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15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
16 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
17 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

18 AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
19 OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA; *SAN*
20 *FRANCISCO BAY GUARDIAN*,

21 Plaintiffs,

22 v.

23 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

24 Defendant.

CASE No.: 12-cv-4008-MEJ

**PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF CROSS-
MOTION AND CROSS-MOTION FOR
PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT;
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' CROSS-MOTION FOR
PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND IN
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION
FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Hearing Date: August 22, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: San Francisco U.S. Courthouse

Judge: Hon. Maria-Elena James

1 **NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

2 TO DEFENDANT AND ITS COUNSEL OF RECORD: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

3 THAT on August 22, 2013 at 10 am, or as soon thereafter as the parties may be heard,

4 Plaintiffs American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California and San Francisco Bay

5 Guardian will bring for hearing a cross-motion for partial summary judgment pursuant to

6 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 in this Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) action

7 on the ground that Defendant is unlawfully withholding agency documents, in particular

8 that the exemptions asserted by the agency as to the documents processed thus far are

9 inapplicable. The hearing will take place before the Honorable Maria-Elena James, in

10 Courtroom B, 15th Floor, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102. This

11 motion is based on this notice, the attached memorandum of points and authorities, the

12 accompanying Declaration of Linda Lye and attached exhibits, all pleadings and papers

13 filed in this action, and such oral argument and evidence as may be presented at the

14 hearing on the motion.

15

Dated: June 27, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

16

17

By: _____/s/
Linda Lye

18

19

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I. INTRODUCTION

1 Plaintiffs in this Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) suit seek to shed light on the
2 federal government’s surveillance practices, in particular, the use of location tracking technology.
3 Troublingly, Defendant Department of Justice (“DOJ”) refuses to release documents that set forth
4 the agency’s position on the legal standards that govern use of this technology. Congress enacted
5 FOIA to ensure that the public has access to documents that have the force and effect of law and
6 to prohibit federal agencies from creating “secret law.” In attempting to withhold from public
7 view the legal standards that federal prosecutors abide by when seeking court authorization for
8 location tracking, DOJ seeks to develop a body of secret surveillance law. FOIA does not tolerate
9 such a result.

10 The documents at issue are not exempt from disclosure. The attorney work-product
11 doctrine does not apply because the documents contain no case-specific analysis; instead, they
12 simply set forth general legal standards and are conceptually indistinguishable from legal manuals
13 and guidelines that numerous courts have ordered agencies to disclose. Nor are the documents
14 covered by the exemption for investigative techniques disclosure of which would give rise to a
15 risk of circumvention: They pertain to well-known technologies used to track individuals through
16 cell phones and vehicles. DOJ has failed to offer any explanation of, much less meet its burden to
17 demonstrate, how disclosure of these documents would risk circumvention. More fundamentally,
18 disclosure of documents setting forth the government’s analysis of its constitutional and statutory
19 obligations when seeking location information does not create a risk of circumvention. It serves
20 the crucial public purpose of holding the government accountable.

21 Finally, the government’s claim that certain records contain some non-disclosable private
22 information, such as employee names, does not support its refusal to release entire documents.
23 Personally identifying information is easily segregable and DOJ has a statutory obligation to
24 release the remainder of the documents.

II. BACKGROUND

25
26 “Recent years have seen the emergence of many new devices that permit the monitoring
27 of a person’s movements.” *United States v. Jones*, _U.S._, 132 S. Ct. 945, 963 (2012) (Alito, J.,
28

1 concurring). Advances in new technology “make long-term monitoring relatively easy and
2 cheap.” *Id.* at 964. But such monitoring also raises privacy concerns because it “generates a
3 precise, comprehensive record of a person’s public movements that reflects a wealth of detail
4 about her familial, political, professional, religious, and sexual associations,” such as “trips to the
5 psychiatrist, the plastic surgeon, the abortion clinic, . . . the mosque, synagogue or church, the gay
6 bar and on and on.” *Id.* at 955 (Sotomayor, J., concurring) (quoting *People v. Weaver*, 12
7 N.Y.3d 433, 441-42 (2009)). Last year, the Supreme Court unanimously held in *Jones* that use of
8 a Global Positioning System (“GPS”) device to track a suspect’s vehicle constitutes a “search”
9 within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment. *See id.* at 949; *id.* at 954 (Sotomayor, J.,
10 concurring); *id.* at 964 (Alito, J., concurring). Yet even after *Jones*, the United States government
11 has asserted the position in litigation that it need not obtain a warrant to use GPS devices to track
12 suspects. *See, e.g.*, Br. for Appellant United States of America at 18, *United States v. Katzin*, No.
13 12-2548 (3d Cir. Aug. 17, 2012), ECF No. 003110991508, attached as Lye Decl., Ex. 3.

14 Information in the public domain makes clear that GPS is only one of many technologies
15 available to the government to track location through vehicles and cellular phones. And just as
16 the technology is evolving, so too are the government’s practices and the legal standards
17 governing its use.

18 For example, the government routinely requires wireless carriers to divulge information
19 about the historical and real-time location of individual cellular phones. Courts are split on
20 whether the government must obtain probable cause warrants or can rely on less demanding
21 statutory orders to obtain this information. *Compare In re Application for an Order Directing a*
22 *Provider of Elec. Comm’n Serv. to Disclose Records to Gov’t*, 620 F.3d 304, 319 (3d Cir. 2010)
23 [hereinafter *In re Cell Provider Disclosure*] (judge may require government to obtain search
24 warrant for cell site records), *with United States v. Skinner*, 690 F.3d 772, 781 (6th Cir. 2012) (no
25 search warrant needed).¹

26
27
28
¹ Wireless carriers provide coverage through a network of base stations, also known as cell towers, that connect wireless devices on the network to the regular telephone network. Cell site location information, that is, information about the location of the cell towers, including the “face” of the cell tower, with which a cellular phone connects and the time specific calls were
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1 The government also tracks location through “cell tower dumps,” that is, requests to
2 wireless carriers for disclosure of “all telephone numbers and all other subscriber information”
3 from particular cell towers. *See In re Application of the United States for an Order Pursuant to*
4 *18 U.S.C. Section 2703(d)*, _F.Supp.2d _, 2012 WL 4717778, at *1 (S.D. Tex. Sept. 26, 2012)
5 (government sought cell-tower dump where “victim of the crime had a cell phone that was taken
6 by the subject of the investigation when he left the crime scene”). At least one court has required
7 such requests to be supported by probable cause. *See id.* at *3-4; *see also In re Application of the*
8 *United States for an Order Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 2703(d)*, _F.Supp.2d_, 2013 WL
9 1934491, at *4-5 (S.D. Tex. May 8, 2013) (rejecting application under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d)’s
10 “specific and articulable facts” standard).

