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LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Part V of Stops and Detentions Audit:

Initiation of Stops and Detentions Related to
Probation or Parole Searches
Antelope Valley Stations
Project No. 2025-18-A

Prepared By:

Audit and Accountability Bureau



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**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Audit and Accountability Bureau**

**Part V of Stops and Detentions Audit:
Initiation of Stops and Detentions – Probation or Parole Searches
Antelope Valley Stations
Project No. 2025-18-A**

AUDIT REPORT

PURPOSE

The Audit and Accountability Bureau (AAB) conducted the Stops and Detentions Audit under the authority of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD or the Department), pursuant to the United States Department of Justice (US-DOJ) Antelope Valley (AV) Settlement Agreement (Agreement)¹ Paragraph 149, which states:

The Monitor shall... determine whether LASD has implemented and continues to comply with the material requirements of this Agreement... Where appropriate, the monitor will make use of audits conducted by the [Audit and Accountability Bureau] taking into account the importance of internal auditing capacity and independent assessment of this agreement.

This Stops and Detentions Audit was conducted in five separate audits (Part I, II, III, IV, and V) to provide timely feedback to Lancaster and Palmdale Stations (AV Stations). Each of the five audits addresses the requirements of the Agreement.

This audit, designated as Part V, specifically focused on assessing initiated stops and detentions, along with probation or parole searches related to the AV Stations' compliance with paragraphs 42 and 56 of the Agreement.

The Stops and Detentions Audits were conducted in the following manner:

Part	Audit
I	Backseat Detentions
II	Supervisory Review of Deputy's Daily Worksheet
III	Backseat Detentions Related to Domestic Violence
IV	Initiation of Stops and Detentions Related to Consent Searches
V	Initiation of Stops and Detentions Related to Probation or Parole Searches

¹ [Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement. No. CV 15-03174, United States v. Los Angeles County et al. \(D.C. Cal. April 28, 2015\).](#)

This audit is scheduled to be recurring. The table below lists the project numbers, due dates, and population time periods, which are subject to change.

Project Numbers, Due Dates, and Population Time Periods

Project No.	Projected Due Date	Population Time Period
2025-8-A	April 30, 2025	November 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024
2025-18-A	September 30, 2025	May 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025

The AAB conducted this audit under the guidance of Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS).² The AAB determined whether the evidence obtained was sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for the findings based on the audit objectives.

BACKGROUND

On April 28, 2015, the County of Los Angeles, the Department, and the US-DOJ entered into the Agreement with the goal of ensuring police services are provided to the AV community in a manner which fully complies with the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The Department is responsible for implementing the mandated stipulations of the Agreement, ensuring both public and Department member safety, while fostering a renewed public trust in the LASD.

The AAB was authorized by the Sheriff of Los Angeles County, the US-DOJ, and the AV Monitoring Team (MT) to conduct audits of the Department. To improve efficiency and effectiveness, the AAB shifted its audit approach from conducting full-scale audits to limited scope audits. These limited scope audits focus on a narrow set of audit objectives and specific audit populations. The purpose of the limited scope audits was intended to provide timely feedback to the AV Stations, facilitate opportunities for operational improvements, and demonstrate an increasing commitment toward meeting the established AV Compliance Metrics (compliance metrics).

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

The Department recognizes the importance of evaluating Department members' actions when interacting with members of the public. Department members' interactions with the AV community are essential to developing and maintaining community trust. This audit provided an opportunity to identify areas for process improvement and implement corrective actions where necessary. An audit work plan was submitted to the MT and the US-DOJ for input prior to the start of the audit.

² The GAGAS, also known as the Yellow Book, is issued by the Comptroller General of the United States through the U.S. Government Accountability Office and refers to *Government Auditing Standards*, July 2018 Revision, Technical Update April 2021.

Audit Scope

The scope of this audit evaluated stops and detentions, with a specific focus on the treatment of individuals who were searched based on probation or parole search conditions. This included evaluating Department members' knowledge and application of probation or parole search procedures. The auditors also assessed whether Department members verified these search conditions prior to conducting a search and ensured proper articulation and documentation.

