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Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment

From: Beatriz Molina <beebeemolina@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 8:44 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: letter of support for Agenda Item I Number 26-00347
Attachments: meba ltr supporting Capps proposal on 3 items,.docx



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**Milpas Eastside Business Association
P.O. Box 41726
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April 20, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Subject: Urgent Call to Protect County Sovereignty, Democratic Integrity, and
Community Stability**

Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Milpas Eastside Business Association, I write to express our strong and unequivocal support for immediate and decisive action on three critical issues that directly impact the safety, dignity, and stability of our community—particularly the Eastside, a predominantly Latino, working-class neighborhood that is already navigating significant economic and social challenges.

1. Protect County Property from Federal Immigration Enforcement Incursions County property must remain safe and neutral space for all residents. The use of county facilities for federal immigration enforcement actions undermines trust in local government, discourages residents from accessing essential services, and erodes public safety. When families fear that visiting a clinic, reporting a crime, or attending a public meeting could expose them to immigration enforcement, the entire community suffers.

We urge the Board to adopt clear and enforceable policies that prohibit the use of county resources, property, and personnel in support of federal immigration enforcement activities that are not mandated by law. Santa Barbara County must stand firm in its commitment to being a place where all residents—regardless of status—can safely live, work, and contribute.

2. Safeguard Our Elections from Federal Interference

The integrity of our local elections is foundational to our democracy. Any form of federal interference—whether direct or indirect—threatens the independence of our electoral processes and undermines public confidence.

We call on the Board to reaffirm its commitment to protecting local election administration, ensuring that decisions about how elections are conducted remain in the hands of trusted local officials. Our residents must have full confidence that their voices are heard without intimidation, manipulation, or external pressure.

3. Block the Establishment of Mass Immigration Detention Centers in Unincorporated Areas
The potential development of large-scale immigration detention facilities in unincorporated areas of the county raises profound concerns. These facilities not only disrupt the character and stability of communities, but they also pose serious humanitarian, economic, and public safety implications.

Historically, such centers have been associated with inadequate oversight, negative impacts on surrounding communities, and the normalization of mass detention practices that conflict with the values of fairness and due process. Santa Barbara County must not become a site for policies that separate families and institutionalize fear.

We strongly urge the Board to take proactive measures—including zoning restrictions, land use controls, and policy directives—to prevent the establishment of any new immigration detention facilities within county jurisdiction.

Conclusion

MEBA strongly supports the proposal that the county is currently proposing: Special Agenda Item 1, Number 26-00347.

Santa Barbara County has long been recognized as a place that values community, inclusion, and justice. The decisions before you are not merely administrative—they are moral and civic in nature. They will define whether our county continues to be a place of opportunity and trust, or one where fear and division take root.

We respectfully urge you to act boldly and decisively in protecting our residents, preserving local authority, and upholding the democratic values that define our region.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the people of Santa Barbara County.

Respectfully submitted,

Beatriz Molina

Milpas Eastside Business Association Board of Directors