



LOCATION  
**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY,  
CALIFORNIA**

POPULATION  
**1.14 MILLION**

COVERAGE AREA  
**4 LINEAR MILES**

PRODUCT USED  
**SHOTSPOTTER  
SITESECURE™**

CUSTOMER SINCE  
**2018**

## PUBLIC SAFETY SUCCESS STORY

# Contra Costa County Puts the Brakes on Freeway Gun Violence

### SITUATION

Contra Costa County, home to two of the busiest freeways in the San Francisco Bay Area, experienced a sharp increase in freeway shootings from just 12 during 2010-2015 to 62 in the three years following. To address this escalation in gun violence, county law enforcement agencies combined forces to form the **Allied Freeway Agencies Task Force** and evaluate the unique challenges that these type of shootings posed: delayed ability for first responders to be notified of precise location of incidents; difficulty finding evidence due to speed of shooters in moving traffic; and unclear egress of suspects.

### RESULTS

The multi-agency task force created a strategy to combat the shootings by deploying an integrated technology system that would be the first of its kind in the nation. The **Freeway Security Network** was designed with ShotSpotter's gunshot detection technology as the foundation, synchronized to activate strategically placed pan-tilt-zoom (PTZ) cameras and license plate reader (LPR) technology. When a freeway shooting occurs, officers receive a real-time ShotSpotter alert with a pinpointed location, allowing them to quickly track the involved vehicles on the closest video camera feed, identify the license plates and immediately respond to the scene.

**90%** Decrease in avg annual shootings for 2019-2020 compared to 2016-2018\*

\*Source: Contra Costa County DA's Office

**10** Agencies representing local, county and state join forces to combat crime

Images of the suspect vehicles are sent to nearby law enforcement within seconds and review of camera footage prior to and during the incident helps investigators to identify potential witness vehicles. The ShotSpotter alert also informs law enforcement of the exact time and place so they can quickly close down that segment of freeway, if needed, to collect ballistics or other evidence.

## HOW SHOTSPOTTER ENABLES FREEWAY SECURITY NETWORK

**Gunshot alert instantly triggers multi-pronged technology response** directing PTZ cameras and capturing images from license plate readers. [↗](#)

Solves investigative challenges of freeway shootings with exact time and location for **better evidence collection and witness identification.**

**Deters gang violence on freeways** through increased awareness of the network and technologies providing eye/ears in hotspot areas.

**“** *ShotSpotter is helping us reduce gang violence in a meaningful way resulting in enhanced safety in our communities and regionally on our freeways. ShotSpotter technology provides us with objectively verifiable evidence which reduces the subjectivity in a criminal investigation and enhances transparent, equitable justice for all.*

**MARY KNOX** | Deputy District Attorney, Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office

### GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to learn more about ShotSpotter, please visit us at [www.shotspotter.com](http://www.shotspotter.com)

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