

Katherine Douglas *General Public Comment*

From: Vanessa Terán <vanessa.teran@mixteco.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 8:54 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Vanessa Teran; Linsey Rodriguez; Genevieve Flores-Haro
Subject: General Public Comment: Protect Health Care Centers, Employees and UIS Community and Investment in Housing and Health, Not Incarceration

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Good morning, Chair and Supervisors,

This comment will be read aloud on my behalf by Linsey Rodriguez, a Health Policy Advocate with MICOP.

We are here in solidarity with SEIU Local 620 to respectfully oppose the remaining proposed cuts to county staff and the associated service reductions that would directly impact our community, particularly our most vulnerable immigrant residents.

Last fall, we learned through the SB Independent that the County was considering compliance with federal directives from the Trump Administration that would have transitioned individuals with “Unsatisfactory Immigration Status” out of County clinics. In response, our organization joined community partners and legal advocates, including National Health Law Program and the California Immigrant Policy Center, to provide information and analysis demonstrating the significant harm such actions could cause to residents and families.

We urge you to continue on a path that prioritizes health equity and justice by avoiding additional decisions that could further burden patients and families. Specifically, we are concerned about the proposal to eliminate the pharmacies and laboratories in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, leaving only Lompoc to serve the entire region.

According to the 2020 Census, our county is home to 41,787 uninsured residents. That number represents tens of thousands of individuals and families who already face significant barriers to accessing care.

At the same time, changes to Medi-Cal eligibility verification under H.R. 1 will substantially increase the workload for county agencies and community-based organizations like ours that assist residents with enrollment and retention. As these changes take effect, maintaining accessible local services will be more important than ever to ensure that no one loses healthcare coverage.

We respectfully ask the Board to prevent layoffs, avoid service reductions, and prioritize investments that address immediate community needs. We also urge you to continue investing in housing and healthcare rather than expanding incarceration infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Terán
Director of Policy
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)

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Vanessa Terán

Director of Policy
Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)
Address: 505 South "A" St, Oxnard, CA 93030

Mailing Address: PO Box 388, Oxnard, CA 93032

vanessa.teran@mixteco.org

Cell: (805) 978-6892 iPhone/WhatsApp/Signal

Office: (805) 483-1166

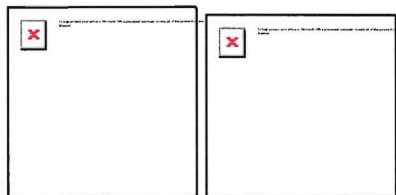
pronouns: they/them

Our Mission: *To support, organize, and empower the indigenous migrant communities in California's Central Coast (the ancestral, and unceded homelands of the Chumash Peoples).*

Our Vision: *We envision strong and active Indigenous migrant communities committed to achieving fair and equitable working and living conditions, justice, and full human rights grounded in Indigenous worldviews.*

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