

FLOCK SAFETY

CAL POLY PUBLIC SAFETY

May 2026

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CAL POLY

PUBLIC SAFETY

The campus has been going through a strategic overhaul of its access control and video surveillance programs. This has been an on-going need for decades.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Video surveillance has always been a part of the campus's security strategy to assist in solving crimes.

Current systems aren't very user friendly, software/hardware is out of date, limited locations and technology or not even operational (need to be updated/replaced).

They provide some evidentiary value if the stars align, but are not like the cameras you think of when you watch spy TV shows or movies.

ORIGIN

- Originally procured and obtained in May 2025.
- There have been many crimes reported where vehicle identifiers was reported but this technology would have assisted while investigating and building a case.

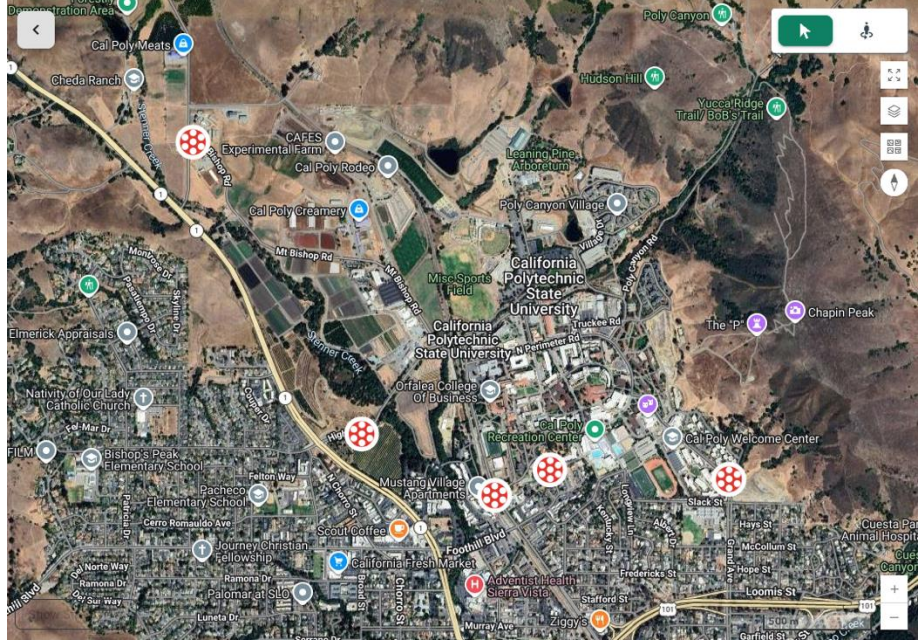


LOCATIONS

Placed at 5 campus entrance points:

10 total ALPR Cameras (images)

7 total Live Cameras (video, non-ALPR)



WHAT DO THEY CAPTURE?

The cameras capture the **rear license plate** from the passenger side.

This is why there has to be 2 ALPR cameras to cover one bi-directional road.

The ALPR images are focused on the vehicle and provide little context outside of the vehicle.

The live video captures a wider field of view.

All live video feeds and ALPR images are stored for 30 days per CSU Policy.



Image pulled from Google Images. Staunton, Virginia

USE CASES

The Live Videos are **not searchable by the software**. (We can't search for "person with red backpack")

The ALPR images are searchable by license plate, vehicle descriptions, or date/time.

All searches are logged (ie. who did the search, when, and why).

Regular audits are conducted for compliance to policies and legal regulations.

They **are not** linked to or connected to Parking Enforcement in any way. Parking uses a completely separate ALPR system specifically designed for parking management.

CONCERNS WE'VE HEARD

Concern	Response
Flock is tracking students and staff.	The Flock system can not identify people. CPPD would need to run information through separate system to identify registered owners. All search purposes are logged.
Flock and/or CPPD is sharing ALPR data.	CPPD has data sharing turned off. Flock has disabled nationwide searches for CA agencies. Contract has been amended with stronger language to mitigate data sharing.
Federal Immigration Agencies (ICE/CBP) have access to Flock.	Some non-CA States will allow/work with federal agencies for immigration enforcement. ICE is not a Flock customer and does not have direct access to the system.

CONCERNS WE'VE HEARD

Concern	Response
Flock is used to track inter-state travel for abortions.	Based on a poorly worded search conducted by a Texas officer. CPPD has “immigration and abortion related search tags” turned off.
Flock is being misused by certain individuals.	There have been reports of individual officers misusing the system. This risk is present at all times with any investigatory tool and CPPD is mitigating through proper auditing and internal enforcement.
Flock has been hacked / compromised.	Certain YouTubers and TikTokers have claimed to have hacked Flock. These claims are misleading and false – Flock’s databases are stored in AWS cloud with the same level of security as the DOD.

CONCLUSION

- Public Safety will continue to monitor Flock as a tool and weigh the risks associated with it. We value the public's feedback and will seek answers from the vendor to address them.
- We acknowledge there have been reports of other agencies and personnel using Flock for inappropriate reasons and that this causes distrust.
- Flock is simply another tool in our available inventory that assists with investigatory processes and only captures publicly available information on our public roadways.
- Flock systems are used for legitimate law enforcement purposes and are audited regularly for adherence to policy.
- The Flock Transparency Portal will be available on the CPPD website shortly. We are currently undergoing a web overhaul to integrate with Cal Poly Maritime Academy and the portal will be available for both campuses once this overhaul is complete.

THANK YOU!



CAL POLY