

1 **WO**

2  
3  
4  
5  
6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**  
8

9 Leesa Jacobson and Peter Ragan,

No. CV-14-02485-TUC-BGM

10 Plaintiffs,

**ORDER**

11 v.

12  
13 United States Department of Homeland  
14 Security; United States Customs and  
15 Border Protection; United States Office  
of Border Patrol, *et al.*,

16 Defendants.  
17

18 Currently pending before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction  
19 (Doc. 29). The Government has filed its Response (Doc. 38), and Plaintiffs have replied  
20 (Doc. 43). Oral argument was heard on April 21, 2015. Minute Entry 4/21/2015 (Doc.  
21 46).

22  
23 **I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

24 Plaintiffs are residents of Arivaca, Arizona and members of People Helping  
25 People ("PHP"), a community organization who initiated a "checkpoint monitoring  
26 campaign" to protest the United States Border Patrol checkpoint on Arivaca Road in  
27

28 <sup>1</sup> For purposes of this motion, the facts have been derived from the Complaint (Doc. 1),  
with reference to declarations of individuals, as appropriate.

1 Amado, Arizona. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶¶ 2, 9, 10; Raglan Decl. 12/23/2014 (Doc. 27-2) ¶ 3.  
2 Arivaca Road is a two-lane county road, and the checkpoint is located approximately  
3 twenty-two (22) miles east of Arivaca and one mile west of Amado, where the road meets  
4 Interstate 19. San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶ 6. The Arivaca Road checkpoint  
5 has been in operation for approximately seven years. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 31. Generally,  
6 eastbound vehicles are individually screened, with the agent manning the primary  
7 inspection area standing on the center stripe. San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶  
8 9.

9 In approximately July 2013, PHP launched a campaign to protest the Arivaca  
10 Road checkpoint. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 32. PHP is an all-volunteer organization, founded  
11 by residents of Arivaca, Arizona to provide humanitarian aid along the United States–  
12 Mexico border. *Id.* at ¶ 33. Beginning in approximately October 2013, PHP drafted and  
13 circulated a petition calling on Border Patrol to remove the Arivaca Road checkpoint,  
14 citing civil rights violations by agents at the checkpoint, along with harm to property  
15 values, tourism, and quality of life resulting from checkpoint operations. *Id.* at ¶ 34;  
16 Raglan Decl. 7/23/2014 (Doc. 27-2) ¶ 12. The petition also stated residents’ objection to  
17 the checkpoint for its alleged role in contributing to migrant deaths and the militarization  
18 of the border region. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 34.

19 On December 8, 2013, PHP held a rally at the Arivaca checkpoint. San Martin  
20 Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶ 12. The checkpoint was closed by Border Patrol for the  
21 duration of the rally for the safety of protesters, agents, and motorists. San Martin Decl.  
22 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶ 12; Spencer Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-7) ¶ 3. While checkpoint  
23 operations were suspended, traffic was permitted to pass uninspected. San Martin Decl.  
24 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶ 12; Spencer Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-7) ¶ 3.

25 On February 26, 2014, PHP members initiated checkpoint “monitoring” activities  
26 at the Arivaca Road checkpoint. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 42; Raglan Decl. 12/23/2014 (Doc.  
27 27-2) ¶¶ 4, 13. Monitors wore fluorescent yellow traffic vests marked “Checkpoint  
28 Monitor” and carried a sign reading “monitoring to Deter Abuse and Collect Data,” as

1 well as video cameras, notepads, and PHP materials. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 43. PHP  
2 monitors sought to observe all interactions between agents and motorists during the  
3 period monitoring occurred and to record relevant information based on those  
4 observations. *Id.* The monitors were accompanied by roughly two dozen additional  
5 protesters and PHP members, several of whom carried signs and banners protesting the  
6 checkpoint. *Id.* at ¶ 44.

7 PHP members were moved initially by Border Patrol agents to an area  
8 approximately 200 feet east of the checkpoint. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 46. Border Patrol  
9 asserts that this boundary was approximately 150 feet east of the primary inspection area.  
10 San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶ 13. Border Patrol also informed the protesters  
11 that they had a permit for their use of the area. Compl. (Doc. 1) at ¶¶ 47–48. Pima Count  
12 Sherriff’s Deputies eventually moved the monitors to an area directly across from where  
13 the monitors were standing, at the end of a line of Border Patrol vehicles. *Id.* at ¶ 49.  
14 The monitors complain that their view was obstructed by several Border Patrol vehicles  
15 that were parked along the north side of the road. *Id.* at ¶ 50. Border Patrol agents  
16 ultimately cordoned off an “enforcement zone” to prevent pedestrian access to the  
17 checkpoint. *Id.* at ¶¶ 53–58.

18 On March 1, 2014, PHP members returned to “monitor” the checkpoint. Compl.  
19 (Doc. 1) ¶ 59. The monitors stopped approximately 100 feet from the checkpoint, in  
20 roughly the same location that they had agreed to use previously at the request of Deputy  
21 Judd. *Id.* at ¶ 60. The monitors were approached by Border Patrol agents and told that  
22 they needed to stand behind the boundary; the monitors refused and remained in place.  
23 *Id.* at ¶ 61; Huey Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-8) ¶ 3. Approximately an hour later, Border  
24 Patrol agents returned and told the monitors that either they moved or they would be  
25 placed under arrest. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 62; Huey Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-8) ¶ 3.  
26 Accordingly, the monitors moved to approximately 150 feet from the checkpoint. *Id.* at  
27 63. Border Patrol then parked a vehicle on the west side of the barrier, directly in front of  
28 the PHP members, blocking their line of vision. *Id.* at 64. Also in March 2014, a drunk

1 motorist travelling westbound through the Arivaca checkpoint drove off the road and  
2 crashed into license plate readers located on the northern roadside near the primary  
3 inspection area. San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶ 10.

