VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BSCC ORT Prevention Grant Project
Local Evaluation Plan
Project Period: October 1, 2023 - December 31, 2026

Submitted April 1, 2024 and revised November 22, 2024
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Background

Project Need

Ventura County is located on the coast of Southern California and includes ten incorporated cities – Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura (in addition to its unincorporated areas). The county encompasses 1,843 square miles and is California's 11th most populated county, with over 832,000 residents. The county's population density makeup is primarily suburban, though it also includes urban, rural, industrial, and agricultural areas. Retail is the second largest industry in Ventura County, employing about 10% of the workforce and totaling over $13 million in sales.

Ventura County is bordered by Kern, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles Counties and is a major throughway for travelers. The 101 Highway Corridor runs through Los Angeles and Ventura Counties to Northern California and the San Francisco Bay Area. The county's four largest shopping malls are along this highway, in Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, Oxnard, and Ventura.

Ventura County's location—bordering other large counties (e.g., Los Angeles) and the presence of the 101 Highway Corridor—and its large shopping areas provide ample opportunities for organized retail theft (ORT), especially from non-resident offenders. In 2022, 80% of ORT suspects lived outside of Ventura County. High-end retailers are located immediately adjacent to two large freeways, allowing offenders to exit a retailer and very quickly be in their vehicle leaving the county. In one case in 2020, two men pled guilty to five counts of felony grand theft after stealing $39,000 worth of perfume from stores in Oxnard and Camarillo. One man was investigated for 19 ORTs (loss of $15,000) in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties. These crimes threaten the local economy, public safety, and overall community well-being.

Ventura County has experienced a rise in ORT and motor vehicle and motor vehicle accessory thefts (MVT and MVAT). Between 2020 and 2022, ORT and MVT/MVAT have increased across each of VCSO's jurisdictions (Table 1) and other cities (e.g., Oxnard, Simi Valley). In addition, between 2021 and 2022, catalytic converter theft (a type of MVAT) increased by 144% across VSCO jurisdictions. Moreover, these numbers are likely underreporting the county's true crime level. Retailers underreport ORT and MVT/MVAT, and many Ventura County law enforcement agencies do not track ORT or MVT/MVAT separately from shoplifting, limiting the ability to understand crime trends fully.

Table 1. Increase in ORT, MVT and MVAT Crimes in VCSO's Jurisdictions from 2020 to 2022

Jurisdiction	Increase in ORT	Increase in MVT/MVAT
Fillmore	130%	135%
Camarillo	43%	7%
Thousand Oaks	23%	6%
Moorpark	19%	167%

In addition to ORT and MVT/MVAT, cargo theft is also a key concern. Ventura County is home to the Port of Hueneme, the only commercial deep-water port between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. It is an essential shipping and receiving point for various goods. The Port is a full-service auto port that consistently ranks among the top ten US ports for automobiles (338,000 automobiles annually). The port facilitates its own security and internal reporting systems, and theft recognition is often delayed because of the high volume of cargo handled. The true number of cargo thefts in Ventura County is not well understood because of a lack of reporting to law enforcement. Moreover, cargo theft extends beyond the port into the two important rail lines (i.e., Union Pacific Railroad and Ventura County Railway) and parcel services (i.e., FedEx, UPS, etc.).

Project Overview

The Ventura County Organized Retail Theft (VCORT) project formalizes a coordinated, large-scope effort involving all law enforcement agencies in Ventura County to prevent and combat ORT and MVT/MVAT, and it builds partnerships with port authorities to identify and combat cargo theft. The project coordinates the 10 incorporated cities in Ventura County – Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, and Ventura.

A range of activities, services, and interventions will be implemented to reduce ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft and enhance community safety. The planned strategies described below include (1) coordination, (2) prevention, and (3) investigation activities.

1. Coordination

Task Force (VCORTTF)
The VCSO Special Investigations Bureau will lead a countywide task force to maximize cooperation in the prevention, tracking, investigation, and arrest of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft suspects. The VCORTTF will consist of a VCSO Program Administrator, a VCSO sergeant, an allied agency sergeant, four VCSO investigators, and two outside agency investigators. A crime analyst will also be working closely with the Task Force.

