



**To:** Bay Area UASI Approval Authority  
**From:** David Frazer, UASI Risk & Information Sharing Project Manager  
**Date:** November 14, 2013  
**Re:** Item #6: Automated License Plate Readers Focus Group Update

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**Staff Recommendation:**

None.

**Action or Discussion Items:**

Discussion only.

**Discussion:**

**Background**

Utilization of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology has rapidly expanded throughout the Bay Area. In 2013, no fewer than 30 police and sheriff departments are employing these systems, with some operating more than ten fixed or mobile units. Through data integration and information sharing efforts led by the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC), Contra Costa Sheriff's Office, and Santa Clara Sheriff's Office, ALPR data is aggregated cross-vendor and cross-agency to present a unified regional system with regional access.

**ALPR Focus Group**

With further expansion of this technology expected, and the potential associated requests for regional UASI funding, UASI Risk/Information Sharing Project Manager David Frazer teamed with NCRIC IT Manager Brian Rodrigues, to form an “Automated License Plate Reader Technology Focus Group” to assess the current state of ALPR use in the Bay Area and define a regional strategy for the future. Membership included representatives from multi-jurisdiction agencies throughout the region, including the NCRIC, California Highway Patrol, Central Marin Police Authority, and the Sheriff’s Offices of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, and Santa Clara Counties. The ALPR Focus Group met in person on July 31<sup>st</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup> of 2013.

## **ALPR Focus Group Results**

- *ALPR Asset Identification* –The Focus Group identified over 30 agencies in the Bay Area region that are using ALPR camera technology. Of those, approximately 75% employ devices by 3M/PIPS and 25% from Vigilant Video. Nearly all units are mobile – attached to patrol or covert law enforcement vehicles.
- *Regional Data* – The NCRC has developed a regional data warehouse of all ALPR data coming in from law enforcement agencies in the Bay Area region and is available to all regional law enforcement.
- *Standards and Guidelines* – In the absence of national or statewide regulations governing proper or permissible use of ALPR technology by law enforcement, agencies are left with the responsibility to define and document their own policies or procedures. The Focus Group agreed that achieving standardization and as much uniformity as possible throughout the region presents the strongest stance possible to both law makers and privacy-minded groups such as the ACLU. The NCRC has invested considerable effort into defining its ALPR Guidelines, and offered this policy either for adoption or use as a starting point for other participants.
- *Identification of Strategic Locations* – The Focus Group agreed that strategically selected high-traffic “choke points” present the most effective and cost-efficient locations to deploy new ALPR cameras. Examples include entrance and exits of major bridges and tunnels, or intersections of major expressways, where stolen vehicles or other actionable traffic is pervasive.
- *Lessons Learned* – The Long Beach Police Department ALPR Program Manager (via video conference) shared valuable insight and guidance based on experiences building the ALPR Program for the Port of Long Beach/LA.