



Fire-Rescue Department

2025 ANNUAL SURVEILLANCE REPORT





Fire-Rescue's Annual Surveillance Report

▶ **Two Approved Technologies**

- ▶ Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)
- ▶ Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Camera System

▶ **Annual Surveillance Report**

- ▶ The Annual Report is required under the City's TRUST Ordinance and is designed to promote transparency, public understanding, and accountability.
- ▶ The Annual Report explains how the technology was used, what benefits it provided, and what safeguards protect privacy and civil liberties.

REQUEST

- In accordance with the Board Notification and Review Requirements outlined in San Diego Municipal Code § 210.0102 of the Surveillance Ordinance, San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) is requesting continued approval for use and sharing of technology which falls within the definition of surveillance technology under the Surveillance Ordinance. Specifically, the items being requested are known as “Mission Bay and OB Pier UASI Camera System” and “Unmanned Aircraft System.”



Operational Use

Technologies used during emergency incidents such as:

- ▶ Vegetation fires
- ▶ Structure fires
- ▶ Rescues
- ▶ Other incidents as requested
- ▶ Operated by SDFD Bomb Squad personnel and Lifeguards

Privacy Safeguards

- ▶ Data managed under strict access and retention policies
- ▶ Data security is monitored by City IT and operations personnel
- ▶ No facial recognition or biometric tools
- ▶ Annual internal audit conducted to ensure compliance with use policies



▶ **Why This Technology is Essential**

- ▶ Provides real time information to incident command personnel
- ▶ Minimizes risk to operations personnel in hazardous situations
- ▶ Enables safe response to land and waterborne emergencies

▶ **Surveillance Ordinance Compliance**

- ▶ SDFD has and will continue to meet all requirements defined by the City's TRUST ordinance.

▶ **SDFD Commitment:** Transparency, public engagement, and protection of civil liberties



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

21 incidents dispatched in 2025; UAS flown on 11

Imagery retained from 2 incidents (cave rescue, debris in river)

No complaints, violations, or data breaches

Responded to one PRA request

UAS flights in Council Districts 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, and City of Santee

FY21 UASI grant funding: \$321,986.71 for new UAS aircraft

PAB has approved the annual report without modifications to the use policy.



MISSION BAY & OB PIER CAMERA SYSTEM

UASI Camera System not operational as of January 2026

Locations: OB Pier, Mission Point, Quivira Basin, etc.

No data shared or breaches (system not deployed)

No public concerns or PRA requests received

FY25 UASI grant funding: \$239,135.63 for camera purchase

PAB has approved the 2024 Annual Report with modifications to the Use Policy



SDFD/ Lifeguard Services Division



Mission Statement

To provide the highest quality safety services in the coastal and aquatic environment for the public through rescue, education, outreach, medical aid, beach management, enforcement and prevention.

Division Overview

- 128 FULL TIME PERSONNEL
- 250 SEASONAL PERSONNEL
- 11 RESCUE BOATS
- 4 FIREBOATS
- 43 TOYOTA TRUCKS
- 1 SPECIALTY RESCUE VEHICLE
- PUBLIC OFFICERS
 - California Penal Code 836.5, SD Muni Code 63.20.8

City of San Diego Beaches

- 17 miles of Coastline
 - Tip of Point Loma to Torrey Pines
- 27 miles of coastline in Mission Bay
- 3 miles out to sea
- Observation during the day
- 24-hour response
- 24-hour dispatch center (Secondary PSAP)

How does it work?

- OBSERVE
- PREVENT
- RESCUE



PREVENTION

- 227,516,097 Preventative Acts made by lifeguards in The United States in 2024
- In 2025 San Diego Lifeguards made 422,399 Preventative Acts
- Swim Zones
- PA systems
- Vehicle Patrols
- Vessel Patrols
- Mission Bay and Ocean Beach Camera System

UASI Camera System

- **PURPOSE** The specific purpose of the Mission Bay and Ocean Beach (OB) Pier Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Camera System (Camera System) is to observe water-related emergencies and public safety concerns on both Mission Bay and in the Pacific Ocean, adjacent to the Ocean Beach Pier. The Camera System is intended to increase capabilities for public safety and emergency.
- 11 Cameras on Mission Bay and OB Pier Area
- UASI Grant Funded
- Has been in existence since 2005
- Currently replaced all of cameras and communications system has been upgraded to a more efficient with the “mesh system”

Camera Locations:

- The physical locations where the surveillance technology is deployed are below:
- (1) OB Pier: 5100 Niagara Ave. San Diego CA 92107 GPS: 32.7502375 N, 117.2529870 W
- (2) Mission Point: 2600 Bayside Lane GPS: 32.76205 N, 117.24591 W
- (3) Quivira Basin: 2581 Quivira Ct. San Diego CA 92109 GPS: 32.76134° N, 117.24138° W
- (4) Dana Landing: 1800 Dana Landing Rd GPS: 32.76659 N, 117.23464 W
- (5) South Shores: 404 South Shores Parkway GPS: 32.76420 N, 117.21865 W
- (6) Fiesta Island: 3000 Fiesta Island Rd GPS: 32.76880 N, 117.20913 W
- (7) De Anza Cove: 3000 N. Mission Bay Dr. GPS: 32.79346 N, 117.20931 W
- (8) Ski Beach: 2900 Ingraham St. GPS: 32.77308 N, 117.23365 W
- (9) Vacation Island: 1404 Vacation Rd. GPS: 32.77193 N, 117.23981 W
- (10) Ingraham Street: Ingraham Street X Crown Point Dr. GPS: 32.77981 N, 117.23603 W
- (11) Santa Clara: 900 Santa Clara Pt. GPS: 32.78204 N, 117.24874