11 In addition, the government tracks people using “cell site simulator” technology. The
12 federal government has publicly acknowledged that such devices operate by mimicking a wireless
13 provider’s “cell tower and sen[ding] signals to, and receiv[ing] signals from” a target device,
14 thereby obtaining real-time data that can track a suspect’s location “precisely within [the
15 person’s] apartment.” *United States v. Rigmaiden*, 2013 WL 1932800, at *15 (D. Ariz. May 8,
16 2013).

17 Each type of technology presents critical questions of fact, law, and policy: Does the
18 government seek *any* court approval to use the device? And if so, *what type* of court
19 authorization does it seek – statutory court orders or probable-cause warrants?

20 The answers to these questions are only partially available to the public because the
21 federal government typically obtains electronic surveillance orders under seal, and those orders
22 often remain under seal indefinitely. *See In re Sealing and Non-Disclosure of Pen/Trap/2703(d)*
23 *Orders*, 562 F.Supp.2d 876, 878 (S.D.Tex. 2008) [hereinafter *In re Sealing*] (3,886 electronic
24 surveillance orders issued under seal in Southern District of Texas between 1995 and 2007,
25 99.7% of which “remain[ed] under seal [in 2008], many years after [their initial] issuance”);
26 Stephen Wm. Smith, *Gagged, Sealed & Delivered: Reforming ECP’s Secret Docket*, 6 Harv. L. &

27
28 made, provides information about the location of the cellular phone at various points in time. *See*
In re Cell Provider Disclosure, 620 F.3d at 308.

1 Pol. Rev. 313, 322 (2012) (estimating that federal magistrate judges issued more than 30,000
2 orders for electronic surveillance under seal in 2006, “more than thirty times the annual number
3 of [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] cases”).

4 Yet the answers to these questions have enormous consequence for democratic
5 governance. “It may very well be that, given full disclosure of the frequency and extent of these
6 [electronic surveillance] orders, the people and their elected representatives would heartily
7 approve without a second thought. But then again, they might not.” *In re Sealing*, 562 F.Supp.2d
8 at 886.

9 Plaintiffs, a civil-liberties organization and an independent newspaper, thus seek in their
10 FOIA request information pertaining to the federal government’s policies and practices in using
11 location tracking technology in order to shed light on the government’s surveillance activities.
12 *See* FOIA Request, attached as Lye Decl., Ex. 1.²

13 On March 22, 2013, Defendant Department of Justice (“DOJ”) released some responsive,
14 non-exempt records. *See* Kornmeier Decl. ¶ 5, ECF No. 23-1; Cunningham Decl. ¶ 11, ECF No.
15 23-2. However, it has withheld in full or in part documents pertaining to the agency’s legal
16 position regarding the federal government’s use of various location tracking technologies. The
17 withheld information falls into two broad categories:

- 18 (1) guidance memos prepared by DOJ to inform its staff about the department’s legal
19 position with respect to various location tracking technologies (*see* Kornmeier
20 Decl. ¶ 9 & Ex. C (EOUSA Doc. 2); Cunningham Decl. ¶¶ 15-16 & Ex. 2 (CRM
21 One to Three and Five); and
- 22 (2) template applications and orders as well as excerpts from a manual used by United
23 States Attorneys to obtain location information (*see* Kornmeier Decl. ¶ 9 & Ex. C
24 (EOUSA Doc. 1); Cunningham Decl. ¶ 16 & Ex. 2 (CRM Four)).

25 **III. ARGUMENT**

26 **A. Statutory Framework**

27 **1. FOIA Requires Disclosure Unless the Government Can Justify 28 Withholding**

Before turning to DOJ’s claims of exemptions, we set forth the statutory framework.

² Pursuant to stipulated court order, the parties will address an additional part of Plaintiffs’ FOIA request – pertaining to actual requests, subpoenas, and applications for court orders or warrants – on a subsequent summary judgment motion. *See* Stip. Re: Briefing Sched. 6:7-8, ECF No. 22.

1 FOIA affirmatively requires agencies to make public several specified categories of
 2 documents. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(1)-(2) (2011). Some of these must be published in the Federal
 3 Register. *See id.* at § 552(a)(1). With respect to others – including, most relevant here,
 4 “statements of policy and interpretations which have been adopted by the agency and are not
 5 published in the Federal Register” – agencies “*shall* make [them] available for public inspection
 6 and copying.” *Id.* at § 552(a)(2)(B) (emphasis added).

7 Documents that do not fall into either of these categories must also be made available to
 8 the public, unless the government shows that they fall into one or more of FOIA’s nine statutory
 9 exemptions from disclosure. *See id.* at §§ 552(a)(3) & (b)(1)-(9). The government bears the
 10 burden of establishing an exemption, and it must do so with non-conclusory affidavits. *See*
 11 *Minier v. Central Intelligence Agency*, 88 F.3d 796, 800 (9th Cir. 1996) (government bears
 12 “burden of proving the applicability of an exemption”); *Wiener v. FBI*, 943 F.2d 972, 977 (9th
 13 Cir. 1991) (government must submit non-conclusory affidavits that provide “a particularized
 14 explanation of how disclosure of the particular document would damage the interest protected by
 15 the claimed exemption”).

16 2. FOIA Reflects a Congressional Aversion to Secret Law

17 The case law is clear that agency policies and documents setting forth the reasons
 18 underlying those policies constitute an agency’s “working law” and must be disclosed to the
 19 public. FOIA prohibits agencies from creating “secret law.” Nor can an agency clothe its
 20 working law in secrecy simply because it was drafted by or for attorneys. In recognition of this,
 21 Exemption 5’s qualified privilege for attorney work product applies only to documents prepared
 22 in anticipation of litigating a *particular* matter. It does not extend to an agency’s policy
 23 governing how to handle litigation in general.

24 As the Supreme Court has explained, “[t]he affirmative portion of the Act,” discussed
 25 above, that “expressly requir[es] indexing of . . . ‘statements of policy and interpretations which
 26 have been adopted by the agency,’” “represents a strong congressional aversion to ‘secret
 27 (agency) law.’” *NLRB v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 421 U.S. 132, 153 (1975) (quoting 5 U.S.C. §
 28 552(a)(2) and Davis, *The Information Act: A Preliminary Analysis*, 34 U. Chi. L. Rev. 761, 797

1 (1967)). The Act embodies “an affirmative congressional purpose to require disclosure of
2 documents which have ‘the force and effect of law.’” *Id.* (quoting H.R. Rep. No. 1497, at 7
3 (1966), U.S. Code Cong. & Admin. News, 1966, p. 2424).