Agency Collaboration

In addition to the task force dedicated to ORT, MVT/MVAT and cargo theft, VCSO will collaborate with agencies throughout the county. Uniformed personnel from all law enforcement agencies will help maintain high visibility, employ community-oriented policing tactics, and respond to crimes as needed. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) will support MVT/MVAT cases through the Ventura County Auto Theft Task Force (VenCATT) and share data, analytics, and surveillance information. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office–Bureau of Investigation will investigate and prosecute ORT cases. The Ventura County Probation Agency–Investigative Services will gather information for sentencing recommendations for the court and monitor individuals after convictions. Additionally, College/University police departments will allocate officers on overtime for overt surveillance/prevention.

Retailer Partnerships
Local retailers will participate in training sessions to help mitigate and report instances of ORT.

2. Prevention Activities

Increase Surveillance and Messaging
Uniformed officers from law enforcement agencies throughout the county will be deployed on overtime to increase overt surveillance in shopping and auto malls. In addition, flashing light message boards will be used to overtly inform and raise awareness of police presence (for example, the message may state 'Increased Law Enforcement Presence'). Increased police presence and signage can help to dissuade crime in the area.

Public Advertisement Campaign
A compelling, high-quality, evidence-based public advertisement campaign (e.g., via social media, public service announcements, task force materials) will be conducted to educate the public about the benefits of reporting ORT and promote theft prevention strategies to retailers.

"Etch and Catch"
VCSO will continue its "Etch and Catch" catalytic converter anti-theft deterrence program. Owners of vehicles at high risk for catalytic converter theft will be identified and offered etching a unique identification number on their catalytic converter so that in the case of theft, it can be identified and returned more effectively. This is paired with outreach to local metal recyclers to encourage them to report activity involving etched items. This program deters thieves from stealing catalytic converters and aids in the recovery of stolen converters.

3. Investigation Activities

VCORTTF Case Assignments
All reported ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases will be assigned to a detective on the VCORTTF. That detective will work with local agencies and the crime analyst to track, investigate, and apprehend suspects.

Crime Analysis
Crime analysis has been linked to numerous evidence-based or informed practices, such as hotspot policing, problem-oriented policing (POP), and focused deterrence. VCSO will use crime analysis to develop heat maps identifying geographic areas most prone to ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft. In addition, the crime analyst will identify the patterns and characteristics of thefts (e.g., types of items targeted, MO of thieves) and identify suspect information. These analyses will guide surveillance and detectives' efforts and will be used to inform local agencies and retailers when appropriate.

The analyst will use sophisticated strategies to sort through extensive law enforcement data for leads using open-source information, intelligence reports, and signal intelligence (e.g., human intelligence, link charts, timelines, geospatial, crime/contact reports, cellular data sets, and criminal associate networks) to support investigations. Field interview cards, citations, traffic collision information, and call-for-service data from all law enforcement agency partners will be input into an analytics platform that houses crime, arrest, and booking information.

A system (e.g., real-time dashboards) will be developed to track, store, and catalog information gathered related to ORT and MVT/MVAT. This system will assist in investigations and improve transparency. It will be mobile-compliant to allow in-field access for real-time information sharing among analysts, detectives, dispatchers, tactical personnel, and others.

Officers

Overtime funding will be provided to the seven collaborating agencies (i.e., Oxnard Police Department, Port Hueneme Police Department, Santa Paula Police Department, Simi Valley Police Department, Ventura Police Department, Ventura County Community College Police Department, and California State University Channel Islands Police Department) for a minimum of 75 high-visibility uniformed patrols per year county-wide. These patrols will target ORT, MVT/MVAT, and/or cargo theft. In addition, undercover officers will be deployed in ORT hotspots to support prevention and intervention efforts.

Law Enforcement Personnel Training

Ventura County law enforcement personnel will receive training to support the prevention and investigation of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft. Potential topics include evidence-based communication techniques not yet implemented in the county, surveillance strategies, information sharing, etc.

