



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-4073
(831)454-2000 | www.santacruzcountyca.gov
Nicole D. Coburn, County Executive Officer

News Release

Date: May 20, 2026

Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcountyca.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARD S.H.I.E.L.D. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE, APPROVES COUNTYWIDE ICE POLICY

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved a new countywide policy establishing clear procedures for County staff when interacting with federal immigration enforcement agents and took additional actions to strengthen protections for staff, clients, and public access to County services.

The new “Federal Immigration Enforcement Engagement and Oversight Policy” establishes standardized protocols for all County departments, facilities, and staff to ensure interactions with federal immigration enforcement are handled consistently, lawfully, and in a manner that protects the safety and privacy of County employees, clients, and the public. It expands on policies previously developed and implemented in several departments, including Health Services and Human Services.

The policy makes clear that County staff are not authorized to assist federal agents in the enforcement of federal immigration law and designates trained Response Liaisons to manage interactions with immigration enforcement personnel. The policy also establishes procedures for protecting confidential information, responding to requests for access to non-public areas, documenting enforcement activity, and maintaining continuity of County services.

“The goal is to ensure every County employee understands the law, understands their responsibilities, and has clear guidance for how to respond if federal immigration agents appear at County facilities,” Board Chair Monica Martinez said.

“We want County employees and the public to know there are now clear, countywide procedures establishing responsibilities and the legal boundaries around federal immigration enforcement. These policies are intended to help protect access to County services, support the safety of staff and clients,” Supervisor Felipe Hernandez said.



The Board also directed implementation of countywide employee training to ensure staff consistently apply the protocols.

In addition, the Board received an update on implementation of County Code Chapter 10.07, which prohibits the use of County property for civil immigration enforcement activities. The County Executive Office identified 20 County-owned or County-controlled sites for installation of bilingual signage stating that County property may not be used for civil immigration enforcement operations.

The Board also accepted findings from an independent Office of Inspector General review of the Sheriff's Office use of Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) data. The review found no evidence that Sheriff's Office personnel used ALPR systems for immigration enforcement purposes or improperly shared data with federal immigration authorities.