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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. 2025-8-A

Prepared By:

Audit and Accountability Bureau



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

**Initiation of Stops and Detentions:
Probation or Parole Searches
Antelope Valley Stations
Project No. 2025-8-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.

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 through December 31, 2024
2025-18-A	December 31, 2025	May 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025

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, which are referred to by the AAB as “mini” audits. The purpose of the mini 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.

The AAB conducted this audit under the guidance of Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards² (GAGAS). The AAB determined whether the evidence obtained was sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for the findings based on the audit objectives.

Audit Scope

The scope of this audit evaluated stops and detentions, with a specific focus on the treatment of individuals who are searched based on probation or parole search conditions. This includes evaluating the Department members' knowledge of probation or parole search conditions, verifying these conditions, and ensuring proper 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 interaction. Any deficiencies or deviations were identified and documented. Furthermore, patterns of legal or policy errors were identified and reported.

The MT and the Parties did not explicitly define a compliance metric for the use of BWC. However, the Department 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 and Sample

The selected audit period was from November 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The audit focused on a single population from which audit samples were extracted. This population included:

- Stops and detentions involving initiation of stops and detentions related to probation or parole searches.

A data request was submitted through the Sheriffs Automated Contact Reporting (SACR)⁴ system, for all the AV Stations' stops and detentions (vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle stops). The resulting data yielded a population of 4,065 stops and detentions. The search criteria were refined by filtering the "Contact Reason," "Basis for Search," and "Narrative" fields for all probation or parole related markers, as they met the testing criteria for this 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.

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

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.

Additionally, the filter “DEP” was used to eliminate calls for service. This selection process resulted in a refined population of 59 stops and detentions.

Of the 59 stops, 30 were from Lancaster Station and 29 were from Palmdale Station. The auditors assessed the 59 initiated stops and detentions.

The SACR 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. Future audits will use SACR as the primary data source once all backseat detention (BSD) fields approved by US-DOJ and MT have been implemented.

Audit Population and Sample

AV Station	Stops and Detentions	Parole/Probation Searches
Lancaster	1,815	30
Palmdale	2,250	29
AV Total	4,065	59

Given the minimal size of the resulting population, the auditors evaluated the entire audit population as indicated.

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.

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 Department members who were involved in, or having direct contact with, the subject during the active investigatory stop or detention. The auditors assessed and reviewed approximately 87 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.

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 BSDs was entered into the MDC via the CAD system and SACR system during any stops or detentions. In instances when the auditors observed potential misconduct, not already identified by station management, an interim audit memorandum detailing the incident would be submitted to the North Patrol Division (NPD) for their 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 they complied with 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 percentage:

Summary of Compliance Metrics Findings

Obj. No.	Audit Objectives	Lancaster %	Palmdale %	AV Total	Compliance Metrics %
1	INITIATING STOPS AND DETENTIONS				
1(a)	<i>Proper Activation of Body-Worn Camera</i>	90%	96%	93%	100%
1(b)	<i>Introduction and Stating the Reason for the Stop</i>	76%	75%	76%	100%
1(c)	<i>Completeness of Recordings</i>	93%	89%	91%	100%
2	PROBATION OR PAROLE SEARCHES				
2(a)	<i>Knowledge and Verification of Probation or Parole Search Condition</i>	93%	100%	97%	90%
2(b)	<i>Articulation of Probation or Parole Search</i>	95%	93%	93%	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.

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.

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 examined 59 investigatory stops and detentions conducted by the AV Stations, 30 from Lancaster and 29 from Palmdale, involving 41 Department members from Lancaster Station and 47 Department members from Palmdale Station. 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.

One late activation involved a single Department member who was in the first phase of patrol training. This activation was excluded from this objective because during the 90-day transition period, deviations from BWC policy are considered training issues and Department members are not subject to documented performance log entries as stated in MPP Section 3-06/200.58.

Based on the above, auditors evaluated 87 Department members' BWC activations.

Findings

Of the 87 Department members evaluated, 81 (93%) 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 6 (7%) did not meet the criteria for this objective, because the Department members were late in activating their BWC.

For Lancaster Station, 36 (90%) of the 40 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 5 (12%) evaluated Department members did not meet the criteria for this objective, because the Department members were late in activating their BWC.