4 Plaintiffs also offer anecdotal evidence of individuals being allowed inside the  
5 enforcement zone – in one case the person was someone who had harassed the protesters  
6 previously, and who recorded their activities from within the enforcement zone. Compl.  
7 (Doc. 1) ¶¶ 79–81. In response to this April 3, 2014 incident, Border Patrol Agent in  
8 Charge Roger San Martin took corrective action “to reinforce the policy to permit only  
9 authorized persons within the checkpoint for official purposes[,] and . . . to make clear  
10 that incidents such as this were unacceptable.” San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4)  
11 ¶¶ 16–18. A second example given by Plaintiffs, is of a plain clothed individual arriving  
12 in his truck and conversing with agents. Compl. (Doc. 1) ¶ 82. Agent in Charge San  
13 Martin stated that the Complaint does not contain sufficient information to determine  
14 whether this incident violates policy, because Border Patrol agents, and other law  
15 enforcement agents, including those from the Drug Enforcement Agency (“DEA”) and  
16 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), work in plainclothes and often stop at  
17 checkpoints for the purpose of intelligence sharing or to advise Border Patrol that they  
18 are operating in the area. San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 34-4) ¶ 19.

19 Plaintiffs’ Complaint (Doc. 1) alleges one count of “Unlawful Regulation of  
20 Plaintiffs’ First Amendment Rights in a Public Forum” and one count of “Retaliation  
21 Based on Rights Protected Under the First Amendment of the United States  
22 Constitution.” Compl. (Doc. 1) at ¶¶ 106–113. Plaintiffs claim that the “enforcement  
23 zone” and regulation of Plaintiffs proximity to the checkpoint are “both broader than  
24 needed to further Defendants’ objectives.” *Id.* at ¶ 108. Plaintiffs seek injunctive and  
25 declaratory relief.

### 26 27 **III. ANALYSIS**

28 Currently pending before the Court is Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Injunction

1 and Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support Attached (Doc. 29). Defendant  
2 has responded (Doc. 38), and Plaintiff replied (Doc. 43). Plaintiffs seek a preliminary  
3 injunction prohibiting (1) “Defendants from barring Plaintiffs from any portion of the  
4 public right-of-way more than twenty feet outside of the primary and secondary  
5 inspection areas of the Border Patrol checkpoint on Arivaca Road, including the public  
6 right-of-way on the side of the road opposite the checkpoint shelter; and (2) “Defendants  
7 from deliberately infringing or interfering with Plaintiffs’ First Amendment rights to  
8 observe or record the operation of the Border Patrol checkpoint on Arivaca Road from  
9 the adjacent public right-of-way, including by deliberately parking cars between the  
10 observers and checkpoint operations and by running Border Patrol vehicle so that the  
11 exhaust reaches Plaintiffs, and by verbally harassing Plaintiffs and gratuitously  
12 threatening arrest.” Pl.’s Mot. for Prelim. Inj. (Doc. 29) at 1.

13 **A. Standing**

14 As an initial matter, the Government asserts that Plaintiffs do not have standing to  
15 bring this lawsuit. Govt.’s Response (Doc. 34) at 34. Relying on *Lujan v. Defenders of*  
16 *Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 564, 112 S.Ct. 2130, 2138, 119 L.Ed.2d 351 (1992), the  
17 Government argues that Plaintiffs failure to demonstrate an intent to return to the Arivaca  
18 checkpoint means that they cannot establish a “‘real and immediate threat’ of future  
19 injury necessary to obtain prospective injunctive relief, and therefore lack standing to  
20 seek it.” Govt.’s Response (Doc. 34) at 34.

21 Plaintiffs assert that the Government’s actions, such as roping off the area around  
22 the checkpoint and parking vehicles in the monitors’ line of sight, have had a chilling  
23 impact on the exercise of their First Amendment rights, and therefore represent a  
24 continuing and irreparable harm. Pls.’ Reply (Doc. 40) at 16.

25 “Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction.” *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins.*  
26 *Co. of America*, 511 U.S. 375, 377, 114 S.Ct. 1673, 1675, 128 L.Ed.2d 391 (1994). “The  
27 jurisdiction of federal courts is defined and limited by Article III of the Constitution.”  
28 *Flast v. Cohen*, 392 U.S. 83, 94, 88 S.Ct. 1942, 1949, 20 L.Ed. 947 (1968). Further, the

1 judicial power of this and all federal courts is limited to actual cases or controversies.  
2 U.S. Const. art. III; *See also, Flast v. Cohen*, 392 U.S. 83, 94–95, 88 S.Ct. 1942, 1949–  
3 50, 20 L.Ed.2d 947 (1968). The Supreme Court of the United States recognizes several  
4 doctrines which define the constitutional and prudential limitations on the federal courts’  
5 power to hear cases. *Allen v. Wright*, 468 U.S. 737, 750, 104 S.Ct. 3315, 3324, 82  
6 L.Ed.2d 556 (1984). Included among these are the concepts of standing, mootness,  
7 ripeness and political questions. *Id.* Prior to invoking the power of the federal court, it  
8 must be determined “whether the litigant is entitled to have the court decide the merits of  
9 the dispute or of particular issues.” *Warth v. Seldin*, 422 U.S. 490, 498, 95 S.Ct. 2197,  
10 2205, 45 L.Ed.2d 343 (1975). “[T]he standing question is whether the plaintiff has  
11 ‘alleged such a personal stake in the outcome of the controversy’ as to warrant his  
12 invocation of federal-court jurisdiction and to justify exercise of the court’s remedial  
13 powers on his behalf.” *Id.*, 95 S.Ct. at 2205 (citations omitted). “The Art. III judicial  
14 power exists only to redress or otherwise to protect against injury to the complaining  
15 party[.]” *Id.*; *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 n.1, 112 S.Ct. 2130, 2136  
16 n.1, 119 L.Ed.2d 351 (1992) (“the injury must affect the plaintiff in a personal and  
17 individual way.”).

