Source: http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/news/ci 12769882



Federal grant to help LA County handle DNA backlog

Associated Press

Posted: 07/07/2009 02:26:36 PM PDT

LOS ANGELES - A federal grant will help the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department resume clearing a backlog of DNA evidence from thousands of rape and sexual assault cases.

California State University, Los Angeles said Tuesday it will get \$1 million to help the sheriff's office and Los Angeles Police Department process the cases.

Sheriff Lee Baca last month blamed funding shortages for his department suspending efforts to reduce the decades-long backlog of DNA evidence. Police say their backlog could be cleared by next summer.

University spokesman Sean Kearns says the grant will fund a program for graduate students to provide administrative support to the agencies, identify up to 250 cases for private testing and pay for courses in advanced forensic training.