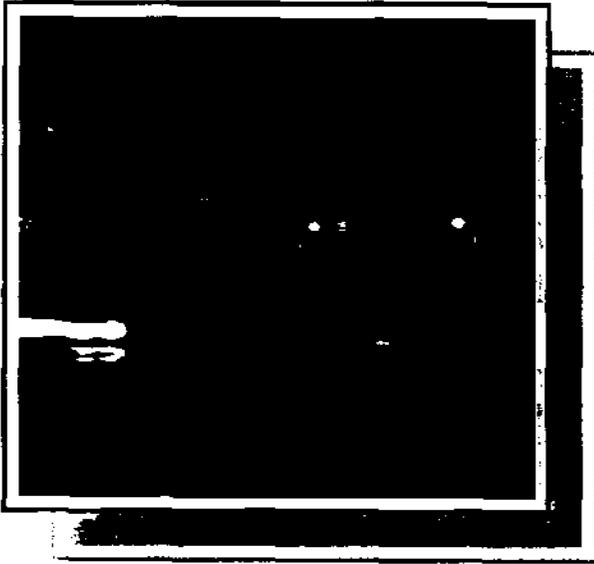
Background

The "Statewide Integrated Narcotics System (SINS)" is a computer system that was designed for and by law enforcement to provide a means for managing and tracking narcotics trafficking throughout the State of California. During 1991 federal grant money was acquired by the California Department of Justice/BNE, the Western States Information Network (WSIN) and the Los Angeles County Chiefs Association to supplement ongoing enforcement efforts designed to dismantle drug trafficking organizations and their operations.

The recipients of these grant awards entered into a contract with the California Department of Justice to produce an advanced technology system to enhance efforts targeting the war against drugs. In December 1992, a procurement resulted in the award of a five year master contract for the full development and implementation of the Statewide Integrated Narcotics System (SINS). This highly sophisticated integrated system has been successfully developed and implemented.

Approximately \$14 million in federal funds were used to establish the system foundation, develop and integrate advanced technology components and implement systems in Los Angeles County, San Diego/Imperial Counties, and the Western States Information Network (WSIN). During FY 1994/95 additional systems will be deployed in the counties of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino, and in several regional intelligence agencies nationally. The primary objective of SINS is to provide improved officer safety, and to enhance interagency communication and cooperation. This provides critical assistance in the investigation and prosecution of drug cases through improved access, sharing and management of vital information. Sophisticated tools provided through SINS offers law enforcement the ability to rapidly gather and document intelligence information, and assists in tracking and apprehending illegal drug traffickers. These tools allow for more effective and efficient use of existing limited resources.

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This means law enforcement now has an investigative tool that will assist tremendously in the war on drugs and crime in our streets. The system also improves officer safety by identifying suspect's violence potential and by managing potential conflicts of planned law enforcement operations between various law enforcement agencies in the field.

While this advanced technology system promises tremendous benefits to law enforcement in combating and managing its drug enforcement effort, full benefits will only be realized commensurate with the number of agencies able to implement and use this technology. Current budget shortfalls and limited federal grant funds have precluded a large number of agencies from participating in the SINS Program. This limits use of the system and dilutes the potential efficiencies and benefits SINS technology can bring to enforcement efforts. To achieve full success, it is essential that law enforcement agencies throughout California be afforded the financial resources necessary to expand and utilize the system.

The nucleus of this advanced technology system is the central site base system at the California Department of Justice. It is paramount to the success of the project that a 24 hour technical system support center be created and managed at the central site to support law enforcement as they use the system. Through centralized technical resources, the Department of Justice provides financial savings to law enforcement agencies by managing systems support tasks, ensuring standardization throughout the system and by eliminating duplication of effort.

Summary

The Statewide Integrated Narcotics System is one of the most innovative and successful systems available to law enforcement in years. To gain further benefits from the SINS technology, the criminal justice community is recommending that the SENS investigative tools be expanded to track and manage investigations related to violent crimes and sex offenders, and access to systems which track illegal gang activity. The expansion of this system will enable law enforcement to utilize the system as an investigative tool that will support and manage this broader field of criminal investigations. This approach would leverage significant investments already made in this technology while providing a larger spectrum of associated benefits in the investigative area. The newly enhanced system would be renamed the "Statewide Investigative Networking System (SINS)" to reflect this broader base of information management.

Reducing crime has been and will continue to be one of the top priorities of the Attorney General. The Department of Justice will remain in a leadership role, supporting and enhancing the efforts of the criminal justice community to identify, locate, apprehend and prosecute criminal offenders.

Funding Summary

The following summarizes the funding outlined in SB 920:

SB 920 Appropriation Summary:

	<i>Appropriation</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Year 1:	\$3.25 Million	24-hr. SINS Technical System Support Center
	3.175 Million	SINS System Development & Integration including Violent Crimes, Sex Offenders, and Criminal Gangs, and California Crime Net Research & Development (R&D)*
	1.50 Million	Law Enforcement Equipment Matching Funds
	.95 Million	DOJ/BNE Personnel & Equipment servicing Local Task Forces
	<u>.225 Million</u>	DOJ/BI Equipment servicing Local Law Enforcement
	\$9.1 MilUon	Total Year 1 Appropriation
Year 2:	\$3.25 Million	24-hr. SINS Technical System Support Center
	1.50 Million	Implementation/On-going Support of Enhanced SINS Systems for Violent Crimes, Sex Offenders, and Criminal Gangs and continued California Crime Net R&D
	1.50 Million	Law Enforcement Equipment Matching Funds
	.45 Million	DOJ/BNE Personnel & Equipment servicing Local Task Forces
	<u>.20 Million</u>	DOJ/BI Equipment servicing Local Law Enforcement
	\$6.9 Million	Total Year 2 Appropriation

* SINS development and integration includes system enhancements for broader base of crimes including Molent Crimes and Sex Offenders, and access to systems which track Illegal Gang Activities. It also includes system development and integration for the Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement supporting Local Law Enforcement. In addition, this category includes research and development (R&D) for the California Crime Net System.

California Department of Justice

Daniel E. Lungren

Attorney General