18 Plaintiffs bear the burden of showing that they have standing for each type of  
19 relief sought. *Summers v. Earth Island Institute*, 555 U.S. 488, 493, 129 S.Ct. 1142,  
20 1149, 173 L.Ed.2d 1 (2009) (citations omitted); *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 561, 112 S.Ct. at  
21 2136. In order to meet this burden, Plaintiffs must show that (1) they have suffered an  
22 “injury in fact” that is (a) “concrete and particularized” and (b) “actual or imminent”; (2)  
23 a causal connection between the injury fairly traceable to defendant’s actions; and (3) it is  
24 likely, not merely speculative, that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision.  
25 *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 560–61, 112 S.Ct. at 2136. “At the pleading stage, general factual  
26 allegations of injury resulting from the defendant’s conduct may suffice[;] . . . [however,]  
27 [i]n response to a summary judgment motion . . . the plaintiff can no longer rest on such  
28 ‘mere allegations,’ but must ‘set forth’ by affidavit or other evidence ‘specific facts,’ . . .

1 ‘supported adequately by the evidence adduced at trial.’” *Id.* at 561, 112 S.Ct. at 2137  
2 (citations omitted).

3 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has observed that “at the pleading stage, we  
4 have *never* required a litigant, *per impossibile*, to demonstrate a *total* chilling of his First  
5 Amendment rights to file grievances and to pursue civil rights litigation in order to  
6 perfect a retaliation claim. Speech can be chilled even when not completely silenced.”  
7 *Rhodes v. Robinson*, 408 F.3d 559, 568 (9th Cir. 2004) (emphasis in original) (prisoner  
8 filed suit against prison officials alleging unconstitutional interference in his First  
9 Amendment rights to file prison grievances and seek access to the legal process). “[T]he  
10 proper First Amendment inquiry asks ‘whether an official’s acts would chill *or* silence a  
11 person of ordinary firmness from future First Amendment activities.’” *Rhodes*, 408 F.3d  
12 at 568–69 (quoting *Mendocino Environmental Center v. Mendocino County*, 192 F.3d  
13 1283, 1300 (9th Cir. 1999)) (emphasis in original). Furthermore, “[i]t is well established  
14 that in the area of freedom of expression an overbroad regulation may be subject to facial  
15 review and invalidation, even though its application in the case under consideration may  
16 be constitutionally unobjectionable.” *Forsyth County, Ga. v. Nationalist Movement*, 505  
17 U.S. 123, 129, 112 S.Ct. 2395, 2400–01, 120 L.Ed.2d 101 (1992) (citations omitted).  
18 “This exception from general standing rules is based on an appreciation that the very  
19 existence of some broadly written laws has the potential to chill the expressive activity of  
20 others not before the court.” *Id.* at 2401 (citations omitted).

21 Based upon the face of the Complaint (Doc. 1) and Plaintiffs’ Motion for  
22 Preliminary Injunction (Doc. 29) and Reply (Doc. 40), the Court finds Plaintiffs have  
23 alleged sufficient facts to demonstrate a concrete injury, and ongoing alleged chilling of  
24 speech. As such, Plaintiffs have standing to object to the Government’s policies.

### 25 ***B. Preliminary Injunction***

26 During oral argument, Plaintiffs clarified that for purposes of the preliminary  
27 injunction, the alleged abridgement of their right to monitor is the only issue before the  
28 Court.

1                                   **1. Standard of Review**

2                   A preliminary injunction is an extraordinary and drastic remedy and will not be  
3 granted absent a clear showing of likely success in the underlying claim and likely  
4 irreparable injury. *See Munaf v. Geren*, 553 U.S. 674, 689–90, 128 S.Ct. 2207, 2219, 171  
5 L.Ed.2d 1 (2008); *Mazurek v. Armstrong*, 520 U.S. 968, 972, 117 S.Ct. 1865, 1867, 138  
6 L.Ed.2d 162 (1997) (*per curiam*); *Warsoldier v. Woodford*, 418 F.3d 989, 993–94 (9th  
7 Cir. 2005); *Regents of University of California v. ABC, Inc.*, 747 F.2d 511, 515 (9th Cir.  
8 1984); Fed. R. Civ. P. 65. To obtain a preliminary injunction, the moving party must  
9 show “that he is likely to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm  
10 in the absence of preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that  
11 an injunction is in the public interest.” *Winter v. Natural Resources Defense Council,*  
12 *Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20, 129 S. Ct. 365, 374, 172 L.Ed.2d 249 (2008). The moving party has  
13 the burden of proof on each element of the test. *Environmental Council of Sacramento v.*  
14 *Slater*, 184 F.Supp.2d 1016, 1027 (E.D. Cal. 2000). Moreover, in the First Amendment  
15 arena, courts “face an inherent tension: the moving party bears the burden of showing  
16 likely success on the merits—a high burden if the injunction changes the status quo  
17 before trial—and yet within that merits determination the government bears the burden of  
18 justifying its speech-restrictive law.” *Thalheimer v. City of San Diego*, 645 F.3d 1109,  
19 1115 (9th Cir. 2011).

