

Sheila de la Guerra **Public Comment**

From: Carpinteria Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC) <carpimmigrantcoalition@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 9:40 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Roy Lee; Wade Cowper
Subject: Support for Special Agenda Item 1 – Item No. 26-00347

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Hello, Chair and Supervisors,

My name is Becki Norton, and I am writing as its co-founder on behalf of the Carpinteria Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC) in support of **Special Agenda Item 1, Item No. 26-00347**. **We represent approximately 150 Carpinterians** who share our concerns regarding immigrant rights and the well-being of our community.

We appreciate the Board’s thoughtful consideration of this proposal and the effort to address complex issues affecting communities across Santa Barbara County.

This matter carries both legal and moral dimensions.

From a legal standpoint, the County has well-established authority to manage its own property, protect the integrity of its elections, and ensure that public resources are used in ways consistent with constitutional principles. This proposal represents a careful and lawful approach to exercising that authority while maintaining appropriate boundaries between local governance and federal enforcement.

At the same time, there are important human and community impacts to consider.

Since January 2025, Carpinteria has experienced increased immigration enforcement activity that has contributed to a noticeable climate of fear and uncertainty. These impacts extend beyond individuals directly affected and are being felt across families, workplaces, and the local economy.

To better understand these effects, CIRC recently surveyed 45 local businesses. The findings suggest meaningful and widespread impacts:

- **78% report being affected by immigration enforcement**
- **53% report loss of customers or revenue**
- **47% report increased stress and morale issues**
- **36% say workers are afraid to come to work**
- **22% report difficulty hiring or retaining staff**

Additionally, nearly half of respondents indicated that **76–100% of their workforce are immigrants or children of immigrants**, highlighting how closely tied these issues are to the stability of our local economy.

The survey also points to areas where additional clarity and support may be needed:

- **31% of workplaces report having no plan for an ICE visit**
- **56% of workers have not received training on their rights**

These findings suggest that many businesses and workers are navigating uncertainty without sufficient guidance or resources.

When members of a community feel unsafe accessing work, education, or public services, it can affect overall community well-being and trust in institutions.

This proposal, as outlined in Item 26-00347, would protect County property from immigration enforcement incursions, safeguard elections, and prevent the siting of detention facilities in unincorporated areas.

We believe these are thoughtful, measured steps that can provide clearer expectations, strengthen community trust, and support the overall stability of our County.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote in favor of this proposal.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully,

~Becki Norton

On behalf of the Carpinteria Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)



Building a welcoming and safe Carpinteria together

Construyendo juntos una Carpintería acogedora y segura

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