

The FBI searched a house owned by Napa County Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza a week before Christmas, according to documents obtained by The Press Democrat.

The Napa County Sheriff's Office recorded a call for service around 7 a.m. Dec. 18, based on communication from Shaun Owen, a supervisory special agent in the San Francisco office of the FBI's Public Corruption/Civil Rights Division.

Reached by phone, Owen said he could not comment on the bureau's activity in Napa that day, saying he would forward the reporter's request to an FBI communications officer. No call had been received by Monday evening.

The FBI's destination that morning was a house on Silverado Springs Drive, just outside Napa city limits in the neighborhood around Silverado Country Club. Pedroza and his wife, Brenda, purchased the property last July.

"I believe everyone should cooperate fully with all branches of federal and state government and I have always encouraged citizens in Napa and all Napa public authorities to do so," Pedroza said in an email to The Press Democrat. "There is no reason to do otherwise."

The call log is the first confirmation of an FBI visit to Pedroza's home.

According to the document, Owen contacted the Sheriff's Office at 6:59 a.m. Dec. 18. The header on the page says "Search — Probation/Parole Search," which a law enforcement source said likely refers to a broad category that includes search warrants for homes, as well as searches conducted as part of terms for probation or parole.

"No (agency assist) needed at this time," the document says, meaning the FBI did not ask for sheriff's deputies to be on scene.

"Should be done by noon," the report adds. "... Should be pretty low key in reporting party's words."

The call was closed at 1:22 p.m., suggesting the FBI spent more than six hours at Pedroza's house.

The DOJ is conducting a far-ranging investigation in Napa County, with tendrils that spread into powerful agricultural interests, the county airport, waste management contracts and road paving contracts. U.S. attorneys have subpoenaed the Napa County Public Works Department, the county counsel's office, the Napa County Farm Bureau and the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency.

There may be other subpoenas not yet reported.

Pedroza is believed to be a central figure in the investigation. Included on a list of 40 entities the Justice Department inquired about were the supervisor's father-in-law and the corporation they started together, Viñedos AP.

Also on the list were many of Pedroza's top campaign donors, including vintners Chuck Wagner of Caymus Vineyards, investor Peter Read and Craig and Kathryn Hall, who own Hall Wines.

Pedroza was not on the list. He is, though, a member of the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency board.

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