Automated License Plate Readers

VCSO will place 100 automated license plate readers (ALPRs) to fill gaps in the existing countywide system. These ALPRs will be placed on state routes, freeway offramps, and at major ingress/egress points. License plate readers help identify stolen cars or produce investigative leads by capturing license plates. The APLR platform will enable law enforcement to use custom ORT hot lists to receive alerts when stolen or suspect-associated vehicles enter their proximity.

Cellular Communication Interception Technology

Cellular communication interception technology (CCIT) will be reinstated to enable investigators to track/locate ORT suspects through cell phone numbers. CCIT can provide valuable assistance when used as part of a criminal apprehension effort.

Target Area

The VCORT project activities will target the entire County of Ventura. Every county law enforcement agency, city, and unincorporated area will participate in prevention efforts. Crime analysis will help direct prevention efforts through hot spot mapping. In addition, the VCORTTF may focus some activities on particularly large shopping malls along the US Highway 101 corridor and in cities near the Los Angeles County border. Law enforcement agencies will forge a partnership with the Port of Hueneme leadership and security team, making this area another target for prevention efforts.

Project Goals and Objectives

Four goals and ten objectives have been established for the project:

Goal 1: Reduce instances of organized retail theft (ORT) and vehicle parts theft by 50% by the end of award year three (3).

- *Objective 1a:* Create a task force to coordinate investigations and prevention activities with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County.

- *Objective 1b:* Coordinate a minimum of 75 high-visibility uniformed patrol officers in a minimum of four major retail shopping centers and vulnerable businesses with a focus on peak shopping days.

Goal 2: Investigate the highest value and most sophisticated cases of organized retail theft (PPA1), vehicle/parts theft (PPA2), and cargo theft (PPA3) referred to the task force.

- *Objective 2a:* Instigate a case management system within the task force for each reported crime (PPA 1, 2, and 3) through the assignment of each case to one of the project-funded law enforcement detectives assigned from each law enforcement agency to serve as a case manager.

- *Objective 2b:* Collect data regarding suspects, days/times, actions, and modus operandi (MO) of organized retail theft, vehicle/parts theft, and cargo theft through the VCSO crime analysis unit; develop bulletins, including criminal patterns and vulnerable business types and geographical areas.

- *Objective 2c:* Use a wide range of investigative techniques within the task force to develop and share information among law enforcement entities to identify organizations and criminal players related to organized retail theft, vehicle/parts theft, and cargo theft.

Goal 3: Develop information, such as crime trends, to share with retail partners, as appropriate.

- *Objective 3a*: Educate/train a minimum of 100 retailers in Ventura County through materials to encourage theft mitigation and reporting.

- *Objective 3b:* Share the gathered information related to organized retail theft, vehicle/parts theft, and cargo theft throughout the state by partnering with retail associations to provide education to retailers.

Goal 4: Use technology funding to identify and track organized retail theft crews.

- *Objective 4a:* Use automated license plate readers (ALPRs) to support task force investigations, for example, through identifying and tracking vehicles used by organized retail theft crews.

- *Objective 4b:* Utilize overt and covert surveillance tactics (i.e., camera trailers, trackers) to aid task force investigations regarding organized retail theft.

- **_Objective 4c:_** Use Cellular Communication Interception Technology (CCIT) to aid task force investigations, for example by pinpointing locations of thefts and locations of stolen property.

Project Logic Model

Inputs

Funding
Grant Awards: ORT VP financial resources allocated for the project

People
Staffing:
Law Enforcement Personnel: Sherriff Sergeant, Patrol Officers, detectives, VCSO Service Technician and VCSO crime analysts.
ORT Project Coordinator
Project Administrator
Partners: VC law enforcement agencies, Local Retailers, VCSO Special Investigations Bureau, detectives, Ventura County Auto Theft Task Force, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Ventura County Probation Department, College/University PDs, educational materials contractor
External Evaluation: EVALCORP

Tools
Law Enforcement Technology: Cellular Communication Interception Technology, Automatic number-plate recognition (ALPR), trackers, cameras, and Data Analytic Software.
Educational Materials and Programs, for retail employees, law enforcement personnel, and other partners.

