

**Countywide Services Agency**

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**County of Sacramento**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**Probation Recovers 200 Stolen Vehicles Using Automated License Plate Readers**

The Probation Department recently recovered its 200th stolen vehicle using Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology, and is the only probation agency in California that utilizes this system.

Of the 200 vehicles located and recovered in Sacramento County, 43% were Hondas, 11% Toyotas, and 8% Fords. Recovered vehicles were typically older models. A majority of them were taken by offenders who used keys that had been shaved down in order start the vehicles.

Chief Probation Officer Don Meyer recommends the following practices to help car owners deter vehicle thefts:

- Don't leave your car unlocked or the windows open
- Park your vehicle in the garage, driveway, or in areas that are well lit
- Park your vehicle in a public area where it can be openly seen from many places
- Don't attract a thief by leaving valuable personal property in your car
- Use anti-theft devices such as steering wheel locks, car alarms, and GPS locating systems

In an effort to enhance victim restoration, the Probation Department equipped two vehicles with ALPR technology in April of 2010. ALPR uses cameras mounted on cars to automatically scan and cross-match license plates against a statewide list of stolen vehicles. Over 3,000 license plates are analyzed an hour while probation officers are conducting routine caseload supervision in the community.

For more information about the automated license plate readers, go to [www.probation.saccounty.net/Home/Content.aspx?TID=12](http://www.probation.saccounty.net/Home/Content.aspx?TID=12).

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