Who can view it:

- (1) **SDFD** Classifications: Lifeguard II, Lifeguard III, Lifeguard Sergeant, Marine Safety Lieutenant, Marine Safety Captain, Lifeguard Chief, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Chief.
- (2) **San Diego Police Department** (SDPD) Classifications: Police Officer II, Police Sergeant, Police Detective, Police Lieutenant, Police Captain.
- (3) **JHOC** Personnel: All have “Secret Clearance” through the Federal Government: United States Coast Guard: Ops. Specialist Chief, Ops. Specialist 1st class, Ops. Specialist 2nd class, Ops. Specialist 3rd class, JHOC Technical Lead, Ensign, LTJG, LT, Auxiliary CG Volunteer; ~~United States Customs and Border Protection: Border Patrol Agent, c. NIWCP Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific: Classified Contractor~~
- (4) If the data is regarded as Digital Media Evidence (DME), the data can be accessed and used by sworn SDFD personnel in accordance with applicable sections of the SDFD Operations Manual, Lifeguard Division Policies, and **local, State, and Federal Law**. DME is forensic information stored or transmitted in digital form that may be used in court proceedings. Authorized investigators and attorneys of the City, State, and Federal Court may also access DME in accordance with applicable law.

Outreach conducted:

Mission Bay Park Committee: November 7th, 2023 1800 hours, at 1008 Santa Clara Place San Diego CA 92109.

- Citizens in attendance: 15
- Question/Comments regarding this technology:
 - Question #1: Was this camera system in place before the Surveillance Ordinance
 - Answer #1: Yes, this camera system has been in place for well over a decade. This project is to purchase (updated) new cameras.

Mission Beach Town Council: November 8th, 2023 1800 hours, at Belmont Park Community Room, 3146 Mission Blvd. San Diego CA 92109.

- Citizens in attendance: 35
- Question/Comments regarding this technology:
 - Question #1: Are the cameras already there?
 - Answer #1: Yes, this camera system has been in place for well over a decade. This project is to purchase (updated) new cameras.
 - Question #2: Can this be PRA'd?
 - Answer #2: The information is secured and not to be released to the public. The data is not kept long enough to be available for PRA.
 - Question #3: Will AI be used?
 - Answer #3: There is currently no Artificial Intelligence in this system.

Pacific Beach Town Council: November 15th, 2023, 1830 hours at Crown Point Junior Music Academy, 4033 Ingraham St. San Diego, CA 92109.

- Citizens in attendance: 39
- Question/Comments regarding this technology:
 - Question #1: Can I have a copy of the use policy?
 - Answer #1: Yes, it has been distributed and there is a copy on the back table.
 - Question #2: Where can I see the map?
 - Answer #2: The map is on the screen and here on the poster?
 - Question #3: Will AI be used?
 - Answer #3: There is currently no Artificial Intelligence in this system.

Outreach conducted (continued):

Privacy Advocacy Board: January 18, 2024, 1730 hours, City Administration Building - 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 12th Floor – Council Chambers

- Question/Comments regarding this technology:
 - Question #1: Will this technology replace lifeguards?
 - Answer #1: No. Lifeguards still have to make rescues and lifeguards would not be put in these areas for observation 24 hours a day.
 - Question #2: Why does SDPD have access to these cameras?
 - Answer #2: SDPD has a Mission Bay Boating Enforcement Unit. They have several boating officers and 3 vessels that work out of Lifeguard Headquarters at 2581 Quivira Court. The San Diego Lifeguards would not be able to keep the beaches and bays safe without the help of the SDPD.

Privacy Advocacy Board: February 15, 2024, 1730 hours, City Administration Building - 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 12th Floor – Council Chambers

- Question/Comments regarding this technology:
 - Comment from the board: There has been dialogue and Q &A regarding this technology. The board appreciates the cooperation and would like the technology to move forward.

Privacy Advocacy Board: March 7, 2024, 1730 hours, City Administration Building - 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 12th Floor – Council Chambers:
Hybrid online and in person meeting.

- Question/Comments regarding this technology:
 - Question #1: The use policy has 180 days in one section and 120 days in another. Which is it?
 - Answer #1: It is 180 days.
 - Question #2: Why the difference?
 - Answer #2: This was an oversight. The language should say “no longer than 180 days”. The actual time will be dependent on the funding and storage capacity available at the time the equipment can be purchased. (This change has been made)
 - Question #3: Will this be stored on a cloud?
 - Answer #3: No this will be stored on its own hardware located at Lifeguard Headquarters.
 - Comment: This says these cameras can see residential areas. I think there should be guard rails put up for this.

Public Safety Committee: July 23, 2025, City Administration Building - 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 12th Floor – Unanimous Approval

Public Safety Committee: December 12, 2025, City Administration Building - 202 C Street, San Diego, CA 92101, 12th Floor – Unanimous Approval

Questions?



Thank You!