

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE 2022-23
BUDGET ACT



CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL
2024

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT OF THE 2022-23 BUDGET ACT

GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

TOKS OMISHAKIN
SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

S. A. DURYEE
COMMISSIONER
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Highway Violence Task Force (HVTF) was created out of the Budget Act of 2022, which was enacted on July 1, 2022. This was in response to an increase in highway violence (HV) related incidents occurring on state highways. The Budget Change Proposal (BCP) provided funding that totaled \$10.663 million dollars, which was split over a three fiscal year period.

- FY 22/23 – \$4.034 million
- FY 23/24 – \$3.314 million
- FY 24/25 – \$3.315 million

The BCP funding included expenses for new crime analyst positions, overtime, training, information technology purchases, and equipment. Ultimately, this effort was designed to address the rising trend of HV incidents occurring on state highways.

Since its inception, the HVTF has assisted in numerous criminal investigations across the state, including cases involving murder, assault, battery, and sexual assault. Utilizing BCP funding, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) hired seven crime analysts to assist the Investigative Services Units (ISU) that investigate HV crimes throughout the state. The crime analysts provide a valuable service ranging from intelligence gathering, suspect background history reports, cellular phone data analysis, and many other technical functions related to criminal investigations and evidence analysis.

As with any criminal investigation program, the CHP continues to monitor, refine, and implement new technology, training, policy, and procedures for the investigation of these crimes. Additionally, the CHP continues to look for new and innovative ways to increase the effectiveness of the HVTF and its capabilities.

HIGHWAY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS – REPORTING/DATA TRACKING

The CHP created a Geographical Information System (GIS) to track and organize HV data. The GIS system incorporates geographic mapping abilities that allow for the identification of areas that have higher instances of HV, which can aid in the reallocation of personnel to those specific areas.

Highway Violence Incident Types:

The CHP has identified several categories for labeling HV incidents, to include the following:

- Freeway Shooting – BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)
- Brandishing (Section 417 of the Penal Code)
- Freeway/Highway Shooting – Firearm
- Homicide (Non-shooting)
- Homicide (Shooting)
- Object Thrown (Section 23110 of the California Vehicle Code)
- Violent Crime (Assault, Domestic Violence, etc.)

Highway Violence Reported Incidents by Category:

The following charts represent the most notable categories of HV incidents, which were reported to the CHP resulting in an officer response to the scene for further investigation.

Fiscal Year 2022/23 Statistical Data

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	75
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	360
Homicide (Shooting)	6
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	5
Arrests	252

Fiscal Year 2023/24 Statistical Data

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	47
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	341
Homicide (Shooting)	7
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	7
Arrests	316

Highway Violence Incident Locations:

There were a total of 3,322 incidents of HV reported from July 2022 through the end of the fiscal year 2023. The following charts represent the most notable categories of HV incidents, by Division, for this time period.

Border Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	18
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	65
Homicide (Shooting)	1
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	3
Arrests	7

Southern Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	20
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	150
Homicide (Shooting)	6
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	4
Arrests	18

Inland Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	24
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	90
Homicide (Shooting)	1
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	0
Arrests	26

Central Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	16
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	118
Homicide (Shooting)	1
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	4
Arrests	18

Coastal Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	16
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	34
Homicide (Shooting)	0
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	1
Arrests	8

GG Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	26
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	233
Homicide (Shooting)	2
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	2
Arrests	34

Valley Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	5
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	65
Homicide (Shooting)	3
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	1
Arrests	15

Northern Division

Freeway/Highway Shooting - BB/Pellet Gun (Airsoft, Slingshot, etc.)	0
Freeway/Highway Shooting - Firearm	7
Homicide (Shooting)	1
Homicide (Non-Shooting)	0
Arrests	3

Associated Factors:

Since July 2022, the CHP has seen an increase in HV activity on state highways. Although the specific causes can be difficult to identify, some HV incidents have been attributed to gang activity, while others are due to random road rage incidents.

Outcomes of Investigations:

Through the end of Fiscal Year 2023/24, the CHP has arrested 568 individuals connected to HV investigations. These arrests have ranged from violations of objects being thrown at vehicles, up to homicides with a firearm. Additionally,

the CHP reviews previously unsolved cases in order to identify new leads or information which may assist in solving these cases.