In addition, the auditors evaluated body-worn camera (BWC)³ activations, the completeness of BWC recordings, the proper documentation of stops and detentions involving probation or parole searches, and whether the required advisements were provided to detained subject(s) throughout the interactions. Any deficiencies or deviations were identified and documented. Furthermore, patterns of legal or policy errors were identified and documented.

The MT and the Parties did not explicitly define a compliance metric for the use of BWC. However, the Department has established comprehensive policies specifically regulating the use of BWC. The compliance metrics for Objectives No. 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c) were set at 100%.

Audit Population

The selected audit period was from May 1st, 2025, through June 30th, 2025. The audit focused on a single population from which audit samples were extracted. This population included:

- Stops and detentions involving probation or parole searches.

A data request was submitted through the Data Systems Bureau (DSB), for all the AV Stations' stops and detentions (vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle stops) with DSB data during the audit period. The resulting data yielded a population of 3,253 stops and detentions, 997 from Lancaster Station and 2256 from Palmdale Station. The search criteria "Contact Reason," "Basis for Search," and "Narrative" was then applied, as it met the testing criteria for this audit.

This selection process resulted in a refined population of 69 stops and detentions involving a parole or probation search. Using a one-tailed test with a 95% confidence level and 4% error rate, auditors selected a statistically valid random sample of 42 probation or parole stops and detentions for the audit period. From this, auditors applied a stratified, randomly selected sample of 25 from Lancaster and 17 from Palmdale Stations involving a probation or parole search.

³ A BWC is a device worn by a Department member that allows an event to be recorded and saved as a digital file.

The Sheriff’s Automated Contact Reporting (SACR)⁴ documentation was reconciled with the Computer-Aided Dispatch⁵ (CAD) system documentation, and discrepancies between the two systems were identified and addressed in the “Other Related Matters” section. The table below summarizes the number of stops and detentions relevant to this audit from the MDC.

Audit Population and Sample

AV Station	Total Number of Stops and Detentions	Parole/Probation Searches	Sampled Population
Lancaster	997	42	25
Palmdale	2,256	27	17
AV Total	3,253	69	42

Audit Procedures

The MT Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) published the “*Antelope Valley Monitoring Team First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit*,” report in 2024, which evaluated stops from the third quarter of 2021 and documented compliance metrics. During a meeting on April 2, 2025, the SMEs directed AAB to utilize those compliance metrics, noting they may differ from those used in previous AAB audit reports.

The auditors reviewed the BWC recordings for each stop and detention within the audit population. This included BWC recordings from the primary Department members who were involved in the probation or parole search, or those having direct contact with a subject during the active investigatory stop and detention. The auditors assessed and reviewed approximately 59 BWC recordings from the audit population utilizing the Department’s digital evidence management system, LASD.Evidence.com. The associated BWC recordings were reviewed, to assess the Department’s compliance with the established compliance metrics and Department policies. The audit work demonstrated the auditors’ independence and objectivity in supporting the results and findings.

⁴ The SACR is a stand-alone system and will run independently of the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The SACR is a data entry system designed to collect any detention by a peace officer of a person or any peace officer interaction with a person in which the peace officer conducts a search, including a consensual search, or arrest.

⁵ The CAD system is a multi-faceted computerized platform the Department utilizes to log, track, and document patrol-related incidents. It maintains electronic records of patrol activities, including dispatch-generated 911 calls, general “Calls for Service,” and patrol deputy-initiated “Observation” stop records. This technology enhances operational efficiency by facilitating real-time incident management and resource allocation.

To verify the accuracy of the Department members' Mobile Digital Computer (MDC)⁶ log entries, the auditors reviewed BWC recordings and cross-referenced them with MDC logs and SACR data entries related to probation or parole searches conducted by the AV Department members. The intent was to use both MDC and SACR as documentation sources, recognizing that at times one system contained the necessary data while the other did not. In such instances, the system that held the relevant information was relied upon as the documentation source for that audit sample.

This approach reflected the reality that MDC and SACR served as complementary systems, and, at times, information appeared in one but not the other. Relying on both systems ensured a complete and accurate review of documentation. This process did not involve evaluating the quality or usability of MDC or SACR systems themselves but acknowledged the need to rely on both systems due to their limitations.

The auditors provided recommendations or corrective actions when incorrect information related to probation or parole searches was entered into the MDC or SACR system during any stops and detentions. In instances when the auditors observed potential misconduct, not already identified by station management, an interim audit memorandum detailing the incident was submitted to their respective unit commanders for review and disposition.