Activities

Coordination Activities
Task Force (VCORTTF): Coordinate prevention, analysis, tracking, investigation and arrest of ORT, vehicle/parts, and cargo theft suspects with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County.

Retailer Education: Provide training materials to local retailers to mitigate/report ORT; design and disseminate materials to encourage theft mitigation and reporting.

Prevention Activities
Surveillance: Increase overt surveillance by uniformed officers in shopping/auto malls.

Education and Awareness: Provide educational materials regarding ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft to partners.

Investigation Activities
Assign Cases: Assign the highest value and most sophisticated cases of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft to a VCORTTF detective to track, investigate and apprehend suspects.

Crime Analysis: Fund a crime analyst to find leads in open-source data, intelligence reports, and signal intelligence, import partner data, and develop hot spot maps, debriefs, and other materials.

Placement of Additional ALPRs: VCSO will pursue ALPRs on state routes, freeway offramps, and ramps on major ingress/egress points.

Reinstate CCIT: Update CCIT to enable investigators to track/locate ORT suspects through cell phone numbers.

Outputs

Number of VCORTTF members

Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases investigated by the VCORTTF

Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft incidents reported

Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft suspects investigated

Number of arrests related to ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft incidents

Number of trainings/educational materials provided to local retailers and other partners regarding ORT

Number of patrol officers deployed for grant-funded activities in the County

Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases for which data is tracked by the VCORTTF

Number of hotspot maps, internal bulletins, and debriefs developed

Number of ALPRs put into operation

Number of VCORTTF investigations using CCIT

Number of camera trailers put into operation

Number of trackers put into operation

Outcomes

Reduce instances of ORT and vehicle parts theft by 50% by the end of award year three (3).

Investigate the highest value and most sophisticated cases of organized retail theft (PPA1), vehicle/parts theft (PPA2), and cargo theft (PPA3).

Develop crime trends, actionable intelligence, and other information to share with all county and municipal law enforcement entities in Ventura County as well as with retailers, as appropriate.

Identify and track organized retail theft crews with ALPRs, CCIT, and other technologies.

Increase retailer and other community partner knowledge on ORT-related topics.

Impacts

Cost Savings: ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft prevention and intervention efforts save Ventura County millions of dollars.

Safer Community Environment: Reduction in ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft contributes to overall community safety.

Enhanced Collaboration: Increased LE collaboration, partnerships with port authorities, and partnerships across LE agencies improves responsiveness to cross-county theft.

Strengthened Law Enforcement Capabilities: Enhanced investigative tools and training improves long-term crime prevention and response effectiveness.

Increased Public Confidence: Efforts lead to increased public confidence in LE's ability to protect the community and deter crime.

Evaluation Method and Design

Ventura County Sheriff's Office has contracted with EVALCORP to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the VCORT Project. This includes a **process** evaluation that documents the activities and services implemented, and an **outcome** evaluation that assesses whether the project activities produced measurable impacts. When combined, process and outcome evaluations improve causal inferences that can be made regarding an intervention and its outcomes (see Figure 1). The process and outcome evaluations are described together here.

		PROCESS EVALUATION	
		Activities Implemented as Planned	Activities Modified or Not Implemented
OUTCOME EVALUATION	Impact Observed	**Evidence for successful intervention**	Change likely not due to activities
	Impact Not Observed	Intervention not successful	Intervention may have been helpful if implemented

Evaluation Framework

Goals

The evaluation of the VCORT project has three main goals:

1. Document the implementation of the project and the extent to which proposed activities were completed as intended (i.e., process evaluation).
2. Measure the degree to which the goals or objectives were achieved (i.e., outcome evaluation).
3. Identify successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

Note that the evaluation goals are distinct from the identified goals and objectives of the VCORT project, which can be found on page 6.

Approach

A mixed-methods evaluation approach consisting of qualitative and quantitative data collection activities will be implemented to assess the process and outcome measures established for the project. The planned robust evaluation uses multiple data collection approaches and sources to assess the impact of the work carried out as part of this grant. Strategies that will be used are described below:

- The evaluation will compare indicators for a baseline period (before the grant implementation) and after grant implementation. This pre/post comparison methodology helps to determine the effectiveness of the intervention (i.e., the grant activities) on important outcomes.

