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## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
**11/18/2008**

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Yesterday the Honorable Judge Bruce Watson sentenced Christopher Richard and Robert Rivello to three years of felony probation and 270 days in jail for cultivation of marijuana.

On March 19, 2008 agents with the Humboldt County Drug Task Force served search warrants at 333 9<sup>th</sup> Street and 3304 Buttermilk Lane in Arcata. The agents found both Mr. Richard and Mr. Rivello at the 333 9<sup>th</sup> Street location along with a marijuana grow that had 447 plants, 320 grams processed bud and over \$12,000 in cash. The plants were growing under 29 lights. At that location agents found a P G & E bill that showed 9,820 kilowatt hours were used from Jan.17, 2008-Feb. 15, 2008. The charge for that use was \$3,390.07.

At 3304 Buttermilk Lane the agents found 151 plants and 5,454 grams (approximately 12 pounds) of processed marijuana bud. That location had 20 lights for the plants.

Additional sums were seized from bank accounts and as part of the plea the defendants agreed to forfeit the money totalling \$20,380 as well as all lights and equipment seized.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Maggie Fleming. Mr. Richard was represented by Deputy Public Defender Andy Truitt and Mr. Rivello by Michael Robinson.