Summary of Findings

This audit consisted of two main objectives with a total of five sub-objectives. The AV Stations were evaluated separately for each sub-objective. The results were combined to assess whether, overall, AV Stations met the compliance metrics.

⁶ The MDC is a computer system installed in patrol vehicles, enabling Department members to access Department databases, communicate with dispatch, and perform operational tasks in the field.

The table below outlines the audit objectives and their corresponding compliance metric percentages:

Summary of Compliance Metrics Findings

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	Lancaster %	Palmdale %	AV Total ⁷	Compliance Metrics %
1	INITIATING STOPS AND DETENTIONS				
1(a)	<i>Proper Activation of Body-Worn Camera</i>	86%	92%	88%	100%
1(b)	<i>Introduction and Stating the Reason for the Stop</i>	40%	71%	52%	100%
1(c)	<i>Completeness of Recordings</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%
2	PROBATION OR PAROLE SEARCHES				
2(a)	<i>Knowledge and Verification of Probation or Parole Search Condition</i>	95%	100%	97%	90%
2(b)	<i>Articulation of Probation or Parole Search</i>	96%	100%	98%	90%

The AAB acknowledges the compliance metrics may be subject to change in the future. The auditors will adjust their methodology and criteria as necessary to align with any approved modifications agreed upon by all parties.

⁷ The AV total compliance percentages were calculated according to the specific audit objectives, which may have involved reviewing incidents, Department members, or the number of subjects. Each audit objective outlines how the compliance percentages were determined based on the corresponding audit findings.

Detailed Findings

This report provides detailed information on the findings noted during the audit for all objectives.

Objective No. 1 – Initiating Stops and Detentions

This objective evaluated the initiation of stops and detentions by AV Department members as they related to the proper activation of the BWC recordings, the provision of required introductory information provided to detained subjects, and the completeness of BWC recordings, as specified in the Agreement, established compliance metrics, and Department policy.

Objective No. 1(a) – Proper Activation of Body-Worn Camera

Criteria

Manual of Policy and Procedures (MPP), Section 3-06/200.08, Body Worn Cameras – Activation, (August 2020), states:

Department personnel shall activate their body worn camera (BWC) prior to initiating, or upon arrival at, any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public, including all:

- *Vehicle stops;*
- *Pedestrian stops (including self-initiated consensual encounters);*
- *Searches;*
- *Arrests;*
- *Any encounter with a member of the public who is or becomes uncooperative, belligerent, or otherwise hostile...*

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 3-06/200.58 - Guidelines for Administrative Reviews of Body Worn Camera Recordings, (August 2020), states:

90-Day Transition Period

During the first 90 days a member is assigned a BWC, following completion of training, unintentional deviations in policy and procedure in the use and deployment of a BWC will be considered training issues. During the transition period, Department employees should receive non-documented counseling and training only. Performance log entries should not be generated.

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 3-06/200.05 – Body Worn Cameras-
Equipment, (August 2020), states:

Department personnel trained and issued a BWC device are required to wear and use their BWC while on duty, consistent with the terms of this policy. The on-duty watch commander or incident commander may grant exceptions for wearing a BWC to personnel who are working outside overtime assignments, special operations, or due to shortage of replacement cameras.

Per discussions with the MT, the compliance metric for this objective is **100%**. The AAB conducted the evaluation based on the MPP sections cited above.

Procedures

The auditors reviewed each BWC recording within the audit population to determine whether Department members activated their BWC prior to initiating, or upon arrival, at any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public.

Findings

The auditors examined 42 investigatory stops and detentions involving a probation or parole search and identified 59 Department members, 35 for Lancaster Station and 24 for Palmdale Station. The auditors evaluated the 59 Department members to determine if the Department members activated their BWC prior to initiating, or upon arrival, at any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public.

For the AV Stations combined, 52 (88%) of the 59 Department members evaluated met the criteria for this objective because Department members activated their BWC prior to initiating, or upon arrival at any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public. The remaining seven (12%) did not meet the criteria for this objective, because the Department members were late in activating their BWC.