4 Exemption 5 – which covers “inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters”
5 protected by the deliberative process and attorney work product/attorney-client privileges – does
6 not allow the government to withhold an agency’s working law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) (2011);
7 *Sears*, 421 U.S. at 149. To the contrary, “[e]xemption 5, properly construed, calls for ‘disclosure
8 of all “opinions and interpretations” which embody the agency’s effective law and policy.’” *Id.* at
9 153 (quoting Davis, *supra* at 797). This exemption simply shields an agency’s ““group thinking
10 in the process of working out its policy and determining what its law shall be,”” in part because
11 the public is only “marginally concerned” with learning about a policy or the reasons in support
12 of a position “an agency has rejected.” *Sears*, 421 U.S. at 152, 153 (quoting Davis, *supra* at 797).
13 By contrast, “the public is vitally concerned with the reasons which did supply the basis for an
14 agency policy actually adopted.” *Id.* at 152. As a result, an actual “agency policy” and “the
15 reasons which ... supply the basis for” its adoption “constitute the ‘working law’ of the agency,”
16 which must be disclosed. *Sears*, 421 U.S. at 152-53.

17 Applying these principles, courts have repeatedly rejected agency efforts to withhold
18 documents setting forth agency policy governing how agency attorneys are to handle litigation.
19 In *Jordan v. United States Department of Justice*, 591 F.2d 753 (D.C. Cir. 1978), the D.C. Circuit
20 rejected DOJ’s effort to withhold documents “relating to the exercise of prosecutorial discretion
21 by the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia and his assistants” on Exemption 5
22 deliberative process and attorney work product grounds. *Id.* at 755, 772.³ The documents, the
23

24 ³ *Jordan* also held that the disputed documents were not exempt under Exemption 2, for
25 “personnel rules and practices.” *Id.* at 763 (quoting 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(2)). The D.C. Circuit
26 subsequently rejected *Jordan*’s analysis of Exemption 2. See *Crooker v. Bureau of Alcohol,*
27 *Tobacco & Firearms*, 670 F.2d 1051, 1073 (D.C. Cir. 1981) (finding exempt Bureau of Alcohol,
28 *Tobacco and Firearms training manual prescribing investigative techniques*). But *Crooker*, left
undisturbed *Jordan*’s Exemption 5 analysis. Moreover, *Crooker* was subsequently abrogated by
the Supreme Court’s decision in *Milner v. Dep’t of Navy*, U.S., 131 S.Ct. 1259 (2011).

1 court found, were “instructions or guidelines issued by the U.S. Attorney and directed at his
2 subordinates” and thus “constitute[d] [the agency’s] ‘effective policy.’” *Id.* at 774.

3 The *Jordan* court had no difficulty rejecting DOJ’s work product argument. The work
4 product privilege shields materials “prepared in anticipation of litigation,” in order to guard
5 against disclosure of the “mental impressions, conclusions, opinions, or legal theories of a party’s
6 attorney or other representative concerning the litigation.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(3); *Hickman v.*
7 *Taylor*, 329 U.S. 495 (1947). The Manual and Guidelines at issue in *Jordan* were “promulgated
8 as general standards to guide the Government lawyers” in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion;
9 they did not contain the type of “factual information, mental impressions” and “legal strategies
10 relevant” to a “particular trial” that the work-product privilege was intended to protect. *Id.* at
11 775-76.

12 In *Coastal States Gas Corp. v. Department of Energy*, 617 F.2d 854 (D.C. Cir. 1980), the
13 D.C. Circuit rejected the agency’s assertion of deliberative process and work product privilege as
14 to memoranda prepared by agency attorneys in response to requests from field staff for
15 “interpretations of regulations.” *Id.* at 857-58; *see also id.* at 865-66, 868. The memoranda were
16 “neutral, objective analyses of agency regulations. They resemble, in fact, question and answer
17 guidelines which might be found in an agency manual.” *Id.* at 863. “A strong theme of our
18 opinions,” the court explained, “has been that an agency will not be permitted to develop a body
19 of ‘secret law,’ used by it in the discharge of its regulatory duties and in its dealings with the
20 public.” *Id.* at 867.

21 More recently, in *Judicial Watch v. United States Department of Homeland Security*,
22 _F.Supp.2d_, 2013 WL 753437, at *15 (D.D.C. Feb. 28, 2013), the court found “agency policies
23 and instructions regarding the exercise of prosecutorial discretion in civil immigration
24 enforcement,” disclosable under FOIA. Even though they were “in a literal sense” prepared “in
25 anticipation of litigation,” they set forth “‘general standards’ to instruct ICE staff attorneys in
26 determining whether to exercise prosecutorial discretion in specific categories of cases,” and thus
27 did “not anticipate litigation in the way the work-product doctrine demands.” *Id.* This was so
28

1 because they did not contain mental impressions or legal theories “relevant to any specific,
2 ongoing or prospective case or cases.” *Id.*

3 Similarly, *American Immigration Council v. United States Department of Homeland*
4 *Security*, 905 F.Supp.2d 206 (D.D.C. 2012), rejected an agency’s assertion of deliberative process
5 and work-product privilege for documents relating to “the role of counsel in immigration
6 proceedings.” *Id.* at 211. For example, the court found disclosable a document providing
7 instructions to “adjudication officers” and “attorneys appearing before [] adjudication officers” on
8 “interview techniques” because the document “conveys existing policies.” *Id.* at 219; *id.* at 218
9 (FOIA “will not ... permit[] [agency] to develop a body of ‘secret law’”) (citation omitted). It
10 also found disclosable documents governing how agency employees were to interact with private
11 counsel during certain legal proceedings and a legal memorandum regarding whether “an INS
12 regulation creates a right to counsel for people seeking admission as refugees.” *Id.* at 221-22. A
13 “neutral, objective analysis” of the law that “convey[s] routine agency policies” but does not
14 relate to “any ‘particular transaction,’” is not covered by the work-product privilege, even if
15 “those policies happen to apply in agency litigation.” *Id.* at 222; *see also Nat’l Council of La*
16 *Raza v. Dep’t of Justice*, 411 F.3d 350, 360 -361 (2d Cir. 2005) (DOJ memos regarding authority
17 of state and local police to enforce immigration laws not exempt from disclosure under
18 deliberative process or attorney client privileges); *Nat’l Immigration Project of Nat’l Lawyers*
19 *Guild v. United States Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 868 F.Supp.2d 284, 289, 295, 297 (S.D.N.Y.
20 2012) (documents relating to agency’s implementation of policy of facilitating return to country
21 of aliens who have been removed from country but thereafter prevailed in petition for review in
22 court not exempt from disclosure under deliberative process or work-product privileges).

23 **B. DOJ’s Position On The Legal Prerequisites For Obtaining Location Tracking**
24 **Orders Constitutes The Agency’s Working Law**

25 DOJ must disclose the documents at issue here because they constitute the agency’s
26 “working law.”

27 “Exemption 5 can never apply” to “‘final opinions,’” one of the categories of documents
28 that FOIA affirmatively requires agencies to disclose in Section 552(a)(2), because these

1 documents ““have the force and effect of law”” and represent the agency’s ““working law.””
2 *Sears*, 421 U.S. at 153-54. Just like “final opinions,” “statements of policy and interpretations
3 which have been adopted by the agency,” are a category of document that FOIA affirmatively
4 requires agencies to disclose, 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2) (2011), and as such constitute the agency’s
5 ““working law.”” *Sears*, 421 U.S. at 152-53. Under *Sears*, policy statements and interpretations
6 are thus simply outside the ambit of Exemption 5. *See also Brennan Center v. Dep’t of Justice*,
7 697 F.3d 184, 198 (2d Cir. 2012) (documents lose protection of Exemption 5 if they have
8 ““operative effect”” and are “equivalent of ‘working law’”). Thus, even if DOJ were correct in its
9 assertion of work-product privilege – which it is not, *see infra* Part III-C – the documents must
10 still be disclosed because FOIA forbids agencies from creating “secret law.”

