

**ADDENDUM
ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4
ON STATE ADMINISTRATION**

Assemblymember Rudy Bermudez, Chair

**THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006 1:00 PM
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 444**

ITEM 0820 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ISSUE 2: METHAMPHETAMINE STRATEGY PROGRAM

Methamphetamine is a synthetic drug that can be ingested in a number of ways and releases an intense high for hours. It quickly becomes addictive and leads to paranoia, schizophrenia, seizures, hallucination, and violent behavior. Prolonged use is also known to cause kidney disorders, heart failure, brain damage and stroke.

The DOJ Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) California methamphetamine Strategy Program (CALMS) was the first in the nation to address methamphetamine issues on a statewide basis. Originally funded through exhausted federal grants, the program has survived numerous resource reductions.

DOJ asserts that there are too few resources in the field, causing BNE to focus activities on a limited number of the larger scale laboratories. The shift has decreased BNE effectiveness due to a shift in the increase usage of small-scale, mobile production centers in rural areas. Accordingly, DOJ requests \$6.03 million (General Fund) and 31.2 positions to increase support for CALMS.

COMMENTS

The Legislative Analyst's Office recommends rejecting the current proposal due to a lack of information presented by DOJ. Specifically, they claim that the proposal provides no information on the potential distribution of methamphetamine production by region, no information on the existing level of local resources dedicated to methamphetamine enforcement, and no workload data to justify the requested number of positions.

Additionally, the state Office of Emergency Services administers the War on Methamphetamine grant program, which provides grants totaling \$9.5 million to a number of counties for methamphetamine-related law enforcement activities. The Governor's budget proposes to continue funding for the grant program at its current-year level and it is unclear how the DOJ proposal would be coordinated with the activities currently funded through the Methamphetamine grant program.