For Lancaster Station, 30 (86%) of the 35 evaluated Department members met the criteria for this objective because Department members activated their BWC prior to initiating, or upon arrival at any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public. The remaining five (14%) evaluated Department members did not meet the criteria for this objective, because the Department members were late in activating their BWC.

For Palmdale Station, 22 (92%) of the 24 evaluated Department members met the criteria for this objective because Department members activated their BWC prior to initiating, or upon arrival at any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public. The remaining two (8%) evaluated Department members did not meet the criteria for this objective, because the Department members were late in activating their BWC.

Specifically:

L-2⁸, L-6, L-10, L-20: Five Department members did not meet the criteria for this objective because they did not activate their BWC prior to or upon initiating contact, as required by policy.

P-2⁹, P-4: Two Department members did not meet the criteria for this objective because they did not activate their BWC prior to or upon initiating contact, as required by policy.

Recommendations

It is recommended Department members receive training and briefings emphasizing the requirement to activate their BWC prior to, or upon arrival at, any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public as mandated by MPP 3-06/200.08. Supervisors must address BWC violations consistently through progressive corrective action. For first-time or minor lapses, verbal counseling or a Performance Log Entry (PLE)¹⁰ may be appropriate. Repeated or more serious violations should result in formal documentation or administrative investigation, in line with Department policy. The AV Stations should also implement corrective action plans to identify patterns of noncompliance and ensure accountability through appropriate and timely supervisory follow-up.

⁸ L refers to Lancaster Station. The number represents the sample being referred to of those reviewed by Lancaster Station.

⁹ P refers to Palmdale Station. The number represents the sample being referred to of those reviewed by Palmdale Station.

¹⁰ PLE - The unit performance log is comprised of interim supervisory notations about employee performance during a given rating period. The purpose of the unit performance log is to document supervisor's observations about performance and supervisor/employee discussions about performance (goals, strengths/weaknesses, career guidance, etc.).

Objective No. 1(b) – Introduction and Stating the Reason for the Stop

Criteria

There are no applicable compliance metrics for this objective; however, the Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement states in paragraph 42:

LASD agrees to incorporate the following elements in its training of Antelope Valley deputies: (1) introducing themselves at the initiation of contact with a civilian when reasonable and practical; (2) stating the reason for an investigatory stop or detention as soon as practicable; (3) ensuring that an investigatory stop or detention is no longer than necessary to take appropriate action; and (4) acting with professionalism and courtesy throughout the interaction.

The auditors also evaluated as defined in California Assembly Bill (AB) 2773¹¹ which:

...requires a peace officer making a traffic or pedestrian stop, before engaging in questioning related to a criminal investigation or traffic violation, to state the reason for the stop, unless the officer reasonably believes that withholding the reason for the stop is necessary to protect life or property from imminent threat...

Per discussions with the MT, the compliance metric for this objective is **100%**. The AAB conducted the evaluation based on paragraph 42 of the Agreement cited above and the requirements of AB 2773.

Procedures

The auditors reviewed each BWC recording within the audit population to assess whether Department members introduced themselves at the initiation of contact with the subject when reasonable and practical and stated the reason for the investigatory stop and detention as soon as practicable. The auditors also evaluated the entirety of each investigation and corresponding BWC recordings to determine whether any incidents occurred outside of the regular investigation which impeded its progress, including the unnecessary detainment of the subject or lack of professionalism and courtesy by the Department member.

In addition, the auditors evaluated each incident to determine whether the Department member withheld the reason for the stop out of necessity to protect life or property from an imminent threat. Such incidents, the auditor determined these instances did not result in an audit finding.

¹¹ Assembly Bill No. 2773- This bill began on January 1, 2024, and requires a peace officer making a traffic or pedestrian stop, before engaging in questioning related to a criminal investigation or traffic violation, to state the reason for the stop, unless the officer reasonably believes that withholding the reason for the stop is necessary to protect life or property from imminent threat.

Findings

For the AV Stations combined, 22 (52%) of the 42 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members introduced themselves and stated the reason for the stop. The remaining 20 (48%) did not meet the criteria for this objective, because Department members failed to introduce themselves to the subject or failed to state the reason for the stop.

For Lancaster Station, 10 (40%) of the 25 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members introduced themselves, stated the reason for the stop, ensured the stop and detention was not longer than necessary, acted professionally, and were courteous throughout the interaction. The remaining 15 (60%) stops did not meet the criteria for this objective because the Department members did not introduce themselves or state the reason for the stop.

