

# CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

## GENERAL ORDER 40.2

REVISED JANUARY 2026

### RESEARCH STUDIES BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

1. POLICY. The Department will cooperate in reimbursable or other research studies directly related to traffic safety or which could result in a substantial benefit to law enforcement or departmental operations.
  
2. GENERAL. The Department has benefited from the research findings of other agencies working in the field of traffic safety. In many cases, it was necessary for departmental personnel to cooperate with these agencies to facilitate the gathering of reliable data.
  
3. PROCEDURES.
  - a. Upon receipt of a request from an outside entity to perform research using information gained directly from uniformed or nonuniformed personnel employed by CHP, the proposal shall be forwarded to Research and Planning Section (RPS) for review and processing.
  
  - b. For human subjects research (including surveys, interviews, and other forms of data collection/information compilation from human subjects), the following applies:
    - (1) The Primary Investigator (PI) of the proposed research must be affiliated with a university or other entity bound by the Nuremberg Code of research ethics principles for human experimentation, and/or other recognized codes of conduct and ethics.
  
    - (2) The proposed research must be approved by said institution or entity's Institutional Review Board.
  
    - (3) Anonymity and/or confidentiality must be assured.
  
    - (4) Research and Planning Section must approve all data-gathering instruments proposed for use.
  
    - (5) To ensure proper data analysis, RPS must have access to all data gathered and the syntax used to analyze those data.

(6) The CHP, through RPS, may insist on prior approval of the content before any findings can be presented or published.

(7) Research and Planning Section will submit the research request with recommendations to the Office of Assistant Commissioner, Staff, for review. If the request is consistent with policy, and if field personnel are involved, it will also be forwarded to the Office of Assistant Commissioner, Field, for review.

(8) Research and Planning Section will then respond to the requester, and if approved, will provide necessary assistance and coordination to the involved commands, and act as a liaison between the Department and the research agency and/or PI as appropriate.

(9) Upon completion of the study, RPS, in cooperation with the requesting command, will review the findings for possible application and/or implementation by the Department.

c. For research not using human subjects (including requests for existing data), the following applies:

(1) These types of requests generally fall under the California Public Records Act (PRA) (Government Code, Section 7920, et seq.) and/or the Information Practices Act (IPA) (California Civil Code, Section 1798, et seq.), as they relate to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of information.

(2) Should RPS receive this type of request for data, RPS shall immediately forward the request to the Public Records Section (PRS), who will determine if it meets the requirements of the PRA or the IPA. The PRS has ten calendar days to respond to the request from the date it is received by the Department.

(a) If it is determined the request meets the PRA and/or the IPA requirements, PRS shall notify the requester and RPS. The PRA or IPA procedures will then be overseen by PRS for that request.

(b) If the requested cooperation is determined not to meet the requirements of the PRA or the IPA, the request will be returned to RPS who will contact the requester to discuss the request and/or proposal.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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