20                   Additionally, the function of a preliminary injunction is to preserve the status quo  
21 pending a determination on the merits. *Chalk v. U.S. Dist. Court*, 840 F.2d 701, 704 (9th  
22 Cir. 1988). As such, there is heightened scrutiny where the movant seeks to alter rather  
23 than maintain the status quo. *Dahl v. HEM Pharms. Corp.*, 7 F.3d 1399, 1403 (9th Cir.  
24 1993) (holding that mandatory, as opposed to prohibitory, injunctions are “subject to a  
25 heightened scrutiny and should not be issued unless the facts and law clearly favor the  
26 moving party.”). The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has held that this type of mandatory  
27 injunctive relief is disfavored, and should be denied unless the facts and law clearly favor  
28 the movant. *Anderson v. United States*, 612 F.2d 1112, 1114 (9th Cir. 1979). There is



1 also heightened scrutiny where the injunction would provide substantially all the relief  
2 the movant may recover after a full trial on the merits. *Kikumura v. Hurley*, 242 F.3d  
3 950, 955 (9th Cir. 2001).

## 4 **2. Likelihood of Success on the Merits**

5 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has recognized that evaluation of the  
6 likelihood of success on the merits requires consideration of (1) the classification of the  
7 property under the Supreme Court of the United States’ forum analysis; (2) assess the  
8 appropriate level of scrutiny for that forum; and (3) determine whether the Government’s  
9 policy withstands this scrutiny. *Brown v. California Dept. of Transp.*, 321 F.3d 1217,  
10 1221 (9th Cir. 2003).

### 11 **a. First Amendment—In General**

12 In its First Amendment jurisprudence, the Supreme Court of the United States has  
13 recognized “three types of fora: the traditional public forum, the public forum created by  
14 government designation, and the nonpublic forum.” *Cornelius v. NAACP Legal Defense*  
15 *and Educational Fund, Inc.*, 473 U.S. 788, 802, 105 S.Ct. 3439, 3449, 87 L.Ed.2d 567  
16 (1985). “Traditional public fora are those places which ‘by long tradition or by  
17 government fiat have been devoted to assembly and debate.’” *Id.* (quoting *Perry*  
18 *Education Assn. v. Perry Local Educators’ Assn.*, 460 U.S. 37, 45, 103 S.Ct. 948, 954, 74  
19 L.Ed.2d 794 (1983)). “Public streets and parks fall into this category.” *Cornelius*, 473  
20 U.S. at 802, 105 S.Ct. at 3449. “The government can exclude a speaker from a traditional  
21 public forum ‘only when the exclusion is necessary to serve a compelling state interest  
22 and the exclusion is narrowly drawn to achieve that interest.’” *Arkansas Educ. Television*  
23 *Comm’n v. Forbes*, 523 U.S. 666, 677, 118 S.Ct. 1633, 140 L.Ed.2d 875 (1998) (quoting  
24 *Cornelius*, 473 U.S. at 800, 105 S.Ct. 3439)). This “strict scrutiny” analysis applies to  
25 content based regulations on speech. *See Madsen v. Women’s Health Ctr., Inc.*, 512 U.S.  
26 753, 791, 114 S.Ct. 2516, 2537, 129 L.Ed.2d 593 (1994) (Scalia, J. concurring). “[E]ven  
27 in a public forum[,] [however,] the government may impose reasonable restrictions on the  
28 time, place, or manner of protected speech, provided the restrictions ‘are justified without

1 reference to the content of the regulated speech, that they are narrowly tailored to serve a  
2 significant governmental interest, and that they leave open ample alternative channels for  
3 communication of the information.” *Ward v. Rock Against Racism*, 491 U.S. 781, 791,  
4 109, S.Ct. 2746, 105 L.Ed.2d 661 (1989) (quoting *Clark v. Community for Creative Non-*  
5 *Violence*, 468 U.S. 288, 293, 104 S.Ct. 3065, 3069, 82 L.Ed.2d 221 (1984)); *see also*  
6 *United States v. Griefen*, 200 F.3d 1256, 1260 (9th Cir. 2000). Such time, manner, place  
7 regulations represent an intermediate level of scrutiny. *See Turner Broadcasting System,*  
8 *Inc. v. FCC*, 512 U.S. 622, 642, 114 S.Ct. 2445, 2459, 129 L.Ed.2d 497 (1994).

9 Designated public fora “may be created by government designation of a place or  
10 channel of communication for use by the public at large for assembly and speech, for use  
11 by certain speakers, or for the discussion of certain subjects.” *Cornelius*, 473 U.S. at 802,  
12 105 S.Ct. at 3449. “The government does not create a [designated] public forum by  
13 inaction or by permitting limited discourse, but only by intentionally opening a  
14 nontraditional forum for public discourse.” *Id.* “If the government excludes a speaker  
15 who falls within the class to which a designated public forum is made generally available,  
16 its action is subject to strict scrutiny.” *Arkansas Educ. Television Comm’n*, 523 U.S. at  
17 677, 118 S.Ct. at 1641 (citations omitted).