For Palmdale Station, 12 (71%) of the 17 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members introduced themselves and stated the reason for the stop, ensured the stop and detention was not longer than necessary, acted professionally, and were courteous throughout the interaction. The remaining five (29%) stops did not meet the criteria for this objective because the Department members did not introduce themselves or state the reason for the stop.

Specifically:

L-1, L-23: The Department members made an introduction; however, they failed to state the reason for the traffic stop.

L-3, L-4, L-5, L-8, L-10, L-12, L-13, L-17, L-18, L-25: The Department members stated the reason for the stop; however, an introduction was not made by the Department member.

L-2, L-6, L-20: Due to late BWC activation, auditors were unable to determine if the Department members made an introduction or stated the reason for the stop.

P-1, P-7, P-9: The Department members stated the reason for the stop; however, an introduction was not made by the Department member.

P-2, P-8: Due to late BWC activation, auditors were unable to determine whether the Department members made an introduction or stated the reason for the stop.

Recommendations

It is recommended Department supervisors regularly brief Department members on CA-AB 2773, as well as the terms of the Agreement, and document these briefings in the Station's Watch Commander's Log. During the Daily Stop Audits¹², station supervisors must ensure Department members introduce themselves at the initiation of contact with the subject when reasonable and practical and state the reason for the stop as soon as practicable. Department members must also be reminded the reason for the stop must be stated prior to engaging in questioning related to a criminal investigation or traffic violation. Department members who repeatedly fail to comply should be held accountable through verbal counseling and/or appropriate written documentation, as applicable.

¹² The Daily Stops Audit is a directive from the Assistant Sheriff of Patrol Operations. It requires the Watch Commander/Watch Sergeant to view two stop audits (via BWC) per day to comply with CA-AB 2773.

Objective No. 1(c) – Completeness of Recordings

Criteria

Manual of Policy and Procedures, Section 3-06/200.13, Recording of the Entire Contact, (August 2020), states:

The body worn camera (BWC) shall continue recording until the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public has ended. If an investigative or enforcement contact involving a member of the public resumes after the video has stopped, the Department member shall reactivate the BWC device and continue recording.

Per discussions with the MT, the compliance metric for this objective is 100%. The AAB conducted the evaluation based on the MPP section cited above.

Procedures

The auditors reviewed each BWC recording in the audit population to determine whether Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until the contact ended. Additionally, if the enforcement or investigative contact resumed after the BWC recording had stopped, the auditors assessed whether the Department member reactivated the BWC as required by policy and continued recording.

Findings

The auditors examined 42 investigatory stops and detentions involving a probation or parole search and identified 59 BWC recordings by Department members, 35 for Lancaster Station and 24 for Palmdale Station. The auditors evaluated the 59 BWC recordings to determine Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until the contact ended.

For the AV Stations combined, all 59 (100%) BWC recordings met the criteria for this objective because Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until it ended.

For Lancaster Station, 35 (100%) of the 35 Department members met the criteria for this objective because Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until it ended.

For Palmdale Station, 24 (100%) of the 24 Department members met the criteria for this objective because Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until it ended.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the compliance requirements for this objective.

Objective No. 2 – Probation or Parole Searches

This objective involved evaluating probation or parole searches conducted by AV Department members, as specified in the compliance metrics and LASD policy.

Objective No. 2(a) – Knowledge and Verification of Probation or Parole Search Condition

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Paragraph 56 states:

LASD-AV deputies shall only conduct searches of individuals on probation or parole in accordance with the provisions of this section and when knowledge of probation or parole search condition has been established.

The compliance metric is **90%**, as documented in the Antelope Valley MT's 2023 audit report, First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit.

Procedures

The auditors reviewed each BWC recording in the audit population to determine whether, in instances when a search was conducted pursuant to probation or parole conditions, Department members had knowledge of or verified the subjects' search conditions prior to conducting the search.

Prior knowledge of the subject's probation or parole search conditions may be established through the MDC, radio communication with Dispatch, the Department member's prior knowledge or contact with the subject, the subject's statement regarding their probation or parole search conditions, documentation, or communication from a probation or parole official.