11 Each of the documents DOJ seeks to withhold constitutes the agency’s working law on
12 location tracking technology.

13 The Executive Office for United States Attorneys (“EOUSA”) seeks to withhold two
14 documents. First, it seeks to withhold “templates for an application and order for the use of a pen
15 register and trap and trace device.” Kornmeier Decl. Ex. C (Doc. 1). The templates “represent
16 the opinions of attorneys for the U.S. Attorney’s Office on the applicable law” and “give advice
17 on what information to include in particular situations.” *Id.* It also seeks to withhold portions of
18 a presentation given to “attorneys in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of
19 California” providing “a legal analysis of issues that may arise in connection with the use of
20 location tracking devices.” *Id.* at Ex. C (Doc. 2).

21 The Criminal Division also seeks to withhold similar types of documents. The documents
22 described as CRM One, Two and Three are legal memoranda that analyze case law (in particular,
23 *Jones*, 132 S.Ct. 945, and *In re Application*, 534 F.Supp.2d 585 (W.D. Pa. 2008)), and are
24 intended “as an aid for federal prosecutors in their current and future litigations.” Cunningham
25 Decl. ¶ 15; *see also id.* (“provides guidance to federal prosecutors”). CRM Four and Five are
26 excerpts from “USABook,” which “functions as a legal resource book or reference guide for
27 federal prosecutors.” *Id.* at ¶ 16.

28

1 Like the DOJ manual and guidelines at issue in *Jordan*, all of these documents “are
2 instructions or guidelines issued by the U.S. Attorney and directed at his subordinates. They
3 consist of positive rules that create definite standards for Assistant U.S. Attorneys to follow. . . .
4 While they may not be absolutely binding on each Assistant, the guidelines do express the settled
5 and established policy of the U.S. Attorney’s Office.” *Jordan*, 591 F.2d at 774. The withheld
6 memos (EOUSA Doc. 2 and Criminal Division CRM One, Two and Three) analyze the law on
7 location tracking; as “neutral, objective analyses” of the law, they must be disclosed. *Coastal*
8 *States*, 617 F.2d at 863. The template pen register applications and orders and excerpts of the
9 USABook (EOUSA Doc. 1 and Criminal Division CRM Four and Five) are guidance documents
10 used by agency personnel “in the discharge of [their] duties and in [their] dealings with” the
11 courts and the individuals who are the subject of location tracking orders. *Id.* at 867.
12 Withholding these documents would result in DOJ “develop[ing] a body of ‘secret law’” on
13 location tracking. *Id.* FOIA does not tolerate such a result.⁴

14 The danger of secrecy is compounded because – notwithstanding the right of access to
15 judicial records – location tracking orders are frequently applied for and issued under indefinite
16 seal. *See In re sealing*, 562 F.Supp.2d at 878. The public thus has a heightened interest in
17 gaining access to DOJ’s policy and guidance documents. *Cf. Sears*, 421 U.S. at 152 (“public is
18 vitally concerned with the reasons which did supply the basis for an agency policy actually
19 adopted”). Without such access, it has limited means of gaining an understanding of the legal

20 _____
21 ⁴ DOJ does not contend that the documents are covered by the deliberative process privilege, and
22 rightly so, given that they reflect the agency’s final policy position on location tracking issues. In
23 addition, templates used by Assistant United States Attorneys to draft pleadings that they
24 ultimately file in court would clearly not be covered by any deliberative process privilege under
25 the doctrine of incorporation. *See, e.g., Coastal States*, 617 F.2d at 866 (“even if the document is
26 predecisional at the time it is prepared, it can lose that status if it is adopted, formally or
27 informally, as the agency position on an issue or is used by the agency in its dealings with the
28 public”). And the applications and orders for location tracking that are filed with the court are
judicial records to which the public has a right of access. *See generally See Press-Enterprise Co.*
v. Superior Court of California, 478 U.S. 1 (1986); *Nixon v. Warner Commc ’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S.
589, 597 (1978); *United States v. Bus. of the Custer Battlefield Museum and Store Located at*
Interstate 90, Exit 514, South of Billings, Montana, 658 F.3d 1188, 1196 (9th Cir. 2011) (common
law right of access attaches to search warrant materials once investigation has concluded).

1 prerequisites followed by the federal government in obtaining location tracking orders. This
2 information is “a topic of considerable public interest.” *ACLU v. Dep’t of Justice*, 655 F.3d 1, 12-
3 13 (D.C. Cir. 2011) (“The use of and justification for warrantless cell phone tracking is a topic of
4 considerable public interest: it has received widespread media attention and has been a focus of
5 ... congressional hearings” on whether legislation “should be revised either to limit or to facilitate
6 the practice.”) (footnotes omitted).

7 **C. The Withheld Documents Are Not Exempt Work Product Because They**
8 **Simply Set Forth General Legal Standards**

9 The documents DOJ seeks to withhold are *not* exempt work-product. They are neutral,
10 objective analyses of the law and they do not analyze any particular matter.

11 **1. The EOUSA Documents Are Not Work-Product**

12 DOJ contends that the template used by U.S. Attorneys in the Northern District in
13 applying for pen register/trap and trace orders and that office’s legal analysis of issues that “may
14 arise in connection with the use of location tracking devices” are privileged work product because
15 they “incorporate[] interpretations of the law by the U.S. Attorney’s Office” and “represent[] the
16 opinions of attorneys in that office.” *See* DOJ Br. 7, ECF No. 23.

17 DOJ places great emphasis on the fact that these documents are authored by and for
18 lawyers. But “[t]he work-product rule does not extend to every written document generated by an
19 attorney; it does not shield from disclosure everything that a lawyer does. Its purpose is more
20 narrow, its reach more modest.” *Jordan*, 591 F.2d at 775. The withheld documents simply
21 “convey agency policies and instructions regarding” how attorneys should apply for location
22 tracking orders. *Judicial Watch*, F.Supp.2d, 2013 WL 753437, at * 15 (work product did not
23 cover “agency policies and instructions regarding the exercise of prosecutorial discretion in civil
24 immigration enforcement”). “The fact that those policies happen to apply in agency litigation
25 does not shield [them] from disclosure.” *Am. Immigration Council*, 905 F.Supp.2d at 222.

26 As in *Jordan*, these documents set forth “*general* standards to guide the Government
27 lawyers” in applying for orders seeking location tracking information; they do not contain
28

1 “factual information, mental impressions,” or “legal theories” relating to any “*particular*” matter.
2 591 F.2d at 775-76 (emphasis added).