18 The First Amendment, however “does not guarantee access to property simply  
19 because it is owned or controlled by the government.” *Cornelius*, 473 U.S. at 803, 105  
20 S.Ct. at 3449 (quoting *United States Postal Service v. Council of Greenburgh Civic*  
21 *Assns.*, 453 U.S. 114, 129, 101 S.Ct. 2676, 2685, 69 L.Ed.2d 517 (1981)). “Nothing in  
22 the Constitution requires the Government freely to grant access to all who wish to  
23 exercise their right to free speech on every type of Government property without regard  
24 to the nature of the property or to the disruption that might be caused by the speaker’s  
25 activities.” *Cornellius*, 473 U.S. 799–800, 105 S.Ct. at 3447. The Government, “no less  
26 than a private owner of property, has power to preserve the property under its control for  
27 the use to which it is lawfully dedicated.” *Greer v. Spock*, 424 U.S. 828, 836, 96 S.Ct.  
28 1211, 1217, 47 L.Ed.2d 505 (1976). “Access to a nonpublic forum . . . can be restricted

1 as long as the restrictions are ‘reasonable and [are] not an effort to suppress expression  
2 merely because public officials oppose the speaker’s view.’” *Cornelius*, 473 U.S. at 800,  
3 105 S.Ct. at 3448 (citations omitted) (alterations in original).

4 **b. Expression Versus Right of Access**

5 Plaintiffs assert that the Arivaca Road checkpoint is a public forum, and that as  
6 such they are entitled to monitor the activities of Border Patrol agents and their  
7 interactions with the motoring public, with little limitation. *See* Pls.’ Mot. for Prelim. Inj.  
8 (Doc. 29). Conversely, Defendants argue that the right of access requires only a  
9 reasonableness inquiry as to any restrictions on speech, and in any event the checkpoint is  
10 a nonpublic forum, and as such, the Government is entitled to reasonable time, manner,  
11 and place restrictions on speech. *See* Defs.’ Opposition to Pls.’ Mot. for Prelim. Inj.  
12 (Doc. 38) at 12–25.

13 Plaintiffs rely on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in *Fordyce v. City of*  
14 *Seattle*, 55 F.3d 436 (9th Cir. 1995) to sustain their position. In *Fordyce*, the Ninth  
15 Circuit Court of Appeals recognized that an individual videotaping and audio-recording  
16 people on the streets of Seattle had a First Amendment right “to film matters of public  
17 interest.” 55 F.3d at 439. Plaintiff Jerry Fordyce was videotaping a public protest march,  
18 ostensibly for broadcast on a public access channel. *Id.* at 438. Fordyce was filming two  
19 boys, whose adult relative asked him to stop. When Fordyce refused, the relative  
20 complained to police. *Id.* at 439. The police also asked Fordyce to stop, but he again  
21 refused. *Id.* Fordyce was arrested for violating a Washington State statute barring the  
22 recording of private conversations without the consent of all participants. *Id.* at 438. The  
23 matter was before the court of appeals regarding, *inter alia*, the district court’s grant of  
24 the city defendants’ motion for summary judgment as to Fordyce’s 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and  
25 state tort claims. *Fordyce*, 55 F.3d at 438–39. The *Fordyce* court’s recognition of a First  
26 Amendment right to film matters of public interest came in the context of overruling the  
27 district court’s grant of summary judgment to an officer who allegedly pushed Fordyce’s  
28 camera into his face, thereby reinstating Fordyce’s First Amendment claim under 42

1 U.S.C. § 1983 and state law assault and battery claim against the individual officer. *Id.* at  
2 439. The *Fordyce* court did not pass on the constitutionality of the Washington statute,  
3 nor did it make any findings regarding plaintiff’s First Amendment claim beyond that  
4 there were material issues of fact necessitating trial.

5 The First Circuit Court of Appeals has recognized that “[t]he filming of  
6 government officials engaged in their duties in a public place, including police officers  
7 performing their responsibilities . . . serves a cardinal First Amendment interest in  
8 protecting and promoting ‘the free discussion of governmental affairs.’” *Glik v. Cunniffe*,  
9 655 F.3d 78, 82 (1st Cir. 2011) (quoting *Mills v. Alabama*, 384 U.S. 214, 218, 86 S.Ct.  
10 1434, 16 L.Ed.2d 484 (1966)). This “right to film[,] [however,] is not without  
11 limitations[—][i]t may be subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions.”  
12 *Glik*, 655 F.3d at 84. The plaintiff, Glik, had “filmed the defendant police officers in the  
13 Boston Common, the oldest city park in the United States and the apotheosis of a public  
14 forum.” *Id.* Glik recorded an arrest from approximately ten (10) feet away, and was  
15 subsequently arrested for a violation of the Massachusetts’s wiretap statute. *Id.* at 80.  
16 Glik sued for a violation of his rights pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and the district court  
17 denied defendants’ motion to dismiss on qualified immunity grounds. *Id.* The court of  
18 appeals held that although the First Amendment right to record is not unqualified, for  
19 purposes of the case before it, the district court did not err in denying qualified immunity.

20 Subsequently, the First Circuit Court of Appeals considered the right to film a  
21 traffic stop. *Gericke v. Begin*, 753 F.3d 1 (1st Cir. 2014). Gericke filmed an officer  
22 performing a traffic stop of a friend’s vehicle. *Id.* at 3–4. The officer was aware of her  
23 presence, and never asked her to stop recording. *Id.* Gericke was arrested and charged  
24 with unlawful interception of oral communications, and brought suit against the officers  
25 under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. *Id.* at 4. The *Gericke* court reiterated a statement the court  
26 made in *Glik* acknowledging that “a traffic stop is worlds apart from an arrest on the  
27 Boston Common in the circumstances alleged [in that case.]” *Gericke*, 753 F.3d at 7  
28 (quoting *Glik*, 655 F.3d at 85). The *Gericke* court went on to state, “[i]mportantly, an

1 individual's exercise of her First Amendment right to film police activity carried out in  
2 public, including a traffic stop, necessarily remains unfettered unless and until a  
3 reasonable restriction is imposed or in place." *Gericke*, 753 F.3d at 8. The court of  
4 appeals upheld the district court's denial of qualified immunity to the officers, but did not  
5 consider whether the wiretapping statute amounted to a reasonable time, place, and  
6 manner restriction on speech. *Id.* at 9–10.

