



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

Tanja Heitman, Assistant County Executive Officer

Wade Horton, Assistant County Executive Officer

July 18, 2025

Acting Director Todd Lyons
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20536

Subject: Impact of ICE Enforcement Actions in Santa Barbara County, California and Request for Information

Acting Director Lyons:

On behalf of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors, I write to formally request information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), for clarification regarding recent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement actions that have taken place within our County's jurisdiction.

This request follows a public meeting of the Board of Supervisors on July 15, 2025, in which they voted unanimously to send this request. At that meeting, multiple elected officials and approximately 50 members of the public raised serious concerns about the impact of ICE enforcement operations on individuals, families, and the broader community. Many residents expressed frustration, anger, and a desire for greater transparency and accountability in the conduct of federal immigration enforcement activities. Community members expressed widespread fear, which is undermining their trust in government institutions.

To that end, please provide the following information:

1. Timeline and Locations of ICE Activity in Santa Barbara County

Dates, times, and specific locations of all ICE raids, arrests, and enforcement operations that have taken place in Santa Barbara County between January 20 and July 18, 2025.

2. Identification of Individuals Detained

Names of all individuals who have been detained in the course of these operations, and the stated reasons for their apprehension.

3. Federal Rules and Operational Guidelines

Documentation of the specific rules and protocols that ICE agents are instructed to follow during raids and arrests. In particular:


- Whether agents are required to identify themselves as federal ICE officers, and if so, in what manner;
- Guidelines that govern agent interactions with members of the public that they approach;
- Guidelines that govern how and when ICE informs local law enforcement about operations; and
- What safeguards are in place to uphold individuals' constitutional rights.



As a local government, we are committed to public safety and to the fair and respectful treatment of all residents, regardless of immigration status. This means respect for constitutional rights, due process, equal protection under the law, and freedom from unlawful searches, seizures, and discriminatory enforcement. To maintain trust between the federal government and our community, transparency is critical.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and request a response by August 12, 2025. If further clarification is needed, we welcome the opportunity to engage directly with ICE representatives.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Mona Miyasato
County Executive Officer
County of Santa Barbara, California

Cc:

Members of the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Senator Alex Padilla
Senator Adam Schiff
Congressman Salud Carbajal

Attachments:

County of Santa Barbara, Board of Supervisors, Minute Order July 15, 2025



County of Santa Barbara

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minute Order

July 15, 2025

Present: 5 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, Supervisor Hartmann, Supervisor Nelson, and Supervisor Lavagnino

SUPERVISOR CAPPS

File Reference No. 25-00666

RE: HEARING - Consider recommendations regarding Discussion on Recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Activities in Santa Barbara County, as follows: (EST. TIME: 30 MIN.)

- a) Receive a report on recent ICE activities in Santa Barbara County, including the federal operation near Carpinteria on July 10, 2025;
- b) Provide any direction, as appropriate; and
- c) Determine that these actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to Section 15378(b)(5), the recommended actions consist of organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

HEARING TIME: 11:45 AM - 3:58 PM (4 HR. 13 MIN.)



County of Santa Barbara

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minute Order

July 15, 2025

Received and filed staff and public presentations and conducted a public hearing.

Jordan Rabani-Jenkins, Primitiva Hernandez, Jacqueline Inda, Larry Behrendt, Martha Sadler, Reverend Sarah Thomas, Anne Davis, Kelly Avina, Maryellen Rehse, Lay Tep, Linda Honikman, Sari Domingues, Thomas Becker, Metzli Reyes, Lucas Zucker, David Moore, Chelsea Lancaster, Nancy Weiss, Sarah Bacon, Daniel Gonzalez, Jillian Ellis, Jennifer Sanchez, Bobbi McGinnis, Ivan Vega, Wendy Santamaria, Walid Afifi, Becki Norton, Bridget Day, Bea Molina, Anastasia Senavksy, Karin Hauenstein, Antonio Gonzalez Bradford, Deborah Dentler, Bob Smith, Shawna Stillwell, Tania Reyes Diaz, Jonathon Martin, Victoria Voss, Ramon Elias, Claire Wineman, Ana Huynh, Alethea Paradis, Dylan Carr, Justin Shores, and Cressida Silvers addressed the Board.

A motion was made by Supervisor Capps, seconded by Supervisor Hartmann, that this matter be acted on as follows:

a) Received and filed;

b) Provided direction, as follows:

(1) Directed the County Executive Office to submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or other appropriate federal agencies, to formally seeking transparency from federal agencies by requesting detailed records on all ICE activities and arrests in our jurisdiction, including the following:

- (i) Exactly when and where ICE raids and arrests have happened in our county;
- (ii) Names of people who have been detained and the specific reasons why they were picked up; and
- (iii) Rules and policies federal agents are following during these raids - especially how they identify themselves and what guidelines they're supposed to follow;

(2) Directed staff to return to the Board with an amendment to the Legislative Platform to advocate for improved immigration reform, including provisions regarding due process detained by ICE and identification of enforcement officials;

(3) Return with information on Senate Bill 805 (Perez) "No Vigilantes Act", and Senate Bill 627 (Wiener) "No Secret Police Act" for the Board to take a position;

(4) Explore enacting an Ordinance prohibiting voluntarily sharing of personal, identifying or location information with ICE unless compelled by a judicial order; and

(5) The Chair will formally request that ICE representatives appear at a public Board hearing to respond to questions.

c) Approved.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, Supervisor Hartmann, Supervisor Nelson, and Supervisor Lavagnino