For Palmdale Station, 45 (96%) of the 47 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 2 (4%) evaluated Department members did not meet the criteria for this objective, because the Department members were late in activating their BWC.

Specifically:

L⁷-7: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for expired vehicle registration. Neither Department members did not activate their BWCs prior to or upon initiating contact with the subject who exited his vehicle.

L-9: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for expired vehicle registration. The Department member did not activate his BWC prior to or upon initiating contact with the subject.

L-18: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for expired vehicle registration. The Department member did not activate his BWC prior to or upon initiating contact with the subject.

L-21: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for improper display of license plates. The Department member did not activate his BWC prior to or upon initiating contact with the subject.

P⁸-5: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for license plates not properly positioned on the vehicle. The Department member did not activate his BWC prior to or upon initiating contact with the subject.

P-27: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for unsafe speed. The Department member did not activate his BWC prior to or upon the initiation of the stop, resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member.

⁷ L refers to Lancaster Station. The number represents the sample being referred to of those reviewed by Lancaster Station.

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

Recommendations

It is recommended Department members receive training and briefings emphasizing the requirement to activate their BWC upon arrival or initiating any enforcement or investigative contact with members 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)⁹ may be appropriate. Repeated or more serious violations should result in formal documentation or administrative investigation, in line with Department policy. AV Stations should also implement corrective action plans to identify patterns of noncompliance and ensure accountability through appropriate and timely supervisory follow-up.

⁹ 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 supervisors' 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) 2773:¹⁰

...require 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 the Agreement paragraph cited above and the requirements of AB 2773.

Procedures

The auditors reviewed each BWC recording in the audit population to assess whether Department members introduced themselves at the initiation of contact with a subject. The auditors also determined whether Department members stated the reason for the investigatory stop or detention to the subject when reasonable and practical. In addition, the auditors evaluated the entirety of the investigation and 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 a lack of professionalism and courtesy by the Department member.

¹⁰ 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

Of the 59 stops and detentions, 45 (76%) met the criteria for this objective, because Department members introduced themselves and stated the reason for the stop. The remaining 14 (24%) 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 or detention.

For Lancaster Station, 23 (76%) of the 30 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members introduced themselves and stated the reason for the stop. The remaining 7 (24%) 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, 22 (75%) of the 29 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members introduced themselves and stated the reason for the stop. The remaining 7 (25%) 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: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for driving without lights in the dark. The Department member did not provide an introduction at the initiation of contact and did not state the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical..

L-4: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for unsafe lane change. Upon contact, the subject driver was immediately uncooperative and began using his cell phone to call others to the scene. Neither Department member provided an introduction or stated the reason for the stop even after the stop when reasonable and practical.

L-9: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for expired vehicle registration. The Department member activated their BWC late, resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member. The Department member did not provide an introduction or state the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical.

L-18: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for expired vehicle registration. The Department member activated their BWC late, resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member. The Department member did not provide an introduction or state the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical.

L-21: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for improper display of license plates. The Department member activated their BWC late, resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member. The Department member did not provide an introduction or state the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical.

L-23: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for obstruction of the license plate. The Department member did not provide an introduction or state the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical.

L-28: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for failure to stop at the limit line. Neither Department member provided an introduction nor stated the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical..

P-3: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for improper display of license plates. The subject was continually speaking over the Department members, reaching and throwing items inside his vehicle. Neither Department member introduced themselves nor did they provide a reason for the stop when reasonable and practical.

P-5: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for vehicle registration. The Department member activated their BWC late resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member. The Department member introduced himself to the subject, however, he did not state the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical.

P-13: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a pedestrian stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for a visible weapon on a known felon. The Department member activated their BWC late resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member. The Department member did not provide an introduction or state the reason for the stop when reasonable and practical.

P-14: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for a warrant return attached to the vehicle. The subject was contacted outside of his vehicle, and the Department member activated his BWC late, resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member. The auditors could not determine if an introduction was made to the subject when it was reasonable and practical.

P-21: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the vehicle stop was for an unsafe turn. Neither Department member provided an introduction nor stated the reason for the stop on the captured BWC recording when it was reasonable and practical.

P-27: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for unsafe speed. The Department member activated their BWC late, resulting in missed dialogue between the subject and the Department member. The auditors could not determine if an introduction or a reason for the stop was provided to the subject on the captured BWC recording when it was reasonable and practical.

