CAL POLY PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC SAFETY ALPR UPDATE

Timeline

SPRING 2026

We heard the concerns about Flock

SUMMER 2026

We evaluated alternative options

TODAY

We're here to partner and hear your comments

We want your input as we make our decision.

WHAT WE HEARD

ASI Resolution #26-11

The ASI Board adopted the resolution unanimously on May 27, 2026. It called for ending the Flock contract and raised a broader question about whether Cal Poly should use ALPR at all.

The concerns extend beyond Cal Poly

Flock has faced significant national scrutiny over privacy and transparency. Universities and cities across the country have ended or reconsidered their relationships with the company. Cal Poly is part of that broader reassessment.

WHY A PLATE READER HELPS

ALPR helps with proactive and reactive police cases

A license plate can provide an investigative lead when officers have little else to start with.

The examples on the right are real case types CPPD has handled with ALPR support.

Hit and run
Reactive investigation

Grand theft
Reactive investigation

Stolen vehicle
Proactive alert and response

Threats and harassment
Proactive and reactive support

Assault investigation
Reactive investigation

WHY A PLATE READER HELPS

It reads license plates—not faces or people

What it captures

- ✓ The rear license plate, photographed from the passenger side
- ✓ Vehicle make, color and body type, so a “white pickup” description can be searched
- ✓ The date and time a vehicle passed a campus entrance

How CPPD Uses the System

1. To reactively search the database in connection with an active investigation.
2. To proactively monitor the database in connection with an active investigation or threat.
3. Does not monitor outside of active investigations and does not use for parking or driving enforcement.
4. The database does not capture faces, identify people, or connect license plates with vehicle owner information.

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PRIVACY AND TRANSPARENCY

Guardrails that stay in place regardless of vendor

Deleted after 30 days
Automatically. Only data exported for an active case is kept, in our evidence system, under the records retention schedule.

Every search is logged
Who ran it, when, and why. The reason is entered before the search runs. Required by §1798.90.52.

Audit log published, not just kept
The full audit log is posted on our ALPR Transparency page, with names and reasons.

Audited every quarter
Procedure 427 requires quarterly review by the ALPR Administrator. System misuse is met with immediate review and discipline.

Federal or out-of-state agencies do not have access
California law prohibits out-of-state sharing. Requests from other California public agencies are decided case by case by the Chief.

No immigration or reproductive-care use
CSU policy and state law prohibit cooperation with immigration enforcement. Search tags for these purposes are turned off.

Only trained, authorized users
Sworn officers, dispatch (alerts only), and detectives, with two-factor authentication and annual privacy training.

Procedure reviewed every year
The procedure and the designated administrator are reviewed annually, or sooner if the law or the system changes.

Not connected to parking
Parking enforcement uses its own separate system. Nothing here talks to it.

WHAT WE WENT LOOKING FOR

What a replacement had to do

Based on what we heard from you, a replacement had to meet these requirements.

Data we control

Stored so that only Cal Poly can access the data and the vendor or any other agency would not be able to access it for any reason.

Reviewed by CSU Information Security

Reviewed by CSU information security professionals, not just described in the vendor's brochure.

Reports we can publish

Exports with every field our ALPR Transparency page needs: who, agency, reason, time, and type of search.

Reads license plates, no facial recognition

Plate reading, not people-finding. No "find this person" features and no facial recognition.

Adheres to California law

Civil Code §1798.90.5-.55 (SB 34): a record of which officer searched, when, and for what purpose; a public usage policy; public comment before use.

Runs on sunlight

Our entrance poles have no power. Any camera we choose has to be solar, or it doesn't work here.

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WHO WE EVALUATED

Seven vendors evaluated against the same requirements

Vendor	Data we control	Security reviewed by CSU	Publishable transparency reports	License plates only (no facial recognition)	Adheres to California law	Solar-powered hardware	Result
2M Technologies	✓	◐	✓	✓	✓	✓	Partially met requirements
Verkada	✓	◐	✓	✗	✓	✓	Did not meet all requirements
Genetec	✓	✓	◐	✓	✓	✓	Partially met requirements
Motorola	◐	◐	✓	✓	✓	✓	Partially met requirements
Axis	✓	◐	✓	✓	✓	◐	Did not meet all requirements
Axon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ Met every requirement
Leonardo	✗	◐	✗	✗	✗	✗	Nonresponsive; did not meet requirements

✓ Met ◐ Partially met ✗ Not met

SEARCH TRANSPARENCY IS KEY

Transparency is built into every search

The information needed for accountability is mandatory in the workflow—not a setting that can be turned off.

01

Officer signs in

The system records exactly which officer conducts the search.

→

02

Required before searching

- Search purpose
- Offense type
- Officer identity
- Date, time and query details

→

03

Search runs

The officer cannot bypass the required accountability fields.

→

04

Export to our existing Transparency Log

The fields map into essentially the same public format Cal Poly publishes today.

Required by design

The accountability record is part of the product workflow, not an optional feature or administrator toggle.

Continuity for the public

Cal Poly can continue publishing officer, agency, reason, time and search-type information without rebuilding the transparency process.

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

The standards that will guide our decision

Every requirement must be met

Cal Poly will select a vendor only after confirming that the system satisfies all of these standards.

01 Cal Poly owns and controls the data

Cal Poly will fully own and manage the data. The vendor and other agencies will have no access, and Cal Poly will not share the data.

02 Every use is publicly accountable

Cal Poly will publicly report all system use and continually review searches to ensure appropriate use.

03 Use is limited to active investigations

No parking enforcement. No employee tracking. No student tracking.

04 AI use remains narrowly limited

AI will be used only as necessary to read license plates and identify vehicle characteristics.

05 Data is deleted after 30 days

The system will automatically delete collected data after the 30-day retention period.

06 Security review comes before selection

The Cal Poly and/or CSU Information Security Officer will thoroughly vet the system.

Thank you

We look forward to your input.

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