3 DOJ’s characterization of the template as “provid[ing] advice on what information to
4 include in particular situations” cannot change this. DOJ Br. 7. A template is by definition not
5 case-specific and is necessarily authored without regard to any individual fact pattern. The fact
6 that it provides generalized guidance to attorneys on how to handle “specific categories of cases”
7 does not make it work-product. *See Judicial Watch, _F.Supp.2d_,* 2013 WL 753437, at *15
8 (ordering disclosure of documents setting forth “‘general standards’ to instruct ICE staff attorneys
9 in determining whether to exercise prosecutorial discretion in specific categories of cases”).

10 **2. The Criminal Division Documents Are Not Work-Product**

11 The five documents sought to be withheld by the Criminal Division are similarly not
12 exempt work-product.

13 In *Delaney, Migdail & Young v. IRS*, 826 F.2d 124 (D.C. Cir. 1987), cited by DOJ, the
14 Second Circuit distinguished between non-exempt ‘neutral, objective analyses’” of the law, which
15 “like an agency manual, form[] a body of interpretive law” that guides the agency’s conduct, and
16 a memo that sets forth “the agency’s attorneys’ assessment of the... legal vulnerabilities” of a
17 particular course of action undertaken by an agency (in that case, a statistical sampling program
18 on which the IRS embarked). *Id.* at 127.

19 CRM One, Two, and Three analyze the implications of recent case law. According to
20 DOJ, the memos “provide[] guidance to federal prosecutors” by setting forth the legal positions
21 that prosecutors can assert in current and future cases in light of recent decisions. DOJ Br. 8.
22 CRM Four and Five are portions of the USABook which “functions as a legal resource book and
23 reference guide,” and, like the memos, “are designed to aid federal prosecutors in their current
24 and future litigation.” *Id.* at 9.

25 DOJ’s own description of the documents suggest that they are “‘neutral, objective
26 analyses’” of the law, rather than an assessment of the “legal vulnerabilities” of any particular
27 criminal proceeding. *Delaney*, 826 F.2d at 127; *see also Am. Immigration Council*, 905
28 F.Supp.2d at 222 (“[n]eutral, objective analysis is ‘like an agency manual, fleshing out the

1 meaning of the law, and thus is not prepared in anticipation of litigation”); DOJ Br. 9 (“up-to-
2 date legal analysis and guidance”).

3 Moreover, as a guide for prosecutors in “current and future litigation,” the memos clearly
4 set forth principles applicable to the agency’s prosecutions across the board, rather than an
5 analysis of any specific prosecution. *See Am. Immigration Council*, 905 F.Supp.2d at 222
6 (documents that were prepared “literally ‘in anticipation of litigation’ . . . do not anticipate
7 litigation in the manner that the privilege requires” unless they analyze a “particular
8 transaction”). Like the EOUSA documents, these documents are conceptually indistinguishable
9 from the DOJ Manual and guidelines for prosecutors that the D.C. Circuit in *Jordan* ordered
10 disclosed.⁵

11 3. Publicly Available Documents Illustrate Why The Withheld 12 Documents Are Not Exempt Work Product

13 It also bears note that the documents DOJ seeks to withhold in this action are very similar
14 to guidance memos, manuals, and template applications and orders that the DOJ has long made
15 available to the public without causing any injury to the adversary process. Because these
16 publicly available guidance memos and manuals – like the withheld documents – are not case-
17 specific, they do not reveal the type of “mental impressions” and “private memoranda” that the
18 attorney work-product privilege is intended to protect. *Hickman*, 329 U.S. at 510.

19 For example, in 2004, the Supreme Court issued *Blakely v. Washington*, 542 U.S. 296, 305
20 (2004), which held that a state court’s sentencing of a defendant pursuant to Washington state

21 ⁵ DOJ’s cases do not support its claim of work-product exemption. *Raytheon Aircraft Co. v.*
22 *United States Army Corps of Eng’rs*, 183 F.Supp.2d 1280 (D. Kan. 2001), held that certain reports
23 discussing the production, use and disposal of certain chemical compounds were protected work
24 product because they were generated in response to “identified litigation where these issues had
25 arisen.” *Id.* at 1289; *see also id.* (“Corps has sufficiently shown the reports were created in
26 anticipation of specific and pending litigation”). *Heggstad v. United Dep’t of Justice*, 182
27 F.Supp.2d 1 (D.D.C. 2000), involved memos prepared by prosecutors about the decision to
28 prosecute in particular criminal investigations. *Id.* at 8. The documents DOJ seeks to withhold,
by contrast, set forth general legal standards, not an analysis of issues arising in “identified
litigation” or strategic decisions regarding any particular investigation. *Raytheon*, 183 F.Supp.2d
at 1289. In *New York Times v. United States Dep’t of Defense*, 499 F.Supp.2d 501 (S.D.N.Y.
2007), the plaintiff “concede[d]” that the documents were “properly withheld as attorney work
product.” *Id.* at 517.

1 sentencing guidelines, to a term that exceeded the statutory maximum, based on facts found by
2 the judge at sentencing, violated the Sixth Amendment. DOJ issued a memo provid[ing]
3 “guidance for federal prosecutors concerning the legal positions and charging practices of the
4 United States in light of the *Blakely* decision.” July 2, 2004 Memorandum from Deputy Attorney
5 General Comey to Federal Prosecutors regarding “Departmental Legal Positions and Policies in
6 Light of *Blakely v. Washington*,” attached as Lye Decl., Ex. 4 at 1. The memo sets forth DOJ’s
7 position that *Blakely* does not apply to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and the position that
8 prosecutors were to assert if courts disagreed. *Id.* at 1-2. Although the memo was clearly
9 intended, like the withheld memos in this case, as an aid to prosecutors in current and future
10 litigation, it provided a neutral, objective analysis of *Blakely* and contained no analysis of any
11 individual matters pending before prosecutors. *See also* November 9, 2001 Memorandum from
12 Attorney General to United States’ Attorneys regarding *United States v. Emerson*, attached as Lye
13 Decl. Ex. 5.

14 Similarly, DOJ makes public its 2005 Electronic Surveillance Manual, which includes
15 template applications and orders, and the United States Attorneys’ Manual, which is “designed as
16 a . . . reference for . . . Department attorneys responsible for the prosecution of violations of
17 federal law.” *See* Lye Decl. ¶¶ 14, 17 & Ex. 7 at 56-62 (sample application), 53-71 (sample
18 affidavit), 72-76 (sample order), Ex. 8 at §1-1.100. Public DOJ documents, exactly like the
19 withheld template from the Northern District U.S. Attorney’s Office and the USA Book excerpts,
20 provide “factual information regarding specific investigative techniques and discuss[] potential
21 legal strategies, defenses, and arguments.” DOJ Br. 9; *see* Lye Decl. ¶¶ 15-16 & Ex. 6
22 (Electronic Surveillance Issues) at 151, 153 (providing detailed factual description of “electronic
23 devices that allow agents to determine the location of certain cellular phones by the electronic
24 signals that they broadcast”), 155 (discussing legal arguments to support collection by law
25 enforcement of cell phone transmissions “directly using its own devices”), Ex. 7 (Electronic
26 Surveillance Manual) at 42 (recommending legal approach for obtaining historical cell phone
27 location information from providers).