Findings

The auditors examined 42 investigatory stops and detentions involving a probation or parole search conducted by the AV Stations. Four of the 42 stops and detentions did not involve a probation or parole search and therefore were excluded from this objective. Auditors evaluated 38 stops and detentions involving a probation or parole search, 21 from Lancaster Station and 17 from Palmdale Station. Of the 38 stops and detentions, 37 (97%) met the criteria for this objective because Department members had knowledge of and verified the probation or parole status of the subject prior to conducting the search. The remaining one (3%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department members did not have knowledge of or verified the probation or parole status prior to the search.

For Lancaster Station, 20 (95%) of the 21 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members had knowledge of or verified the probation search conditions or parole status of the subject prior to the search. The remaining one (5%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department members did not have knowledge of or verified the probation or parole status prior to the search.

For Palmdale Station, all 17(100%) stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members had knowledge of or verified the probation or parole status prior to the search.

Specifically:

L-23: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop for the vehicle not having a license plate lamp. The Department member asked the subjects if they were on probation or parole, and the subject passenger responded that he was on probation. The BWC recordings showed the subject passenger exited the vehicle and was immediately searched by a Department member. Both subjects were then detained at the front of the patrol vehicle. During the detention, the Department member also searched the vehicle.

The Department members did not establish knowledge of the subject's probation search conditions prior to conducting the searches.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the compliance requirements for this objective.

Objective No. 2(b) – Articulation of Probation or Parole Search

Criteria

Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Stops, Seizures, and Searches Paragraphs 44 and 56 states:

44. LASD-AV deputies shall document the following information about patrol activity in their MDC patrol logs:

f. a concise narrative articulating specific facts and circumstances that support reasonable suspicion or probable cause for investigative stops and detentions consistent with the radio clearance code (Noting a radio clearance code, or the code for the resulting citation or other result, will not be deemed sufficient articulation or legal support for the stop or searches.)

56. LASD-AV deputies shall only conduct searches of individuals on probation or parole in accordance with the provisions of this section and when knowledge of a probation or parole search condition has been established.

The compliance metric is **90%**, as documented in the Antelope Valley MT's 2023 audit report, First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit.

Procedures

The auditors reviewed the MDC and the SACR data for each investigatory stop and detention conducted by the AV Stations during the audit period in which a probation or parole search was conducted, as identified in the BWC recordings. The auditors evaluated whether Department members documented the subjects, verified the probation or parole status, and sufficiently articulated a proper justification for conducting the search. Verification of probation or parole status was established when Department members conducted a records check of the subject using the MDC or Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC).

Findings

The auditors examined 42 investigatory stops and detentions involving a probation or parole search conducted by the AV Stations, 25 from Lancaster Station and 17 from Palmdale Station. Four investigatory stops and detentions were determined not to include a probation or parole search; however, they remained in the population because the subject was on probation or parole.

For the AV Stations combined 41 (98%) of the 42 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members documented the basis for the search in the MDC narrative or articulated a proper justification for the search in the SACR entry narrative. The remaining one (2%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department members did not document the basis for the search in the MDC narrative or articulate a proper justification for the search in the SACR entry narrative.

For Lancaster Station, 24 (96%) of the 25 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members documented the basis for the search, articulated a proper justification, and documented how the search conditions were verified in the MDC and/or SACR narrative. The remaining one (4%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the Department members did not document the basis for the search, sufficiently articulate a proper justification, or document how the search conditions were verified in the MDC or SACR narrative.

For Palmdale Station, all 17 (100%) of the 17 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members documented the basis for the search, sufficiently articulated a proper justification, and documented how the search conditions were verified in the MDC and/or SACR narrative.

Specifically:

L-23: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop for not having a license plate lamp. The Department members asked the subjects if they were on probation or parole, and the subject passenger responded that he was on probation. The Department members accurately documented the subject driver in their MDC log. However, the Department members failed to document the subject passenger, his probation status, and how his search conditions were verified on the MDC.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the compliance requirements for this objective.

OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Other related matters are pertinent issues identified during the audit which were not measurable objectives under the Agreement or Department policies and procedures.

SACR Documentation

In the majority of the incidents reviewed, Department members did not accurately document information in the SACR entry narrative compared to the MDC narrative. These inaccuracies included misspellings of subject names and the inclusion of subjects unrelated to the documented stop.