7 Conversely, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a district court's grant of  
8 qualified immunity to a police officer defendant. *Kelly v. Borough of Carlisle*, 622 F.3d  
9 248, 263 (3d Cir. 2010). Plaintiff Brian Kelly was the passenger in a friend's car, when  
10 he was pulled over for a traffic violation. *Id.* at 251. During the stop, Kelly recorded the  
11 interaction between his friend and the officer. *Id.* Kelly was arrested for violating  
12 Pennsylvania's Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance Control Act. *Id.* Kelly brought  
13 suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for a violation of his First Amendment rights. *Id.* The Third  
14 Circuit Court of Appeals found that "there was insufficient case law establishing a right  
15 to videotape police officers during a traffic stop to put a reasonably competent police  
16 officer on 'fair notice' that seizing a camera or arresting an individual for videotaping  
17 police during the stop would violate the First Amendment." *Kelly v. Borough of Carlisle*,  
18 622 F.3d 248, 262 (3d Cir. 2010). "Moreover, even insofar as [the right] is clearly  
19 established, the right to record matters of public concern is not absolute; it is subject to  
20 reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions, as long as they are 'justified without  
21 reference to the content of the regulated speech, . . . are narrowly tailored to serve a  
22 significant governmental interest, and . . . leave open ample alternative channels for  
23 communication of the information.'" *Id.* (emphasis and alterations in original) (quoting  
24 *Ward v. Rock Against Racism*, 491 U.S. 781, 791, 109, S.Ct. 2746, 105 L.Ed.2d 661  
25 (1989).

26 The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, following the First Circuit, assessed the  
27 Illinois eavesdropping statute under a heightened First Amendment scrutiny. *ACLU of*  
28 *Illinois v. Alvarez*, 679 F.3d 583 (7th Cir. 2012). The court found that as applied, the

1 statute “interfere[d] with the gathering and dissemination of information about  
2 government officials performing their duties in public . . . burden[ing] speech and press  
3 rights[.]” *Id.* at 600.

4 Distinct from these right to record cases, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has  
5 also recognized “a qualified right of access for the press and public to observe  
6 government activities.” *Leigh v. Salazar*, 677 F.3d 892, 898 (9th Cir. 2012). The *Leigh*  
7 court acknowledged that “[t]he [Supreme Court of the United States] recognized ‘the  
8 common understanding that a major purpose of [the First] Amendment was to protect the  
9 free discussion of governmental affairs.’” *Id.* at 898 (3d alteration in original) (quoting  
10 *Globe Newspaper Co. v. Superior Court*, 457 U.S. 596, 604, 102 S.Ct. 2613, 73 L.Ed.2d  
11 248 (1982)). In *Leigh*, the plaintiff, a photojournalist, sought unrestricted access to  
12 observe a Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) horse roundup. *Leigh*, 677 F.3d at 894.  
13 The court of appeals found that the appropriate test for plaintiff’s First Amendment claim  
14 was that articulated by the Supreme Court of the United States in *Press-Enterprise Co. v.*  
15 *Superior Court* (“*Press-Enterprise II*”), 478 U.S. 1, 8–9, 106 S.Ct. 2735, 92 L.Ed.2d 1  
16 (1986), stating:

17 First, the court must determine whether a right of access attaches to the  
18 government proceeding or activity by considering 1) “whether the place  
19 and process have historically been open to the press and general public”  
20 and 2) “whether public access plays a significant positive role in the  
21 functioning of the particular process in question.” 478 U.S. at 8–9, 106  
22 S.Ct. 2735. Second, if the court determines that a qualified right applies,  
23 the government may overcome that right only by demonstrating “an  
24 overriding interest based on findings that closure is essential to preserve  
25 higher values and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest.” *Id.* at 9, 106  
26 S.Ct. 2735 (internal citation omitted).

24 *Leigh*, 677 F.3d at 898. The *Leigh* court further found that because there was no  
25 restriction on plaintiff’s ability to have a dialogue with another person, “the right of  
26 access analysis [was] the more appropriate standard for [the] case.” *Id.* at 898 n. 3.

27 For purposes of the preliminary injunction motion, the Court will assume, without  
28 deciding, that the area in question is a public forum. If the Government’s restrictions

1 withstand this higher level of scrutiny, they will remain valid if the property is actually a  
2 non-public forum. Similarly, the Government’s restrictions would also withstand a  
3 challenge under a right of access theory.<sup>2</sup>

4 **c. Content Neutral**

5 Plaintiffs contend that “Defendants’ actions since the erection of the barriers are  
6 inconsistent with the assertion that the roped-off area is needed for “enforcement,” and  
7 evince a pattern of selective targeting of Plaintiffs.” Pls.’ Mot. for Prelim. Inj. and Mem.  
8 of Points and Authorities in Support (Doc. 29). Defendants assert that the policy is “to  
9 permit only authorized persons within the checkpoint for official purposes.” San Martin  
10 Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 38-4) ¶¶ 17–18.

