

Katherine Douglas

General Public Comment



From: Teresa Suarez <teresa.suarez@mixteco.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 9:00 AM
To: sbcob; Roy Lee; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino
Cc: Vanessa Teran; Primitiva Hernandez
Subject: General Public Comment Regarding Excessive Use of Force During Immigration Enforcement + County Funding for Humanitarian & Legal Support

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Good morning, Chair Capps and Supervisors,

My name is Teresa Suarez and I am a Youth Coordinator for the Tequio Youth program with MICOP in Santa Maria. I write today to urge the Board to condemn excessive force during immigration enforcement, fund humanitarian and legal support for impacted families.

On November 13, 2025, we witnessed numerous ICE and HSI agents conducting an operation at East Valley Farms in Santa Maria, CA, where many families were arrested. We hope those families receive the support they need and are properly compensated.

It was not surprising to see many agents covering their faces, or to see members of the LA media taking photos of us while ICE agents refused to identify themselves. Some agents even attempted to intimidate community members by raising their batons and approaching as if to strike. They used multiple fear tactics, pushing our cameras and pushing us as people. Our cameras were the only safety devices we carried.

Agents drove their vehicles in and out of the entrance without obstruction, so there was no justification for their use of flash-bangs "to move us aside" or to create the false impression that we were blocking their exit. These devices not only harmed our ears but also instilled fear in the community, highlighting the complete lack of support for our safety during moments like these.

Throughout the entire operation, we only documented what was happening, yet agents used military-style tactics against our community as if we were a threat. As many ICE vehicles exited, agents pointed their guns from the tops of their vehicles. All of this was documented by community members and by me as evidence.

This is unacceptable. Therefore, we ask the County to take leadership in ensuring safety, transparency, and funding support for our community.

Thank you for your support.

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