TRAINING PROVIDED

Training Provided:

The CHP provided a variety of associated training to HV Crime Analysts and Investigators, including the following:

- Cellebrite (Cellular phone extractions and data analyses)
- GEO Time (GEO location plotting and mapping of cellular phone data, vehicle infotainment center data, and cellular tower dump data)
- Sacramento State University, Crime & Intelligence Analysis Program
- FIAT (Foundations of Intelligence Analysis Training)
- NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network)
- Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigations (Various California Peace Officer Standards and Training courses)
- Berla (Vehicle Infotainment System Download and Analysis)
- Open-Source Intelligence

The CHP also works closely with local law enforcement agencies to ensure fast and efficient sharing of information related to gang activity, criminal trends, and to ensure new and updated methods of investigation are known and widely used. Developing relationships with those departments by attending local gang task force meetings, regularly speaking with their homicide teams, and sharing criminal investigation information to establish links and commonalities between cases further increases departmental effectiveness.

TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES

Automated License Plate Recognition:

The CHP uses Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology as an investigative tool in the detection of wanted vehicles. Data collected by CHP ALPR systems is retained in CHP data storage servers and purged after a period of 60 days. Access to the data is limited to law enforcement personnel with an official investigatory need.

The CHP currently has 62 patrol vehicles equipped with an ALPR system. These patrol vehicles have been deployed to Area offices throughout the state and are used on daily patrol. The information gathered by the ALPR system is used to detect wanted vehicles and supplement criminal investigations. The Department has access to various ALPR systems via pole cameras throughout

the state. Additionally, using HV funds, the CHP signed a contract with Flock Safety for the installation and access to 480 ALPR cameras within the city limits of Oakland and surrounding freeways (290 within the city and 190 on the freeway). Through December of 2024, all 190 freeway cameras have been installed, and 286 of the 290 cameras within the city of Oakland have been installed. Additionally, over 38 million vehicle images have been read, which identified 1,403 stolen vehicles, 174 'felony want' vehicles, and 37,360 stolen license plates. Data collected by the Flock Safety ALPR system is stored on the Flock Safety data storage servers and purged after a period of 28 days.

ALPR Success Stories:

In May of 2024, the CHP Golden Gate Division Investigative Services Unit (ISU), investigated a freeway shooting within Santa Clara County, where the victim was uninjured. With the assistance of Flock ALPR technology, Investigators identified a suspect vehicle. In July of 2024, with the assistance of the San Jose Police Department, Investigators identified a suspect and served a warrant on the suspect at his residence. The suspect was taken into custody, and the weapon involved in the shooting was recovered.

In August of 2024, the CHP Golden Gate Division ISU investigated two separate freeway shootings within Alameda County, where one person sustained minor injuries. With the assistance of Flock ALPR technology, investigators found commonalities between the two shootings and identified a suspect vehicle. Investigators subsequently identified the suspect responsible for both shootings and took him into custody.

In August of 2024, the CHP Valley Division ISU investigated a carjacking and freeway shooting within San Joaquin County, where the victim was uninjured. The suspect stole the vehicle from the victim, and the victim pursued the suspect in another vehicle. During that time, the suspect fired a single round at the victim's vehicle. With the assistance of Flock ALPR technology, investigators located the stolen vehicle within a homeless encampment in Oakland. A warrant was served at the location, two suspects were taken into custody, and the weapon involved in the shooting was recovered. Investigators also recovered five additional stolen vehicles.

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network:

National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) is a national database of digital images of spent bullets and shell casings located at a crime scene or test-fired from confiscated weapons. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives manages the system, with numerous federal, state, and local agencies having access to NIBIN terminals. When a weapon is fired, the firing pin strikes the primer and leaves a tooling mark that is distinctive to that

weapon. This allows for shell casings to be compared to each other and determine if they were fired from the same firearm. When a possible match is found, a notification is sent to a corresponding agency for further identification and confirmation. Having NIBIN terminals allows for the open sharing of criminal investigations between local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Using HV funds, the CHP purchased four NIBIN terminals which have been geographically located throughout the state in Stockton, Dublin, Bakersfield, and Rancho Cucamonga. All locations are operational as of December 2024, with each office having an officer trained in the use of the NIBIN terminal. To date, the CHP has entered approximately 131 shell casings into NIBIN and received 5 matches to previously entered casings. Notification of those matches were forwarded to the associated law enforcement agency for follow-up.