1 Plaintiffs do not contend that the inapplicability of the work-product exemption to the
 2 *Blakely* memo or DOJ's publicly available manuals dictates the result in this case. But these
 3 memos and manuals demonstrate that disclosure of DOJ's general policy position on legal issues
 4 causes no harm to the adversary process and instead serves the salutary purpose of ensuring that
 5 the agency does not create a body of secret law.

6 **D. The Criminal Division Documents Are Not Covered By Exemption 7(E)**

7 DOJ has not met its burden of establishing that the Criminal Division documents are
 8 exempt under FOIA's Exemption 7(E) for law enforcement techniques and procedures, disclosure
 9 of which "risk circumvention of the law." 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(7)(E) (2011). First, the agency seeks
 10 to withhold information about location tracking techniques that are well known to the public.
 11 Second, the agency offers legal boilerplate but no explanation of how disclosure would
 12 reasonably give rise to a risk of circumvention. Nor is any such explanation self-evident. To the
 13 contrary, the withheld documents pertain to the *legal standards* governing the government's use
 14 of location tracking technology. They are not investigative or technical manuals for FBI agents.
 15 Disclosure of the government's position regarding its own statutory and constitutional obligations
 16 does not give rise to a risk of circumvention; it keeps the government accountable to the public.

17 **1. The Withheld Documents Pertain to Well-Known Location Tracking
 18 Techniques**

19 Exemption 7(E) protects only investigative techniques or procedures that are "not
 20 generally known to the public." *Rosenfeld v. Dep't of Justice*, 57 F.3d 803, 815 (9th Cir. 1995).
 21 "It would not serve the purposes of FOIA to allow the government to withhold information to
 22 keep secret an investigative technique that is routine and generally known." *Id.* DOJ
 23 impermissibly seeks to invoke this exemption to withhold documents that discuss well-known
 24 techniques.

25 CRM One discusses GPS devices. Cunningham Decl. ¶ 21. DOJ cannot plausibly argue
 26 that the federal government's use of GPS devices is not generally known in light of, among other
 27 things, the Supreme Court's decision in *Jones* on GPS devices and countless media articles on the
 28 topic, a small sampling of which are attached to Plaintiffs' FOIA request and prompted DOJ to

1 grant this request expedited processing. *See* news articles attached as tabs 1-48 of FOIA Request,
2 attached as Lye Decl., Ex. 1.

3 CRM Three discusses requests for historical cellular telephone location information
4 (Cunningham Decl. ¶ 23), but this technique too is well known to the public, as evidenced by,
5 among other things, DOJ's Electronic Surveillance Issues publication, and its Electronic
6 Surveillance Manual, which both discuss the issue (*see* Lye Decl., Ex. 6 at 151-52, Ex. 7 at 41-
7 42), and reams of news articles, a small sampling of which are attached to Plaintiffs' FOIA
8 request. *See* news articles attached as tabs 49-102 of FOIA Request, attached as Lye Decl., Ex. 1.

9 CRM Four discusses a number of techniques – all various forms of tracking someone's
10 location through their cellular phone or vehicle. The *Vaughn* index identifies the specific location
11 tracking technologies discussed: “Obtaining Location Information from Wireless Carriers,”
12 “Mobile Tracking Devices,” and “Telematics Providers (OnStar, etc).” Cunningham Decl. at Ex.
13 2:24. CRM Five describes “electronic tracking devices – generally and cellular telephone
14 location information.” *Id.* at Ex. 2:31. As discussed above, the government's technique of
15 obtaining location information from wireless carriers is already well known – both efforts to
16 obtain location information of individual subscribers but also information of all the subscribers
17 who were close to one or more cell towers (through requests known as “cell tower dumps”) – as
18 evidenced by, among other things, the news articles discussed above and judicial opinions
19 addressing these techniques. *See supra* Part II (citing cases). Also well known to the public is the
20 government's use of “mobile tracking devices,” such as GPS (*see supra*), and cell site simulators
21 (also called IMSI catchers (in reference to the unique International Mobile Subscriber Identity
22 number assigned to wireless device), digital analyzers, or triggerfish), which are discussed in
23 DOJ's publicly available guides and manuals, and have been the subject of extensive media
24 coverage. *See* Electronic Surveillance Issues (Lye Decl., Ex. 6) at 151, 153; Electronic
25 Surveillance Manual (Lye Decl., Ex. 7) at 40, 48; Lye Decl. at ¶ 19 & Ex. 10 (attaching 24 news
26
27
28

1 articles about the government’s use of IMSI catchers). Finally, the public is already well aware
2 that the government can obtain location information from telematics providers such as OnStar.⁶

3 DOJ apparently seeks to avoid the obvious legal consequence of the extensive publicity
4 surrounding these techniques by asserting that each of the documents discusses “[t]he *specific*
5 techniques available to prosecutors” and “the *circumstances* in which such techniques might be
6 employed.” Cunningham Decl. at ¶ 21, 23, 24 (emphasis added). But DOJ’s argument is
7 foreclosed by the Ninth Circuit’s decision in *Rosenfeld*, which long ago rejected the FBI’s
8 argument that a “more precise” application of a well-known technique falls under Exemption 7(E)
9 simply because the more precise application is not generally known. *Rosenfeld*, 57 F.3d at 815
10 (“We are not persuaded by the government’s argument that the technique at issue is more precise .
11 . . .”). As the Ninth Circuit explained, “[t]his argument proves too much. If we were to follow
12 such reasoning, the government could withhold information under Exemption 7(E) under any
13 circumstances, no matter how obvious the investigative practice at issue, simply by saying that
14 the ‘investigative technique’ at issue is not the practice but the application of the practice to the
15 particular facts underlying that FOIA request.” *Id.* Other courts have also rejected agency efforts
16 to focus on whether the particular “circumstances” of a technique’s use are well-known. *See*
17 *Davin v. Dep’t of Justice*, 60 F.3d 1043, 1064 (3d Cir. 1995) (rejecting FBI’s argument that
18 “despite the fact that certain law enforcement techniques, such as the use of informants, may be
19 well known to the public, disclosure is nevertheless not warranted where the circumstances
20 surrounding the *usefulness* of these techniques is not well known”).

