



Surveillance Impact Report

Object Trackers

San Diego Police Department

DESCRIPTION

Object tracking devices are electronic devices placed in items to track and monitor their movements and activities. These devices use Global Positioning System (GPS) technology to determine the exact location of the vehicle at any given time and transmit this information to a central server, where it can be accessed by authorized personnel.

PURPOSE

The San Diego Police Department utilizes object tracking devices to track objects involved in ongoing criminal investigations, locate wanted suspects and locate stolen property.

LOCATION

Object trackers are used in the field by investigators. The focus of the tracker is determined by the investigator based on their investigations. Object trackers collect location data of where the actual device is by using GPS and cell towers. As the tracker moves, it collects the GPS coordinates and speed of the device.

City of San Diego crime statistics can be viewed at [Crime Statistics & Crime Mapping | Police | City of San Diego Official Website](#).

IMPACT

Object trackers enhance law enforcement capabilities by tracking items in real time, which can aid in the investigation and apprehension of suspects. The real-time location data can be used to make more informed decisions. By monitoring the location and movements of stolen property, law enforcement officers can better track stolen items.

The San Diego Police Department's Object Trackers Surveillance Use Policy safeguards civil liberties and civil rights. The uses and deployments of surveillance technology are not based upon discriminatory or viewpoint-based factors. The Department's use of surveillance technology is intended to support and benefit the communities of San Diego while minimizing and mitigating potential impacts on the civil rights and civil liberties of community members.

MITIGATIONS

When a tracker is requested by an SDPD member, a Special Equipment Technician of the Robbery Unit will be assigned the request. The technician will speak with the SDPD member to fully understand the mission of how the device will be used. The request will be evaluated for equipment suitability and legal standing. If equipment deployment is appropriate, a request form will be completed stating the crime being investigated and the legal authority to use the tracker. The request form will also state all personnel who will have access to monitor the equipment.

All requests for an object tracker must be approved by a Robbery Unit sergeant and a Robbery Unit lieutenant. The program administrator will grant authorization to all required members to monitor the device and create the required reports about the evidence collected from the device.



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Legal authority to use an object tracker can help mitigate privacy concerns by providing a clear legal framework for how the device can be used, who can use it, and under what circumstances. By establishing legal guidelines, law enforcement agencies can help ensure that the use of object trackers is lawful, ethical, justified and respectful of individual privacy rights.

The collection, use, retention, or dissemination of data shall not be used to violate the Constitutional rights of any person or be used in any manner that would discriminate against any person based upon their ethnicity, race, gender, natural origin, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

DATA TYPES AND SOURCES

Object trackers collect location data of where the actual device is by using GPS and cell towers. As the tracker moves, it collects the GPS coordinates and speed of the device. The tracker also collects ambient air temperature around the device for diagnostic purposes. In addition to GPS location data, object trackers can collect time-stamped location data, which can help create a detailed record of the object's movement over time.

DATA SECURITY

All object tracker data is encrypted and will be downloaded from a secure data management solution to a mobile workstation and shall be accessible only through a login/password-protected system with two-factor authentication. All department members who have access to the system while the devices are assigned will be documented and will only have access to the data pertaining to their deployment.

All data evidence collected by the object tracker will be downloaded as needed by the SDPD Department member who was assigned the device or by an authorized user. The data will be impounded and stored pursuant to D.P. 3.02 Impound, Release, and Disposal of Property Evidence. Once the data has been collected and impounded, the data will be deleted from the data management solution.

The City's Department of Information Technology oversees the IT governance process and works with SDPD's Department of IT regarding project execution and risk assessment, selecting, and approving technology solutions. Cyber security and technology risks are also assessed by the Department of IT. For additional details related to IT governance processes, refer to the information at the following link:

- <https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/fy23-fy27-it-strategic-plan-sd.pdf>

FISCAL COST

The San Diego Police Department owns three object trackers. Each device costs \$305.00 to purchase and \$228.00 a year for the tracking service.



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THIRD PARTY DEPENDENCE

Location data may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies for legitimate law enforcement purposes, which include criminal investigations and prosecution as allowed by law. The location data will not be used in immigration enforcement.

ALTERNATIVES

Currently, no other company provides the same type of service as the object trackers SDPD owns.

TRACK RECORD

Object trackers have been used to assist investigators in several criminal cases. The trackers allow investigators to follow objects and stolen property from a safe distance. The trackers monitor a suspect's location to determine other possible residences or storage areas. By allowing the investigators to keep their distance, fewer suspects are alerted to being followed.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COMMENTS

On January 11, 2024, at 1800 hours, there was a publicly held meeting in all nine council districts in the City of San Diego. The following surveillance technologies were presented by the San Diego Police Department:

1. ARJISNET
2. Cal-Photo
3. Code5Group GPS Bike
4. Covert Cloud-Based Mobile Application
5. NICE Logging Recorder
6. Object Tracker
7. Parole LEADS
8. SDLaw
9. TLOxp
10. Vehicle Tracker

There were no attendees in District 1. There were no attendees in District 2. There were no attendees in District 3. There were four attendees in District 4. There were no attendees in District 5. There was one attendees in District 6. There were no attendees in District 7. There were no attendees in District 8. There were two attendees in District 9. There was a total of one comment and no questions out of the seven attendees. There were no comments submitted to the online public comment form.

Question:

Question regarding the lack of notification of the meetings and a comment regarding the fiscal impact and waste of City employee time and wasted city funds for the presentations, in compliance with the ordinance.



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Answer:

Advance notification was given because we want to hear everyone's voice.

To maximize the reach of the materials presented at the community meetings, the Police Department created a link to the City of San Diego's technology website which provides all materials for presented technologies as well as upcoming technologies and additional materials. The materials and questions/comments section could be accessed by visiting the below web address:
www.sandiego.gov/police/technology. The web address was posted in conjunction with the QR code at the community meeting.

The Department also video recorded a meeting so that it could be presented to a larger group. The benefit of the video was the capability of translating the presentation into over 100 languages such as Spanish, and other languages frequently used by the communities within San Diego, to maximize penetration of the materials to affected groups. The link to the video is at the San Diego Police Department's YouTube channel under: [Surveillance Technology Community Meeting 01/11/2024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SurveillanceTechnologyCommunityMeeting01112024)