NIBIN Success Story:

In March of 2024, the CHP Valley Division ISU investigated a freeway shooting within San Joaquin County, where the victim was uninjured. Investigators collected three shell casings from the scene, which were entered into NIBIN. Investigators were notified of a possible match and, through additional follow-up, were able to identify a suspect. A search warrant was served at the suspect's residence and two weapons were recovered. Both weapons were test fired, and the shell casings were entered into NIBIN. The NIBIN matched the shell casings from the scene to the shell casing test fired from one of the recovered weapons. The suspect was subsequently taken into custody. The NIBIN also identified the weapons to be associated to two other shootings being investigated by the Stockton Police Department and the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department.

Crime Analytics Software:

The CHP purchased numerous software programs and hardware systems to aid in the investigation of HV related incidents. These programs aid in the search of open-source information (OSINET), which searches public records, public websites, and social media websites to obtain information about a specific person or group. The CHP has also purchased software which aids in the analysis of data obtained through search warrants such as cellular phone provider records and cellular phone extractions. Hardware has also been purchased which allows trained personnel to remove a vehicle's infotainment computer and download the data contained within it. This data can include information such as vehicle locations, connected cellular phones, vehicle speeds, and certain vehicle data points captured by the vehicles main computer system, all of which can provide valuable information during a criminal investigation. The CHP continues to identify and assess new and emerging technology which can aid in the investigation of HV related incidents.

From January of 2022 through November of 2024, CHP crime analysts completed over 1,100 requests to review digital data. Using crime analytics software, CHP crime analysts reviewed digital data from open source intelligence searches, Employment Development Department searches, social media searches, and cellular service (call detail records) searches.

Private Laboratory Testing:

The CHP has also set aside funding for the analysis of forensic evidence through private laboratories. Some governmental crime laboratories do not have the ability to properly analyze specified pieces of evidence to obtain deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). However, a company located in the San Francisco Bay Area, named Serological, has developed a proprietary process to extract DNA evidence from spent shell casings. This DNA sample can then be compared to known DNA samples (or compared to a particular suspect's DNA). In some instances, this is the only lead the CHP may have regarding a specific shooting.

Private Lab Testing Success Stories:

In November of 2023, the CHP Golden Gate Division ISU investigated a freeway shooting within Solano County, where the victim sustained moderate injuries. Shell casings were collected from the scene and provided to Serological for DNA testing. Serological was able to obtain a DNA sample from the shell casing that was matched to a suspect, who was later identified as being involved in this shooting. The suspect was subsequently taken into custody, and a weapon was recovered.

In November of 2023, the CHP Golden Gate Division ISU investigated a freeway shooting within Alameda County involving two rival gangs, where one victim sustained minor injuries. Shell casings were collected from the scene and provided to Serological for DNA testing. Serological was able to obtain a DNA sample from the shell casing that was matched to a suspect, who was later identified as being involved in this shooting. The suspect was subsequently taken into custody.

BENEFITS OF TRAINING AND TECHNOLOGY

Since the inception of advanced training opportunities and the purchase of new and innovative investigative technology, the CHP has further developed the required skills and expertise to properly investigate HV incidents. Training related to new methods of investigation, coupled with evolving legal and policy updates, requires investigators to continuously learn and seek out training opportunities to acquire knowledge from more experienced investigators in

methods and techniques that enhance their investigative capabilities. This is accomplished by attending various Peace Officer Standards and Training certified training classes, as well as attending a multitude of law enforcement related conferences such as the California Homicide Investigators Association conference, the Robert Presley Institute of Criminal Investigations classes, and the Northern California Crime and Intelligence Analysts Association conference. The CHP continues to invest in innovative technology and evaluate training programs to ensure efficient and effective operations of the Department.

CONCLUSION

The CHP will continue investigating HV related crimes to completion in order to assist with locating and arresting perpetrators of these crimes and ensure justice for the victims and their families. The Department values a strong relationship with the California Legislature and the Governor's Office, and the support of both is critical in the ability to continue providing exemplary investigative services. The CHP will continue working with the Legislature and the Administration to identify new and innovative ways of providing safety of the residents of California along with visitors to our great state.