MDC Documentation

In most of the stops and detentions, Department members accurately and completely documented all subjects detained. However, there was one incident out of 59 in which a subject was detained but not documented in the MDC narrative.

CONCLUSION

The AAB's review of the Stops and Detentions Audit for Probation or Parole searches highlights significant progress among AV Station personnel. All objectives reviewed demonstrated consistent improvement, particularly in traffic stops. The auditors observed Department members taking proactive measures by promptly activating their BWCs and clearly articulating the reasons for the stops.

A notable practice is the professionalism exhibited by Department members, in confrontational situations, which was commendable. Department members consistently deactivated their BWCs at appropriate times and reliably verified the subjects' search conditions prior to conducting searches.

However, areas requiring improvement include the thorough and accurate documentation for each investigatory stop and detention, the clear articulation of probation or parole search justifications, timely activation of BWCs, and accurately recording of the number of subjects detained during stops. These inaccuracies may potentially impact SACR data and indicate a broader issue which requires attention.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this section is to provide a concise reference for all recommendations aimed at improving compliance with policies and procedures. The recommendations listed below are the same as those detailed in the above report.

Objective No. 1 – Initiating Stops and Detentions

(a) Proper Activation of Body-Worn Camera

It is recommended Department members receive training and briefings emphasizing the requirement to activate their BWC prior to, or upon arrival at, any enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public as mandated by MPP 3-06/200.08. Supervisors must address BWC violations consistently through progressive corrective action. For first-time or minor lapses, verbal counseling or a Performance Log Entry (PLE)¹³ may be appropriate. Repeated or more serious violations should result in formal documentation or administrative investigation, in line with Department policy. The AV Stations should also implement corrective action plans to identify patterns of noncompliance and ensure accountability through appropriate and timely supervisory follow-up

(b) Introduction and Stating the Reason for the Stop

It is recommended Department supervisors regularly brief Department members on CA-AB 2773, as well as the terms of the Agreement, and document these briefings in the Station's Watch Commander's Log. During the Daily Stop Audits, station supervisors must ensure Department members introduce themselves at the initiation of contact with the subject when reasonable and practical and state the reason for the stop as soon as practicable. Department members must also be reminded the reason for the stop must be stated prior to engaging in questioning related to a criminal investigation or traffic violation. Department members who repeatedly fail to comply should be held accountable through verbal counseling and/or appropriate written documentation, as applicable.

(c) Completeness of BWC Recordings

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the compliance requirements for this objective.

¹³ PLE - The unit performance log is comprised of interim supervisory notations about employee performance during a given rating period. The purpose of the unit performance log is to document supervisor's observations about performance and supervisor/employee discussions about performance (goals, strengths/weaknesses, career guidance, etc.).

Objective No. 2 – Probation or Parole Searches

(a) Knowledge and Verification of Probation or Parole Search Condition

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the compliance requirements for this objective.

(b) Articulation of Probation or Parole Search

There are no recommendations because the AV Stations met the compliance requirements for this objective.

FOLLOW-UP PROCEDURES

The AAB will conduct a follow-up of the recommendations and verify if the auditee has made necessary improvements. Verification of corrective action will be assessed by examining new directives, amended unit orders, and/or relevant documentation. The AAB will work with the auditee in understanding the implementation of audit recommendations, as it may be a lengthy process and require a collaborative effort with other Department resources.

DEPARTMENT APPLICATIONS

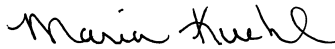
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System Services
- LASD.Evidence.com
- Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) log
- RAPSNET

REFERENCES

- Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement Compliance Metrics (October 2019)
- United States Department of Justice – Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department
- Antelope Valley Settlement Agreement, Case Number CV 15- 03174 (April 2015)
- California Assembly Bill 2773 (2024)
- Manual of Policy and Procedures Sections:
 - MPP 3-06/200.08 (2020)
 - MPP 3-06/200.13 (2020)

Views of Responsible Officials

On November 10, 2025, the AAB submitted a summary of findings to the AV Station command staff. The AAB presented the final audit report to the Division Director, Office of Constitutional Policing.

	<u>12/31/25</u>
MARIA G. KUEHL	DATE
Acting Captain	
Audit and Accountability Bureau	
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department	