

Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency Digital Cameras

Annual Surveillance Report: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

1. Description of How the Technology Was Used

The Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) is authorized to use digital cameras to document inspection activities and hearings, gather evidence of violations and compliance, produce trainings materials, work orders and program outreach in our efforts to promote and protect health and safety, equity in the marketplace and improve environmental factors. These images are only taken when there is a need for a very wide view of a physical site and any images with people in them are not close enough to show recognizable features. Additionally, witnesses to a case or those captured in images for enforcement training purposes have provided verbal consent.

2. Data Sharing with Outside Entities

As of June 30, 2023, data had been shared with other local municipalities within the county, state agencies and owners of property that was photographed. More specifically this includes every jurisdiction in the County, California Department of Food and Agriculture and California Department of Public Health. For public hearings individuals and jurisdictions receive all the information on a specific case and it is required record keeping per State regulations.

3. Community Complaints or Concerns about the Technology

CEPA has not received any community complaints or concerns regarding the use of audio recorders.

4. Audits and Policy Violations

As of June 30, 2023, there have not been any non-privileged internal audits conducted, allegations of policy violations, or findings of policy violations.

5. Effectiveness at Achieving Identified Purpose

The use of digital cameras has been effective in creating records to document inspection activities and hearings, gather evidence of violations and compliance and work orders.

6. Public Records Act Requests

As of June 30, 2023, CEPA has not received any Public Records Act requests regarding this equipment. However, if an image is captured in document it would be provided. All Public Records Act requests are managed by the Department's coordinators and use the Next Request system to track and monitor compliance.

7. Annual Costs

Annual cost for the technology, including personnel and other costs, is under \$500 based on the replacement cycle of the hardware. The funding is included as part of the CEPA IT Budget.