21 With respect to CRM Two, it is unclear what investigative techniques are at issue. But
22 DOJ provides no factual basis to support its conclusory assertion that the techniques discussed are

23
24 ⁶ “Originally coined to mean the convergence of telecommunications and information processing,
25 the term later evolved to refer to automation in automobiles. GPS navigation, integrated hands-
26 free cellphones, wireless communications and automatic driving assistance systems all come
27 under the telematics umbrella. General Motor’s OnStar was the first to combine GPS with
28 roadside assistance and remote diagnostics.” *Definition of Telematics*, PC Magazine,
<http://www.pcmag.com/encyclopedia/term/52693/telematics> (last visited June 26, 2013). *See also*
Lye Decl. at ¶ 18 & Ex. 9 (attaching news articles on government access to telematics data such
as OnStar).

1 not well known. *See Minier*, 88 F.3d at 800 (government bears burden of proving exemption).
2 Courts have repeatedly found the recitation of legal boilerplate insufficient to sustain the
3 government’s burden of proving a technique to be not publicly known. *Compare, e.g., Nat’l Sec.*
4 *Archive v. FBI*, 759 F.Supp. 872, 885 (D.D.C. 1991) (declaration that techniques are “lawful and
5 not generally known to the public” held “too conclusory”), *Fitzgibbon v. United States Secret*
6 *Serv.*, 747 F.Supp. 51, 60 (D.D.C. 1990) (“Both agencies assert that these techniques are not
7 generally known to the public . . . [h]owever, these claims are general and cursory at best”), *with*
8 *Cunningham Decl.* ¶ 22 (“CRM Two thus describes law enforcement techniques and procedures,
9 as well as guidelines for law enforcement investigations and prosecutions that are not publicly
10 known”). Moreover, the agency’s declaration uses the *identical* boilerplate (the document “thus
11 describes law enforcement techniques, as well as guidelines for law enforcement investigations
12 that are not publicly known”) to describe the unspecified techniques in CRM Two and the well-
13 publicized techniques discussed in the other four documents, *see id.* at ¶¶ 21, 23, 24, thus further
14 diminishing the weight that should be attributed to this conclusory assertion.

15 In short, DOJ has not met its burden of proving that each of the techniques discussed in
16 the withheld documents is not generally known and the record affirmatively contradicts any such
17 conclusory assertion.

18 2. Disclosure of Legal Standards Do Not Raise A Risk Of Circumvention

19 DOJ has not met its burden for a second and independent reason. The agency has not
20 explained why disclosure of these documents would risk circumvention of the law. Indeed,
21 documents setting forth legal standards do not risk circumvention; they merely ensure the
22 government does not create “secret law.”

23 “In order to justify non-disclosure, the [agency] must provide non-conclusory reasons why
24 disclosure of each category of withheld documents would risk circumvention of the law.”

25 *Feshbach v. SEC*, 5 F.Supp.2d 774, 787 (N.D. Cal. 1997). DOJ asserts only the legal conclusion
26 that “disclosure of this information could provide individuals with information that would allow
27 them to violate the law while evading detection by federal law enforcement.” *Cunningham Decl.*

28 ¶¶ 21, 22, 23, 24; DOJ Br. 13. Courts have repeatedly rejected such conclusory assertions of the

1 statutory standard as insufficient to justify withholding documents under Exemption 7(E). *See,*
2 *e.g., PHE, Inc. v. Dep't of Justice*, 983 F.2d 248, 252 (D.C. Cir. 1993) (finding that the
3 government's declaration that manual on law governing obscenity would provide defendants
4 with "a crystal ball view of what they will face from the prosecution" was "too vague and
5 conclusory" because it failed to "provid[e] reasons why releasing each withheld section would
6 create a risk of circumvention"); *Friedman v. United States Secret Serv.*, F.Supp.2d, 2013 WL
7 588228, at *21 (D.D.C. Feb. 14, 2013) (agency "fail[ed] to demonstrate" that information exempt
8 under 7(E) where declaration stated only that disclosure of "guidelines for law enforcement
9 investigations or prosecutions . . . could reasonably be expected to risk the circumvention of the
10 law"); *Voinche v. FBI*, 412 F.Supp.2d 60, 69 (D.D.C. 2006) (FBI declaration that "merely quotes
11 the statutory language of Exemption 7(E), and states: '[t]his existence of this procedure is not
12 generally known to the public and the release of such may risk circumvention of the law'" held
13 insufficient to support exemption); *Feshbach*, 5 F.Supp.2d at 787 (granting summary judgment
14 for Plaintiffs on (b)(7)(E)).

15 Moreover, the risk of circumvention is hardly self-evident. DOJ's own submissions make
16 clear that the withheld documents pertain to tracking the location of individuals through their
17 cellular phones or vehicles. *See, e.g.,* Cunningham Decl. Ex. 2:23 ("GPS Tracking Devices"), Ex.
18 C:24 ("Obtaining Location Information from Wireless Carriers," "Telematics Providers (OnStar,
19 etc.)"); Ex. C 30 ("physical tracking device in or on a vehicle"). Potential violators already know
20 that to evade detection, they must limit or avoid cell phone or vehicular use. DOJ offers no
21 explanation why disclosure of particular methods of locating cell phones or vehicles would
22 increase the risk of circumvention.

23 More fundamentally, given the nature of these documents, their disclosure simply does not
24 create a risk of circumvention. The documents discuss the *legal standards* governing the use of
25 location tracking technology. *PHE*, on which DOJ relies, distinguished between a portion of an
26 *investigatory* manual – which "detailed" among other things "records and sources of
27 information available to Agents investigating obscenity violations, as well as the type of patterns
28 of criminal activity to look for when investigating certain violations" – and a *legal* manual that

1 provided “a step by step analysis of [obscenity] law.” 983 F.2d at 251. Disclosure of the
 2 former, the court held, risked circumvention because potential violators could “tamper” with
 3 “sources of information” identified in the document. *Id.* But the court went on to hold that
 4 disclosure of the legal manual’s discussion of the law “is precisely the type of information
 5 appropriate for release under the FOIA,” which “mandates the release of materials that contain
 6 ‘secret law,’” and thus rejected the agency’s claim of exemption under 7(E). *Id.* at 251-52.

7 Exactly like the obscenity manual in *PHE*, the documents DOJ seeks to withhold contain
 8 “advice to prosecutors” on substantive legal issues. *Compare id.* at 252, with Cunningham
 9 Decl. ¶¶ 15-16. This is “precisely the type of information appropriate for release under the
 10 FOIA.” *PHE*, 983 F.2d at 251 (rejecting agency’s assertion of 7(E)).

11 **E. DOJ Has Failed To Demonstrate That It Released All Reasonably Segregable**
 12 **Information**

13 DOJ has withheld CRM Three, Four, and Five in their entirety. It has also withheld 53
 14 pages of CRM One and 53 pages of CRM Two. *See* Cunningham Decl. ¶ 10. Plaintiffs do not
 15 challenge DOJ’s withholding of information identifying the attorneys who prepared some of these
 16 documents, but DOJ has not met its burden of showing that it has released all reasonably
 17 segregable non-exempt information.

