

SECURITY IN THE ROUND: Pelco Endura & the California State Capitol BY DAVID A. AUS, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS WRITER

Built in 1869, the majestic California State Capitol in Sacramento is the seat of democracy for the most populous state and the decision-making hub for the ninth largest economy in the world. A stunning combination of old and new, the building underwent a major renovation, known as the California State Capitol Restoration, from 1975 until 1982 to restore the Capitol to its former beauty. As an historic site, an architectural wonder, and a beehive of policy and legislation activity, the California State Capitol attracts more than one million visitors each year. Protecting them all is an Endura IP Video System from Pelco.

Before turning to Endura, the Capitol was already using a Pelco 9500 Series Matrix system, but they recognized the need to upgrade their recording solution. Built for the rigorous 24/7 demands of video security, Endura NVRs offer reliability and flexibility needed for a mission-critical recording solution, and as the Capitol security decision-makers learned more about the capabilities of Endura, they realized the systemization and scalability they would enjoy with a full Endura solution. “Even though the existing Pelco matrix was working fine,” says Troy Jensen of SSI, “the Capitol team decided to migrate to a virtual matrix Endura solution. The distributed nature of Endura gives them the flexibility they need to deal with the space constraints of the Capitol.”

Surveillance Systems Integration (SSI) of Rocklin, California led the installation effort. SSI’s fifteen-year relationship with the Capitol made them a sound choice for integration partner. And the Capitol’s experience with Pelco cameras and matrix solutions gave them the confidence to go with Endura, knowing that SSI also had the training and backing of the Pelco Endura Certification program.

In a state where seemingly everyone is re-inventing themselves, it is fitting that something is always changing at the Capitol building. Although the Capitol Restoration Project recreated several offices to appear as they did at the beginning of the 20th century, the building’s nervous system is cutting-edge 21st century, California. Most visitors see the capitol’s Roman Corinthian structure, unaware of the state-of-the-art network behind the walls. The system uses cameras already in place – 150 Pelco fixed cameras and Spectra domes – allowing the Capitol to leverage their investment in existing infrastructure.

Because NVRs can reside anywhere on the network, the Capitol was able to move storage out of their control room and into a secure, environmentally controlled network location, freeing up valuable space and improving the work environment in the operations center. In addition, the CHP Command Center has gotten a visual upgrade with new viewing solutions. Eight 42-inch Pelco LCD displays give system operators a crystal-clear view of what’s happening around the complex.

Because this installation required the complete replacement of the existing video matrix, the job called for extra careful planning and execution. Skilled at such system upgrades,

SSI first set up and configured the whole Endura system at their offices in Rocklin. “Such thorough planning is part of our normal process,” explains SSI’s Melissa Mount, “and it makes for a much smoother installation and cutover when we start up the system on-site.”

Like all security operators, the Capitol team must balance the requirements of their public safety mission with the challenges of budget constraints. Fortunately, the flexibility of Endura allows the Capitol to do just that. With alarm and motion recording, combined with EnduraStor, the Endura solution allows the Capitol to optimize their storage budget and meet their video retention requirements while capturing video at the resolution they need for evidence purposes. In all, sixteen 9TB Endura NVRs offer 144 terabytes of searchable networked video storage.

At the Capitol building itself, the system ensures the free flow of democracy by protecting staff and visitors – keeping an eye on entrances, lobbies, the Governor’s office, legislative chambers, and more. Beyond the capitol building, the system keeps watch over the entire campus. And beyond the central command point, security kiosks at entrance points give officers at entrance points a key view of the system. Distributed viewing allows officers to see events clearly and respond in with the appropriate resources, whether managing crowd flow or warding off potential incidents.