11 “The principal inquiry in determining content neutrality, in speech cases generally  
12 and in time, place, or manner cases in particular, is whether the government has adopted a  
13 regulation of speech because of disagreement with the message it conveys.” *Ward v.*  
14 *Rock Against Racism*, 491 U.S. 781, 791, 109 S.Ct. 2746, 2754, 105 L.Ed.2d 661 (1989)  
15 (citations omitted). “[A] facially neutral law does not become content based simply  
16 because it may disproportionately affect speech on certain topics.” *McCullen v. Coakley*,  
17 — U.S. —, 134 S.Ct. 2518, 2531, 189 L.Ed.2d 502 (2014). “A regulation that serves  
18 purposes unrelated to the content of expression is deemed neutral, even if it has an  
19 incidental effect on some speakers or messages but not others.” *Ward*, 491 U.S. at 791,  
20 109 S.Ct. at 2754. “The question in such a case is whether the law is ‘justified without  
21 reference to the content of the regulated speech.’” *McCullen*, — U.S. —, 134 S.Ct. at  
22 2531 (quoting *Renton v. Playtime Theaters, Inc.*, 475 U.S. 41, 48, 106 S.Ct. 925, 89  
23 L.Ed.2d 29 (1986).

24 Here, Defendants primary interest is in protecting the safety and security of Border  
25 Patrol agents, canines, and the public. San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 38-4) ¶¶ 10–11.  
26 Furthermore, “[C]heckpoint stops are ‘seizures’ within the meaning of the Fourth

---

27 <sup>2</sup> The Court notes that it finds that the right of access assessment of *Leigh* is not  
28 appropriate in this case. Unlike *Leigh*, there is the potential for discussion between  
monitor and checkpoint motorists. See *Leigh*, 677 F.3d at 898 n.3.

1 Amendment.” *Martinez-Fuerte v. United States*, 428 U.S. 543, 556, 96 S.Ct. 3074, 3082,  
2 49 L.Ed.2d 1116 (1976). The Supreme Court of the United States has “upheld brief,  
3 suspicionless seizures of motorists at a fixed Border Patrol checkpoint designed to  
4 intercept illegal aliens, . . . and at a sobriety checkpoint aimed at removing drunk drivers  
5 from the road[.]” *City of Indianapolis v. Edmond*, 531 U.S. 32, 37, 121 S.Ct. 447, 452,  
6 148 L.Ed.2d 333 (2000) (internal citations omitted). Such programs were “designed to  
7 serve ‘special needs, beyond the normal need for law enforcement.’” *Id.* (citations  
8 omitted). As such, checkpoint stops are criminal investigations, which if frustrated may  
9 “jeopardize the integrity of the search for truth that is so critical to the fair administration  
10 of justice.” *Times Mirror Co. v. U.S.*, 873 F.2d 1210, 1213 (9th Cir. 1989) (discussing  
11 the public right of access to judicial proceedings, and the negative impact that openness  
12 may have on criminal fact-finding).

13 Plaintiffs argue that Defendants are targeting their speech. As an example  
14 Plaintiffs assert that when a land surveyor, who surveyed the property on and around the  
15 checkpoint, asked why there were roped off areas, Border Patrol agents explained that  
16 “the barriers were in place to exclude people who might interfere with Border Patrol  
17 activities[.]” McLain Decl 12/23/2014 (Doc. 29-3) ¶ 15. Plaintiffs assume that this  
18 demonstrates that agents are targeting them. Interference can occur when the source is  
19 deemed positive or negative. The message of the speaker is irrelevant. In this case, the  
20 policy applies equally to Plaintiffs, cartel members who wish to obtain information  
21 regarding the transport of their load, or members of the public who wish to cheer in  
22 support of the checkpoint. As such, Defendants’ policy to exclude those who do not have  
23 official business within the boundaries of the checkpoint is content neutral.

#### 24 **d. Significant Government Interest**

25 “It has been a national policy for many years to limit immigration into the United  
26 States.” *Martinez-Fuerte v. United States*, 428 U.S. 543, 551, 96 S.Ct. 3074, 3080, 49  
27 L.Ed.2d 1116 (1976). As such, there is a substantial public interest “in the practice of  
28 routine stops for inquiry at permanent checkpoints.” *Id.* at 556, 96 S.Ct. at 3082. It is



1 undisputed that the Government’s interest in enforcing its laws is substantial.

2 **e. Narrowly Tailored**

3 Plaintiffs assert that Defendants’ policy is not narrowly tailored, because the  
4 barriers “forc[e] pedestrian traffic into the roadway,” and that “Plaintiffs have even  
5 offered to stand on the side of the road opposite the checkpoint—where no enforcement  
6 activity takes place at all[.]” Pls.’ Mot. for Prelim. Inj. and Mem. of Points and  
7 Authorities in Support (Doc. 29) at 24. Further, Plaintiffs assert that the policy “prevents  
8 them from being able to adequately see or determine the nature of the interactions  
9 between border Patrol agents and motorists, thereby preventing them from determining  
10 whether harassment or constitutional violations have occurred.” *Id.* at 26. Conversely,  
11 Defendants reiterate the need to protect the safety of agents and the public. *See* Defs.’  
12 Response to Mot. for Prelim. Inj. (Doc. 38) at 19–20.

13 “[T]he requirement of narrow tailoring is satisfied ‘so long as the . . . regulation  
14 promotes a substantial government interest that would be achieved less affectively absent  
15 the regulation.’” *Ward v. Rock Against Racism*, 491 U.S. 781, 799, 109 S.Ct. 2746, 2758,  
16 105 L.Ed.2d 661 (1989) (alterations in original) (quoting *United States v. Albertini*, 472  
17 U.S. 675, 689, 105 S.Ct. 2897, 2906, 86 L.Ed.2d 536 (1985)). Such restriction “need not  
18 be the least restrictive or least intrusive means of doing so.” *Id.* at 798, 109 S.Ct. 2757–  
19 58. “[T]he government still ‘may not regulate expression in such a manner that a  
20 substantial portion of the burden on speech does not serve to advance its goals.’”  
21 *McCullen v. Coakley*, — U.S. —, 134 S.Ct. 2518, 2535, 189 L.Ed.2d 502 (2014) (quoting  
22 *Ward*, 491 U.S. at 799, 109 S.Ct. at 2758)).

