

County of Santa Cruz, CA Catches Intruder

Video Surveillance of Pump Station Provides Needed Evidence

Santa Cruz County is located on the California coast, at the north end of Monterey Bay. It is situated 65 miles south of San Francisco and 35 miles north of Monterey. It is a popular tourist destination for those who enjoy its natural beaches, redwood forests, and scenic drives. Santa Cruz County enjoys a Mediterranean climate with sunshine 300 days a year. It is the Gateway to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Longwatch Selection Criteria

The Longwatch Video Surveillance System's ability to utilize existing SCADA low-bandwidth communication networks to transmit video was an important factor in its selection by the County of Santa Cruz. Longwatch's ability to communicate over the existing Allen Bradley network made the installation process efficient and cost effective. The additional benefit of integrating the system into the county's Wonderware SCADA system made the decision to install Longwatch a smart choice.

"We looked closely at Longwatch before making our decision to move forward. Without question, the system's ability to transmit video over our existing low bandwidth network was a key feature.

I was also impressed by the way it seamlessly integrated into our SCADA system. Now we have the ability to view security information that was not previously available", explained Michael Reilly, Electrical Instrumentation Supervisor.

Vandalism and Intrusion Protection

All water operators are aware of the heightened security measures that have been mandated by the EPA and the Homeland Security effort. Of additional importance is the need to monitor remote sites against the unwanted presence of individuals who may or may not want to bring harm to the community. Water system operators are required to respond to all intrusion alarms. Unfortunately sending employees or officials to a site doesn't provide the level of information needed, even if the intruder is apprehended. The intruders may claim no harm was done, but precautions must be taken. There have been recent situations where communities have been forced to shut down their system for multiple days to test water for contamination. With video surveillance and archiving, operators can review video clips to confirm if any hostile activities took place.

"We've had an ongoing problem with vandalism at remote sites. For some reason people in our area like to put their names on stuff - graffiti is a problem. Beyond the visible damage taggers inflict, we are also concerned about the potential risk to our system if they should enter our sites or damage equipment," said Reilly.

County of Santa Cruz

Location:	Santa Cruz, CA
Department:	Public Works-Sanitation Department – provides sewage collection, treatment, and disposal services.
Capacity:	+5 million gallons of sewage daily, treats approximately 12 million gallons of wastewater daily.
Population:	275,000 served: City of Santa Cruz - 55,000, Watsonville - 45,000, Scotts Valley – 11,500, Capitola – 10,033



Event Archiving Provides Needed Evidence

Longwatch records, forwards, and stores video event clips. Its unique archiving ability allows system operators to retrieve and review video clips for forensic purposes, as well as after hour activities. The County of Santa Cruz benefited by the system's ability to record important information shortly after its installation.

"We installed Longwatch at a pump station. Anytime the door is opened, a sensor activates the camera and Longwatch swings into action. The system is also sensitive to anyone tampering with its operation. We received an event report of "no-video". We immediately obtained a time stamped video clip and were able to determine what happened. Without going into specifics, someone had inadvisably disconnected the video cable. We had the forensic information we needed to resolve the matter to everyone's satisfaction. With Longwatch we were able to prove what we needed to insure this individual was not allowed to disrupt the system again", said Reilly.

Easy to Install and Operate

"The Longwatch installation went well. We had a few minor glitches that were easily corrected. We plan on expanding the system to other sites over the coming months," explained Reilly.



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Michael Reilly, Electrical Instrumentation Supervisor

For More Information

For more information on the Longwatch Surveillance System, or to find out how Longwatch can help provide faster, more efficient and cost-effective threat deterrence, detection and response, contact:

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