P-30: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for a warrant return to the vehicle. Neither Department member provided an introduction or stated the reason for the stop on the captured BWC recording when it was reasonable or practical.

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 Audits¹¹, station supervisors must ensure Department members introduce themselves and state the reason for the stop when it is reasonable or practical to do so. 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.

¹¹ 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 87 BWC recordings from investigatory stops and detentions conducted by the AV Stations, 41 from Lancaster and 47 from Palmdale. Of the 87 BWC recordings, 78 (91%) met the criteria for this objective because Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until it ended. The remaining 8 (9%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department members did not record the enforcement or investigative contact until the contact ended.

For Lancaster Station, 38 (95%) of the 41 BWC recordings of the stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until it ended. The remaining 2 (5%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the Department members did not record the enforcement or investigative contact until the contact ended.

For Palmdale Station, 41 (87%) of the 47 BWC recordings of the stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members recorded the enforcement or investigative contact involving a member of the public until it ended. The remaining 6 (13%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the Department members did not record the enforcement or investigative contact until the contact ended.

Specifically:

L-1: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for driving without lights in the dark. The Department member deactivated her BWC during the detention to debrief with an assisting unit. Upon reactivation, she was already engaged in conversation with the subject, as depicted on the BWC, resulting in missed dialogue between the Department member and the subject. The Department member did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

L-17: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for failure to stop at a stop sign. While conducting a DUI investigation, the Department member deactivated her BWC to debrief with an assisting unit. Upon reactivation, she was already engaged in conversation with the subject, as depicted on the BWC, resulting in missed dialogue between the Department member and the subject. The Department member did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

L-25: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for improper display of license plates. The Department member deactivated and then reactivated her BWC while she was engaged in conversation with the subject, resulting in missed dialogue as well as the release of the subject from the backseat of the patrol vehicle. The Department member did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

P-7: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the reason for the stop was vehicle used during the commission of a crime. The Department members deactivated their BWCs prior to the release of the subject, resulting in missed dialogue with the subject. The Department members did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

P-15: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for improper display of vehicle license plates. The Department members deactivated their BWCs while engaged in conversation with the subjects and prior to the release of the subjects from the patrol vehicle. The Department members did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

P-19: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for failure to use turn signals before making a turn. The Department member deactivated his BWC prior to the completion of the contact, resulting in missed dialogue with the subject, who was still seated on the curb at the time of deactivation. The Department member did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

P-24: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for expired vehicle registration. The Department member deactivated his BWC prior to the passenger subject being released. The Department member did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

P-26: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for expired vehicle registration. The Department members deactivated their BWCs while actively conversing with the subjects prior to their release. The Department members did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

P-28: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for failure to signal before making a turn. The Department members deactivated their BWCs prior to the release of the subject. The primary Department member's BWC deactivated as he was conducting a search of the subject's vehicle. The secondary Department member deactivated his BWC for an unknown reason. Neither Department member reactivated their BWCs. The Department members did not continuously record the entire contact until the investigative or enforcement activity ended.

Recommendations

It is recommended Department members make a concerted effort to consistently keep their BWC activated during a stop or detention from beginning to end. AV Station Department members must be reminded to narrate the reason if they need to deactivate their BWC at any point during the stop or detention.

The AV Stations supervisors should continue conducting practical application exercises to ensure Department members understand the proper procedures for activating and deactivating their BWCs. Supervisors must also include training on the guidelines for BWC deactivations. The MPP 3-06/200.18 – Body Worn Camera Recording Exceptions clearly outlines the three exceptions when Department members are allowed to deactivate their BWCs. Supervisors must instill the importance of transparency and emphasize how the completeness of BWC recordings helps mitigate risk for both the Department members and the Department.

During the Daily Stop Audits, station supervisors must verify the completeness of Department members' BWC recordings. Department members who demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance must be held accountable through verbal counseling and/or appropriate written documentation, as applicable.

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 where a search was conducted pursuant to probation or parole conditions, Department members had knowledge of the subjects' search conditions prior to conducting the search.

Prior knowledge of the subject's probation or parole status 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.

Additionally, the auditors reviewed the MDC and the SACR data in the audit population to determine whether Department members verified the subject's probation or parole status. Verification is established when Department members conduct a records check of the subject using the MDC or Sheriff's Communication Center (SCC).

