

**County of Santa Barbara**  
**Use and Preservation Policy**  
**for**

**County-Owned Property and County Parks and Recreation Areas**

The County of Santa Barbara is committed to promoting the orderly use and preservation of public property for the safety and benefit of the general public. By implementation of this policy, the County is making clear its intent to create and maintain a safe environment for the peaceful enjoyment of all. Unauthorized use of County resources, property, or personnel jeopardizes the County's ability to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the general public and it diverts County resources.

**I. County-Owned Property.**

The County of Santa Barbara is responsible for promoting the orderly use and preservation of public property and facilities for the safety and benefit of the general public. All county property shall be open to the public during normal business hours for the purpose of conducting County business, subject to reasonable restrictions. It is the policy of the County that County-Owned property, defined in County Code Chapter 12A, shall not be used for unauthorized purposes.

**II. County Parks and Recreation Areas.**

The County of Santa Barbara is dedicated to providing for the safe, healthful, and orderly use of County parks and recreation areas; to prevent the misuse of such areas; and to protect the peace, health, safety, and welfare of the general public and park resources. County parks and recreation areas, as defined in County Code Chapter 26, are subject to regulations that require a special event permit for "an event that impacts, encroaches, or infringes on the surrounding group areas, and or requires the use of more than the provided amenities." It is the policy of the County that special events include civil immigration enforcement.

**III. Policy Implementation.**

To implement this policy, the County shall identify property that it owns or controls, including parking lots, open spaces, vacant lots, buildings, or garages, that are likely to be used as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement.

The County shall post clear signage on County-Owned property subject to this policy stating:

This property is owned or controlled by the County of Santa Barbara. It may not be used for unauthorized civil law enforcement, including civil immigration enforcement, as a staging area, processing location, or operations base.

The County shall ensure that, wherever necessary and appropriate, physical barriers such as locked gates are used to limit access to such County-Owned properties.

Any County employee who becomes aware of the actual or attempted use of property controlled or owned by the County as a staging area, processing location, or operations base for unauthorized civil law enforcement, including civil immigration enforcement, shall immediately report that to their supervisor.

#### **IV. Interpretation.**

This policy does not restrict or interfere with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law, nor does it limit the rights of any person or entity under state or federal law. This policy does not impair or interfere with the terms of any existing contract to which the County is a party.