



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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COUNTY TO SUPPORT SUIT OVER PLANNED ICE FACILITY

The County of Santa Cruz today announced its intention to sign an amicus curiae brief in support of litigation brought by the California Attorney General and Santa Clara County regarding a planned federal immigration enforcement facility near Gilroy.

The lawsuit seeks judicial review of a facility that public records indicate is intended to support U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations. The plaintiffs allege the project was undertaken without required local review and permitting processes.

While the proposed facility would be located in neighboring Santa Clara County, the facility would have impacts throughout the Central Coast region.

"Santa Cruz County communities are deeply connected to those throughout the region," Board of Supervisors Chair Monica Martinez said. "Our immigrant families deserve transparency, public accountability and compliance with established legal processes. The County intends to participate through an amicus filing consistent with its ongoing efforts to understand, prepare for and fight back against the regional impacts of federal immigration enforcement activities."

"Many residents throughout our region are experiencing uncertainty and fear regarding federal immigration enforcement activity," Supervisor Felipe Hernandez said. "We have a responsibility to understand and prepare for the impacts these actions may have on local families, schools, healthcare systems and community organizations. Our participation reflects that commitment."

This support of Santa Clara County is a continuation of ongoing work by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to evaluate and address the local impacts of federal immigration policies. In January, the Board established the S.H.I.E.L.D. (Safeguarding Health, Inclusion, Essential Services and Local Defense) Ad Hoc Subcommittee, which crafted an ordinance barring the use of County property for immigration enforcement and County policies protecting residents who access healthcare, education, public benefits and other essential services regardless of changing federal immigration enforcement priorities.

For more information regarding the County's immigration preparedness efforts, visit www.santacruzcountyca.gov.

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