Findings

The auditors examined 59 investigatory stops and detentions conducted by the AV Stations, 30 from Lancaster and 29 from Palmdale. Of the 59 stops and detentions, 57 (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 a search. The remaining 2 (3%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department members did not have knowledge of or verify the probation or parole status prior to a search.

For Lancaster Station, 28 (93%) of the 30 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members had knowledge of or verified the probation or parole status of the subject prior to a search. The remaining 2 (7%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because Department members did not have knowledge or verify the probation or parole status prior to a search.

For Palmdale Station, 29 (100%) of the 29 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members had knowledge of or verified the probation or parole status prior to a search.

Specifically:

L-1: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the reason for the stop was for driving without lights during hours of darkness. The subject was extremely nervous, wearing baggie clothing and was in a high crime area. The MDC indicated the reason for the search was a pat-down, while the SACR indicated the reason was probation or parole.

The BWC recording showed upon initial contact, the Department member immediately handcuffed the subject and began removing items from the subject's pockets. During the course of the search, the Department member asked the subject whether he was on probation or parole, to which he replied yes. The Department placed the subject in the backseat of the patrol vehicle, conducted a records check via MDC and confirmed the subject's probation or parole status. However, the Department member did not establish knowledge of the subject's probation or parole search conditions prior to conducting the search.

L-4: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the reason for the stop was an unsafe lane change. The MDC and SACR both indicated the reason for the search was probation or parole.

The BWC recording showed the subject passenger exited the vehicle and was immediately searched by a Department member. The subject was then detained at the front of the patrol vehicle. During the detention, the Department member conducted a records check via MDC and confirmed the subject's probation or parole status. However, the Department members did not establish knowledge of the subject's probation or parole search conditions prior to conducting the search.

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 examined MDC data for each investigatory stop or 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 identified the subject of each search and sufficiently articulated a proper justification for conducting the search in either the MDC narrative or SACR entry narrative.

Findings

The auditors examined 59 investigatory stops and detentions conducted by the AV Stations, 30 from Lancaster and 29 from Palmdale. Of the 59 stops and detentions, 54 (93%) 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 4 (7%) 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, 28 (93%) of the 30 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members documented the basis for the search, sufficiently articulated a proper justification for the search and articulated how the search conditions were verified in the MDC narrative and/or SACR entry narrative. The remaining 2 (7%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the Department members did not document the basis for the search that sufficiently articulated a proper justification for the search in the MDC narrative or articulate a proper justification for the search in the SACR entry narrative.

For Palmdale Station, 27 (93%) of the 29 stops and detentions met the criteria for this objective because Department members documented the basis for the search, sufficiently articulated a proper justification for the search and articulated how the search conditions were verified in the MDC narrative and/or SACR entry narrative. The remaining 2 (7%) did not meet the criteria for this objective because the 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.

Specifically:

L-1: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a vehicle stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for driving without lights in the dark. The section in SACR for Basis for Search indicated the condition for Parole/Probation was checked. The MDC narrative stated the search was a weapons pat-down, which was not consistent with the BWC recording, which indicated a probation search. The Department member did not articulate how the subject's probation status was verified and if the search conditions were verified prior to the search. The BWC recording indicated the Department member became aware of the subject's probation or parole status during the search.

L-19: This stop involved a one-person unit conducting a traffic stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for tinted windows. The section in SACR for Basis for Search indicated the condition for Parole/Probation was checked. The MDC narrative stated the search was for probation. The Department member did not articulate how the subject's probation or parole status was verified and if the verification was conducted prior to the search. The BWC recording indicated the Department member became aware of the subject's probation or parole status during the search.

P-22: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a traffic stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was for expired vehicle registration. The section in SACR for Basis for Search indicated the condition for Parole/Probation was checked. The MDC narrative stated the search was for probation. The Department member did not articulate how the subject's probation or parole status was verified and if the verification was conducted prior to the search. The BWC recording indicated the Department member became aware of the subject's probation or parole status during the search.

P-24: This stop involved a two-person unit conducting a traffic stop. The SACR entry indicated the stop was expired vehicle registration. The section in SACR for Basis for Search indicated the condition for Parole/Probation was checked. The MDC narrative stated the search was incident to arrest narcotics in plain view. The Department member did not articulate how the subject's probation or parole status was verified and if the verification was conducted prior to the search. The BWC recording indicated the Department member became aware of the subject's probation or parole status during the search.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Department members are reminded of the importance of confirming their verification of probation or parole status of subjects prior to conducting searches. Additionally, they must accurately document the means in which the verification was conducted.