18 FOIA requires agencies to provide “[a]ny reasonably segregable portion of a record . . .
 19 after deletion of the portions which are exempt under this subsection.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (2011).
 20 Agencies must “provide the reasons behind their conclusions” that a document is not reasonably
 21 segregable “in order that they may be challenged by FOIA plaintiffs and reviewed by the courts.”
 22 *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. Dep’t of the Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977); *see also*
 23 *Wiener*, 943 F.2d at 977 (non-conclusory agency declaration necessary “to ‘afford the FOIA
 24 requester a meaningful opportunity to contest, and the district court an adequate foundation to
 25 review, the soundness of the withholding”). In addition, the agency declaration must also
 26 “describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-exempt and how that material
 27 is dispersed throughout the document.” *Mead*, 566 F.2d at 261. District courts must “make
 28 specific findings on the issue of segregability” and may not “simply approve the withholding of

1 an entire document without entering a finding on segregability.” *Wiener*, 943 F.2d at 988
2 (internal quotation marks, citation omitted).

3 DOJ’s declaration states merely: “The documents withheld in their entirety contain no
4 meaningful portion that could be released without destroying the integrity of the document or
5 without disclosing third-party interests.” Cunningham Decl. ¶ 28. But third-party privacy can
6 readily be protected without withholding entire documents. *See, e.g., Gordon v. FBI*, 390
7 F.Supp.2d 897, 901 (N.D. Cal. 2004) (“[I]f the government was merely concerned with protecting
8 the privacy rights of the [third parties,] it could have simply redacted their names and other
9 identifying information. It did not; instead, it redacted the entire discussion of each incident.”).
10 But there is no explanation whatsoever of why any exempt information cannot be segregated.

11 DOJ’s declaration is indistinguishable from conclusory recitations of the legal standard
12 that courts have repeatedly found to “fall short of the specificity required . . . to properly
13 determine whether the non-exempt information is, in fact, not reasonably segregable.” *Branch v.*
14 *FBI*, 658 F.Supp. 204, 210 (D.D.C. 1987) (FBI affidavit stated “[e]very effort was made to
15 provide plaintiff with all reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the material requested”);
16 *see also, e.g., Lawyers’ Comm. for Civil Rights of San Francisco Bay Area v. Dep’t of Treasury*,
17 2008 WL 4482855, at *14 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 30, 2008) (statement that agency “determined that
18 there was no reasonably segregable information that could be released” inadequate to justify
19 withholding entire documents because agency required to “*explain*[] why segregation is not
20 possible in this case”).

21 Information identifying DOJ attorneys can easily be segregated; that exemption does not
22 justify withholding entire documents or 53-page portions of documents. And even if DOJ could
23 establish that some additional material is exempt, it has still not met its burden of justifying the
24 wholesale withholding at issue here.

25 **F. FOIA Does Not Permit Agencies to Withhold Non-Exempt Portions Of**
26 **Responsive Records**

27 Finally, DOJ has stated that portions of CRM Two, Four, and Five are deemed “non-
28 responsive.” Cunningham Decl. Ex. 2:23, 24 & 31. To the extent it seeks to withhold portions of

1 responsive documents on the ground that certain portions are “non-responsive,” FOIA does not
2 permit it to do so.⁷

3 The Ninth Circuit has long held that FOIA’s “policy of broad disclosure” means that
4 “[w]hen a request is made, an agency may withhold a document, *or portions thereof, only if the*
5 *information contained in the document falls within one of nine statutory exemptions to the*
6 *disclosure requirement contained in § 552(b).” Church of Scientology v. Dep’t of Army, 611 F.2d*
7 *738, 741-42 (9th Cir. 1979) (emphasis added). Thus, the statute authorizes withholding only of*
8 *those portions of responsive documents covered by one of the statutory exemptions; there is no*
9 *“non-responsive” exemption. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(1)-(9) (2011).*

10 The reasoning in the only circuit decision to address the issue supports this view. In
11 *Dettmann v. U.S. Department of Justice, 802 F.2d 1472 (D.C. Cir. 1986)*, the plaintiff, who
12 requested ““all documents”” containing references to her, argued that the language of the request
13 required the FBI “to disclose the entire document(s)” in which responsive information was found.
14 *Id.* at 1475. The court “acknowledge[ed] the force of [this] argument,” and rejected “the
15 Government’s parsimonious reading” of the request that led it to disclose only the specific
16 portions of records pertaining to plaintiff. *Id.* at 1475, 1476. But it found that she had not
17 administratively exhausted the issue. *See id.* at 1476-77. One judge dissented on the procedural
18 issue, but agreed that the redactions were improper. *See id.* at 1478 (Gesell, D.J., dissenting).
19 Like the request in *Dettmann*, this request seeks complete “documents” and “records.” *See* FOIA
20 Request at page 2 (“We request disclosure of agency records”); page 3 (“Any documents . . .
21 related to the use or policies of utilizing any location tracking technology”), *attached* as Campbell
22 Decl. Ex. 1. Under the *Dettmann* majority and dissent, the wording of this request precludes DOJ
23 from redacting parts of responsive documents as “non-responsive,” because the request was for
24 the “documents” and records themselves.⁸

25 _____
26 ⁷ Plaintiffs do not contend that the agency is precluded from withholding non-responsive *documents*;
27 merely that it may not withhold *portions* of responsive documents solely on the ground that they are non-
28 responsive.

⁸ The Justice Department issued guidance in 2006 that allows for “scoping” within a single page
of a document, but it expressly prohibits the government from making a unilateral decision to
ACLU-NC, et al. v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CASE No.: 12-cv-4008-MEJ
PLTFS’ CROSS-MOTION AND OPPOSITION

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 Disclosure to the public of the Department of Justice’s statement of the legal standards
3 governing use of electronic surveillance does not provide adversaries in litigation an unfair
4 advantage or allow potential violators to circumvent the law. It simply ensures that the federal
5 government does not make surveillance law in secret. For the foregoing reasons, the Court should
6 grant Plaintiffs’ motion for partial summary judgment and require DOJ to disclose the withheld
7 information. *See Feshbach*, 5 F.Supp.2d at 787 (where agency “failed to present substantial
8 evidence in opposition to” FOIA requester’s motion for summary judgment, court granted
9 summary judgment for requester on exemption).

10
11 Dated: June 27, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

12 By: _____ /s/
13 Linda Lye

14 Michael T. Risher
15 Linda Lye
16 AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

17 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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25 withhold parts of documents as non-responsive without giving the requestor an opportunity to
26 request and obtain the entire document. *See FOIA Counselor Q & A*, U.S. Dep’t of Justice FOIA
27 Post, <http://www.justice.gov/oip/foiapost/2006foiapost3.htm> (citing 1995 FOIA Update Vol.
28 XVI, No. 3) (last visited June 26, 2013). At no time did DOJ give Plaintiffs an opportunity to
request and obtain the entire documents, portions of which DOJ now contends are non-
responsive. *See Lye Decl.* at ¶ 8.