23 Plaintiffs rely on *McCullen* to argue that Border Patrol “has available to it a  
24 variety of approaches that appear capable of serving its interests, without excluding  
25 individuals from areas historically open for speech and debate.” *McCullen*, 134 S.Ct. at  
26 2539. The Supreme Court in *McCullen* held that a thirty-five (35) foot buffer zone  
27 around Massachusetts abortion clinics burdened more speech than necessary, because it  
28 severely impeded petitioners’ ability to distribute literature and speak to clinic patients

1 one-on-one, without shouting. *Id.* at 2536–37. Plaintiffs also cite to *Bay Area Peace*  
2 *Navy v. United States*, 914 F.2d 1224 (9th Cir. 1990), where a 75-yard security zone was  
3 deemed too broad in light of the “speculative threat of violent attack[.]” *Bay Area Peace*  
4 *Navy*, 914 F.2d at 1228. The *Bay Area Peace Navy* court, however, recognized that “a  
5 tangible threat to security” could result in modification of a narrower injunction. *Id.*

6 Unlike in *Bay Area Peace Navy*, however, the Government’s concern for agent  
7 and public safety is not speculative. *See* San Martin Decl. 1/30/2015 (Doc. 38-4) ¶ 10–  
8 11. Furthermore, there are standard weapon-retention techniques that preclude allowing  
9 Plaintiffs to occupy the area on the north side of the street. *Id.* at 20. Moreover, as this is  
10 a rural road, there are no sidewalks or other pedestrian only areas for Plaintiffs to stand.  
11 The shoulder of a road does not provide any buffer between Plaintiffs and vehicle traffic.  
12 The enforcement zone also allows Border Patrol to park its vehicles in a manner serving a  
13 legitimate law enforcement purpose, as well as maintaining a safety zone for the  
14 protection of all involved. *See United States v. Griefen*, 200 F.3d 1256, 1262 (150 foot  
15 closure order surrounding construction area in a national park valid time, place, and  
16 manner restriction on speech). Additionally, the 180-foot enforcement zone runs east and  
17 west from the center of the checkpoint, the secondary inspection area extends  
18 approximately 100-feet from the center of the checkpoint. Defs.’ Response to Mot. for  
19 Prelim. Inj. (Doc. 38) at 20.

20 Further, the sample “Checkpoint Vehicle Stop Report[s]” Plaintiffs have submitted  
21 do not reflect Plaintiffs’ inability to monitor the checkpoint. *See* Pls.’ Reply (Doc. 43) ,  
22 Exh. “1.” The reports include the date, day of the week, as well as arrival and departure  
23 time. *Id.* Monitors then circle whether a vehicle was a sedan; SUV; van; truck; bus; or  
24 other, and whether the vehicle was newer; older; battered; washed; unwashed; bumper  
25 stickers; or other. *Id.* Some information is recorded by circling “yes” or “no,” such as  
26 Arizona license plate, interior search at secondary, canine search at secondary, or  
27 physical search of occupants. *Id.* Other information requires a fill-in or check response,  
28 such as the number of occupants and whether they were male, female, children, teens,

1 adults or over 50, whether occupants made comments to the monitors, and other incidents  
2 and observations. *Id.* Monitors circle whether a search occurred at primary, with choices  
3 of none; visual exterior; canine; alerted; or interior. *Id.*

4 On March 25, 2015, a monitor was able to document the ethnicity of the driver,  
5 the type and characteristics of the vehicle and driver, and that the individual showed  
6 papers. Pls.’ Reply, Exh. “1” (Doc. 43-2) at 473. On April 15, 2015, a monitor, in  
7 addition to the standard form answers, provided information regarding what occurred at  
8 secondary including that the driver got out of the vehicle, a canine sniff being performed,  
9 and where on the vehicle was searched. *Id.*, Exh. “1” (Doc. 43-3) at 404. Similarly, the  
10 “Checkpoint Monitoring: Shift Report” which indicates summary information, including  
11 law enforcement personnel, are filled out with varying degrees of completeness. *See id.*,  
12 Exh. “1” (Doc.43-2) at 52, Exh. “1” (Doc. 43-3) at 465, 517. As such, the Court finds  
13 that the 180-foot enforcement zone is a valid time, place, and manner restriction on  
14 Plaintiffs’ speech.

15 **3. Remaining Factors**

16 In light of the Court’s determination that Defendants’ policy is a valid time, place,  
17 and manner restriction on speech, Plaintiffs cannot meet their burden to show a likelihood  
18 of success on the merits. As such, the Court will not consider the remaining factors  
19 necessary to support entry of a preliminary injunction.

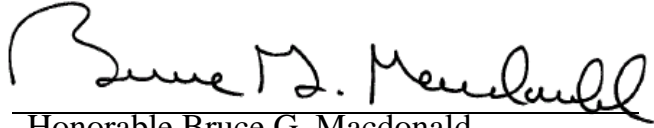
20 ...  
21 ...  
22 ...  
23 ...  
24 ...  
25 ...  
26 ...  
27 ...  
28 ...

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Based upon the foregoing, Defendants' policy restricting pedestrian access to the Arivaca Border Patrol Checkpoint is a valid time, place, and manner restriction on speech. As such, Plaintiffs have not met their burden to warrant entry of a preliminary injunction. Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction (Doc. 29) is DENIED.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2015.



Honorable Bruce G. Macdonald  
United States Magistrate Judge