AV station supervisors should conduct practical application exercises focused on documenting the verification method of probation or parole search conditions. These exercises should emphasize consistent and accurate documenting of how and when verification occurred in both MDC and SACR entries, ensuring Department members understand and comply with the SA and Department policies.

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.

SACRS 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 or detentions, Department members accurately and completely documented all subject detained. There was one incident out of 59 when a subject was detained and 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 reviewed objectives have demonstrated consistent improvement, particularly in traffic stops.,. The auditors observed Department members taking proactive measures by activating their BWC promptly and effectively narrating the reasons for stops.

A new notable practice was the full introduction of both Department members in two-person units during interactions with subjects. The professionalism exhibited by Department members, even in confrontational situations, 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 or detention, the clear articulation of probation or parole search justifications, the 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 exiting their patrol vehicles or initiating any enforcement or investigative contact with members of the public as mandated by MPP 3-06/200.08. Primary and secondary Department members should be reminded of their shared responsibility to activate BWCs promptly.

Additionally, supervisors should issue Performance Log Entries (PLEs) as informal counseling for first-time or minor lapses. For repeated or more serious violations, particularly those involving the loss of critical recordings, formal documentation or an administrative investigation should be initiated in accordance with Department policy.

Additionally, AV Stations should create a corrective action plan to address Department members who frequently fail to comply with the BWC policy. This must include addressing these violations through verbal counseling or appropriate written documentation as applicable.

(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 Audits¹², Station supervisors must ensure the Department members are introducing themselves and stating the reason for the stop when it is reasonable or practicable to do so. If a stop or detention is dynamic at the initiation of a stop, it is important Department members provide the subjects with an introduction once the situation has de-escalated. Department members must also be reminded of 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.

(c) Completeness of BWC Recordings

It is recommended Department members make a concerted effort to consistently keep their BWC activated during a stop or detention from beginning to end. AV Station Department members must be reminded to narrate the reason if they need to de-activate their BWC at any point during the stop or detention.

The AV Stations supervisors should continue conducting practical application exercises to ensure Department members understand the proper procedures for activating and de-activating their BWCs. Supervisors must also include training on the guidelines for BWC deactivations. The MPP 3-06/200.18 – Body Worn Camera Recording Exceptions clearly outlines the three exceptions when Department members are allowed to de-activate their cameras. Supervisors must instill the importance of transparency and emphasize how the completeness of BWC recordings help mitigate risk for both the Department members and the Department.

During the Daily Stop Audits, station supervisors must verify the completeness of Department members' BWC recordings. Department members who demonstrate a pattern of noncompliance must be held accountable through verbal counseling and/or appropriate written documentation, as applicable.

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

It is recommended that Department members are reminded of the importance of confirming their verification of probation or parole status of subjects prior to conducting searches. Additionally, they must accurately document the means in which the verification was conducted.

This is crucial for complying with Antelope Valley SA paragraph 56, more specifically the detailed compliance metrics established in the Antelope Valley MT's First Stops and Bias-Free Policing Audit dated September 2023. This report clarifies Department members must articulate the verification method in their documentation, a detail not explicitly stated in Paragraph 56 itself but vital for audit compliance.

The audit findings, particularly for Lancaster Station, indicated a clear lack of awareness regarding these precise documentation requirements. It is apparent both Lancaster and Palmdale station would benefit significantly from enhanced guidance.

AV station supervisors should conduct practical application exercises focused on documenting the verification method of probation or parole search conditions. These exercises should emphasize consistent and accurate documenting of how and when verification occurred in both MDC and SACR entries, ensuring Department members understand and comply with the SA and Department policies

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

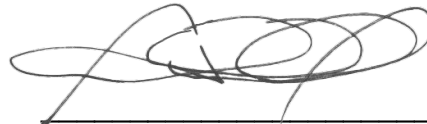
- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System Services
- LASD.Evidence.com
- Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) log
- RAPSNET

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 May 8, 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.



12/15/2025

GEOFFREY N. CHADWICK DATE
Captain
Audit and Accountability Bureau
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department