

Olivehurst Public Utility District

Agenda Item Staff Report



Meeting Date: October 15th, 2026

Item description/summary:

Proposed FLOCK Safety Camera Installation - Public Survey Review

OPUD previously considered allowing FLOCK Safety automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras at Johnson Park and Eufay Park in coordination with the Yuba County Sheriff's Department, with two cameras proposed at each park. The Board delayed a final decision to allow additional public input, and the Sheriff's Department agreed to hold deployment for an additional month.

The current survey sample includes 141 responses; 138 respondents (97.9%) identified as OPUD customers or residents within the District service area. Results show substantial opposition: 106 respondents (75.2%) strongly oppose the proposed installation, while 25 (17.7%) strongly support it. In addition, 100 respondents indicated concerns about cameras in public parks regardless of intended purpose, and 115 (81.6%) rated public information regarding data sharing, camera locations, retention, access restrictions, and oversight as extremely important.

Other findings include 103 respondents (73.0%) opposing the use of District funds for the project and 75 (53.2%) believing the proposed system would be not at all effective at reducing vandalism or assisting with incidents. Open-ended comments frequently raised privacy, data access/security, effectiveness, and surveillance concerns, while some respondents identified potential benefits such as protecting facilities and assisting law-enforcement investigations.

Board Follow-Up: Data Sharing and Cancellation

At the prior Board meeting, questions were raised regarding who may receive information from the camera system and the process for discontinuing participation. The Yuba County Sheriff's Department subsequently advised that camera data is shared only with government agencies within California; out-of-state agencies and private parties would not have access. OPUD or Public Works, as a partnering entity, could be provided with designated administrator access limited to the cameras assigned to OPUD.

The Sheriff's Department also advised that cancellation is handled through FLOCK and that a cancellation cost applies. If OPUD later chooses not to participate, the cameras can be removed; however, FLOCK charges a non-refundable cost for the removal. The specific removal cost and applicable terms remain subject to the FLOCK contract and should be confirmed before execution.

Fiscal Analysis:

The proposed FLOCK camera system would be fully funded through grant funding, resulting in no initial cost to the District. However, if the FLOCK contract is terminated or cancelled, the District may become responsible for costs associated with the cancellation. Additionally, should the Board elect to discontinue the program and have the FLOCK cameras removed from OPUD property, the District would be responsible for a non-refundable removal fee.

Sample Motion/Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board decline the proposed FLOCK Safety camera installation at this time based on the public survey results and feedback received, and direct staff to explore alternative options for addressing vandalism, property protection, and public safety at OPUD parks.

Sample Motion: Move to decline the proposed FLOCK Safety camera proposal and direct staff to evaluate alternative measures for improving security and reducing vandalism at OPUD parks.

Prepared by:

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