- Project implementation and progress toward identified outcomes will be evaluated regularly, allowing for any necessary strategy changes as the grant-funded initiative rolls out. This is key to a formative evaluation and involves consistently compiling and reviewing evaluation metrics.

- Qualitative approaches will be used alongside quantitative data to enhance understanding of findings and the project's overall success. For example, key project staff will be interviewed at the end of the project period to identify the extent to which the activities were implemented as planned, along with challenges and unforeseen events that impacted implementation and/or related outcomes.

The evaluation will be participatory—EVALCORP will work collaboratively with VCORT project staff to ensure the appropriate data collection methodologies, tools, and protocols are developed and implemented. The evaluation team will foster open communication to ensure evaluation findings are communicated periodically and that high-quality, consistent data collection practices are used.

Coordination and Oversight

Commander Jeff Miller is the Project Director. Captain Ron Chips is the Day-to-Day Programmatic Contact, providing guidance and general oversight for the project. Kelley Tovias, the Day-to-Day Fiscal Contact, assists Captain Chips and supports the project's administrative/fiscal needs. Sergeant Todd Welty will oversee the VCORTTF. Jennifer Bramlette, Katherine Munyon, or another designated analyst will assist with data collection and monitoring activities.

Captain Chips (or his designee) will coordinate project activities at VCSO and with various partners. Project-related decisions will be made collaboratively by the VCORT team, with consultation by EVALCORP when appropriate. Any changes requiring BSCC approval will be forwarded to the relevant party before implementation.

Meetings between VCSO and EVALCORP will occur monthly or as needed to ensure opportunities to address issues and discuss successes as they arise. Data collection concerns will be coordinated between the EVALCORP team and VCSO personnel.

Evaluation Tools

A series of data collection tools and standardized processes will track and monitor the project's success. Primary data collection tools will be developed to collect information specific to grant activities, and secondary data (i.e., data already collected for another use) will be used when possible to reduce the burden on staff.

Primary Data Collection Tools

- **Daily Activity Report:** Law enforcement agencies will complete Daily Activity Reports (DARs) for ORT-, MVT/MVAT-, or cargo theft-related activities utilizing grant funds. The log includes staff hours, location, citations, arrests, and seizures.

- **VCORTTF Tracker:** The VCORTTF Tracker will log investigations conducted by the VCORTTF, including information on tools and techniques used, agencies involved, and referrals to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office.

- **Education and Awareness Tracker:** Activities related to raising awareness or educating the public, agencies, retailers, or other partners will be logged in to the Education and Awareness Tracker. Examples of activities include formal training sessions and reports shared with retail associations.

- **Key Stakeholder Interviews:** To further assess implementation activities, the evaluation team will conduct key stakeholder interviews with primary project staff at the end of the grant period. These interviews will inform the extent to which the project was carried out as planned/intended and identify successes, challenges, and lessons learned.

Secondary Data Sources

- **Law Enforcement Records:** The Ventura County Integrated Justice Information System (VCIJIS) will be used to obtain information on arrests and cases regarding ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft. This system is used by VCSO and the county court system but not by other law enforcement agencies. Agencies not using VCIJIS will be asked to report metrics via their individual Records Management Systems.

- **Payroll Records:** Financial payroll records will determine the number of FTE personnel assigned to various ORT Prevention activities.

- **Administrative Records:** Administrative records will be used to document the partnerships established, crime analyst activities, and levels of agency participation in activities.

- **Public Information Office Records:** The public information office (PIO) will maintain data on social media posts related to ORT, MVT, and MVAT.

- **External Software:** Flock will be used to track LPR hits.

The evaluation team will collaborate with VCSO personnel to ensure all requisite data are obtained, maintained, and reviewed for accuracy/validity on a consistent basis.

Data Analysis

Project data will be compiled and reviewed quarterly or annually to ensure accurate and consistent data entry (frequency depends on the specific metric). Data will be aggregated and validated before conducting all required quantitative and qualitative analyses.

Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative analysis will include data collected via open-ended survey items and key stakeholder interviews. It will involve coding, categorizing, and interpreting data to identify key themes. This information may be quantified as a part of this process. The overarching goal of these analyses is to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of the grant activities and perspectives on the extent to which the project is carried out as planned, including challenges experienced and lessons learned.

Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative data will be analyzed using Excel, R, or SPSS. Descriptive statistics may be used to characterize incidents, arrests, agencies engaged, retailers trained, and other relevant indicators. Crosstabs and inferential statistics (e.g., chi-square, t-tests) may be implemented whenever possible to support descriptive findings and ensure data are interpreted appropriately.

Reporting

EVALCORP will be responsible for or aid in developing the following reports and/or presentations:

- **Quarterly Progress Reports:** EVALCORP will support VCSO in developing the BSCC Quarterly Progress Reports.

- **Final Local Evaluation Report:** EVALCORP will develop a Final Local Evaluation Report summarizing the 3-year grant activity and the extent to which the goals and measurable objectives were achieved. This report will be submitted to the BSCC by June 1, 2027.

- **Annual Brief:** In addition to the two mandated reporting requirements described above (i.e., Quarterly Progress Reports and the Final Local Evaluation Report), at the end of each calendar year, EVALCORP will develop a summary outlining progress toward the grant's goals and objectives.

In addition to ongoing grant meetings, these periodic reporting events provide a formal process to monitor progress toward objectives and adjust activities as needed.

Evaluation Metrics

Metrics have been identified to evaluate the implementation and success of the VCORT project activities. To support accurate, valid, and consistent evaluation metrics tracking throughout the grant term, a VCDAO ORT VP Data Collection Matrix was developed for both the process and outcome evaluations (see Appendices A and B). Each matrix was designed to ensure that evaluation planning, coordination, and implementation meet funding requirements and the need for information among the BSCC and VCSO. They include the metrics to be tracked, where the data will be pulled from (i.e., data source), and how each relates to the identified project goals and objectives.

Process Evaluation

The process evaluation will document and measure the degree to which grant activities were implemented as intended. The process evaluation metrics are structured around the VCORT project's objectives. These are detailed below:

Goal 1: Reduce instances of organized retail theft (ORT) and vehicle parts theft by 50% by the end of award year three (3).

Objective 1a: Create a task force to coordinate investigations and prevention activities with every law enforcement agency in Ventura County.

- Number of VCORTTF members

Objective 1b: Coordinate a minimum of 75 high-visibility uniformed patrol officers in a minimum of four major retail shopping centers and vulnerable businesses with a focus on peak shopping days.

- Number of patrol officers deployed for grant-funded activities
- Locations of patrol officers deployed for grant-funded activities

Goal 2: Investigate the highest value and most sophisticated cases of organized retail theft (PPA1), vehicle/parts theft (PPA2), and cargo theft (PPA3) referred to the task force.

Objective 2a: Instigate a case management system within the task force for each reported crime (PPA 1, 2, and 3) through the assignment of each case to one of the project-funded law enforcement detectives assigned from each law enforcement agency to serve as a case manager.

- Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases for which data is tracked by the VCORTTF

Objective 2b: Collect data regarding suspects, days/times, actions, and modus operandi (MO) of organized retail theft and vehicle parts theft at the VCSO crime analysis unit; develop bulletins, including criminal patterns and vulnerable business types and geographical areas.

- Number of hot spot maps, internal crime bulletins, and debriefs developed by the VCORT Crime Analyst regarding ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft

Objective 2c: Use a wide range of investigative techniques within the task force to develop and share information among law enforcement entities to identify organizations and criminal players related to organized retail theft, vehicle/parts theft, and cargo theft.

- Investigative techniques/tools used by VCORTTF

Goal 3: Develop information, such as crime trends, to share with retail partners, as appropriate.
Objective 3a: Educate/train a minimum of 100 retailers in Ventura County through materials to encourage theft mitigation and reporting.

- Number of grant-funded trainings provided to partners
- Number of grant-funded educational materials developed

Objective 3b: Share the gathered information related to organized retail theft, vehicle/parts theft, and cargo theft throughout the state by partnering with retail associations to provide education to retailers.

