

Immigration Enforcement Facilities and Detention Centers

Board of Supervisors
July 7, 2026



County of Santa Barbara
Planning and Development

Background

- Board directed staff (April 10, 2026) to analyze land use, zoning, and permitting options to:
 - Identify tools to prohibit or regulate immigration enforcement facilities and detention centers.

Current Regulations

- County codes do not apply to federally owned or leased properties
- Codes regulate privately owned/leased properties
- Immigration enforcement facilities and detention centers are NOT listed as permitted uses
 - No similar-use determination available; no permit path exists

Potential Future Actions

Moratorium or Urgency Ordinance

- Implemented by other communities when proposals come forward
- No current private proposals have been identified.
- If a proposal arises, a moratorium may be considered (initial 45 days, extendable up to 2 years).

Potential Future Board Actions

- Direct staff to prepare urgency ordinance or moratorium if immediate threat arises.
 - Requires findings: immediate threat to public safety, health, and welfare.
 - Requires 4/5 Board vote for adoption or extension.

Recommended Actions

- Receive and file this report on land use regulations for immigration enforcement facilities and detention centers.
- Determine that this report does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5).
- Direct Planning and Development to monitor the potential for private entities to develop immigration enforcement facilities and detention centers in the unincorporated areas and return for further direction regarding the adoption of a moratorium, if needed, if such facilities are proposed.