- VCORTTF participation in retail association events

Goal 4: Use technology funding to identify and track organized retail theft crews.
Objective 4a: Use automated license plate readers (ALPRs) to support task force investigations, for example, through identifying and tracking vehicles used by organized retail theft crews.

- Number of ALPR cameras put into operation

Objective 4b: Utilize overt and covert surveillance tactics (i.e., camera trailers, trackers) to aid task force investigations regarding organized retail theft.

- Number of camera trailers put into operation
- Number of trackers put into operation

Objective 4c: Use Cellular Communication Interception Technology (CCIT) to aid task force investigations, for example by pinpointing locations of thefts and locations of stolen property.

- Number of VCORTTF investigations utilizing CCIT

Outcome Evaluation

The outcome evaluation will assess the extent to which the project successfully met each of the goals identified. Outcome evaluation metrics are therefore organized around each of the VCORT project goals, outlined below:

Goal 1: Reduce instances of organized retail theft (ORT) and vehicle parts theft by 50% by the end of award year three (3).

- Number of reported ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft incidents[1]
- Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft-related arrests
- Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft-related cases referred to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office

Goal 2: Investigate the highest value and most sophisticated cases of organized retail theft (PPA1), vehicle/parts theft (PPA2), and cargo theft (PPA3) reported to the task force.

- Criteria for cases investigated by VCORTTF
- Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases investigated by VCORTTF
- Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft suspects identified in VCORTTF investigations

Goal 3: Develop information, such as crime trends, to share with retail partners, as appropriate.

- Frequency of VCORTTF meetings with retailers, businesses, and other community partners

Goal 4: Use technology funding to identify and track organized retail theft crews.

- Number of VCORTTF ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases referred to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office that utilized grant-funded technologies (e.g., ALPRs, CCIT, camera trailers, trackers)

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[1] Because of the increased patrols and educational efforts, incidents of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft may increase before either plateauing or decreasing.

Appendix A. Process Evaluation Data Matrix

Objective	Metric	Data Source	Collection Frequency
1a	Number of VCORTTF members	Administrative Records	Annually
1b	Number of patrol officers deployed for grant-funded activities	DAR	Ongoing
1b	Locations of patrol officers deployed for grant-funded activities	DAR	Ongoing
2a	Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft case investigations for which data is tracked by the VCORTTF	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
2b	Number of hot spot maps, internal crime bulletins, and debriefs developed by the VCORT Crime Analyst regarding ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft	Administrative Records	Quarterly
2c	Investigative techniques/tools used by the VCORTTF	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
3a	Number of grant-funded training sessions provided to partners	Education and Awareness Tracker	Ongoing
3a	Number of grant-funded educational materials developed	Education and Awareness Tracker	Ongoing
3b	VCORTTF participation in retail association events	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
4a	Number of ALPR cameras put into operation	Administrative Records	Quarterly
4b	Number of camera trailers put into operation	Administrative Records	Quarterly
4b	Number of trackers purchased for covert surveillance	Administrative Records	Quarterly
4c	Number of VCORTTF investigations utilizing CCIT	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
All	Successes, challenges, and lessons learned	QPRs, KSIs	Year 3

Appendix B. Outcome Evaluation Data Matrix

Goal	Metric	Data Source	Collection Frequency
1	Number of reported ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft incidents	Law Enforcement Records	Ongoing
1	Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft-related arrests	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
1	Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft-related cases referred to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
2	Criteria for cases investigated by VCORTTF	Administrative Records	As needed
2	Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases investigated by VCORTTF	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
2	Number of ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft suspects identified in VCORTTF investigations	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing
3	Frequency of VCORTTF meetings with retailers, businesses, and other community partners	VCORTTF Tracker; Education and Awareness Tracker	Ongoing
4	Number of VCORTTF ORT, MVT/MVAT, and cargo theft cases referred to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office that utilized grant-funded technologies (e.g., ALPRs, CCIT, camera trailers, trackers)	VCORTTF Tracker	Ongoing