County of Monterey

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL
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SUSAN K. BLITCH, COUNTY COUNSEL

November 5, 2026

Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail

Julio S. Hernandez
Acting Field Office Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
San Francisco Field Office
630 Sansome Street, Room 590
San Francisco, CA 94111
Julio.hernandez@ice.gov
SanFrancisco.Outreach@ice.dhs.gov

Re: Unauthorized Use of County Property

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

This office represents the County of Monterey. I am writing because numerous vehicles and personnel from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") and/or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") have been using parking lots owned by the County of Monterey ("County") in connection with immigration enforcement activities. The County has also observed ICE vehicles violating parking restrictions, blocking ingress and egress into County facilities, and operating in an unsafe manner on County property. This creates risk for County employees and members of the public. Specifically, ICE vehicles have been seen this week and last week at our Natividad Medical Center campus located at 1441 Constitution Boulevard in Salinas; at our County jail at 1410 Natividad Road in Salinas; at the County owned Salinas Regional Soccer complex at 1440 Constitution Boulevard in Salinas; and at our Juvenile Hall at 1420 Natividad Road in Salinas. The interruption of services to the public seeking medical care is especially troubling.

Through this letter and in accordance with applicable law, the County demands that ICE cease and desist unlawful use of County facilities and property, as further discussed below.

Unauthorized Use of County Property for Immigration Enforcement Operations

The County recently adopted a resolution and policy (attached) prohibiting the use of County property for civil immigration enforcement activities. Specifically, "[n]o County-owned or County-controlled property shall be used as a Staging Area, Processing Location, or Operations Base for civil immigration enforcement purposes". ICE vehicles and agents have been observed

congregating in County driveways and parking lots for purposes of staging civil immigration enforcement operations. This use is prohibited, unauthorized, contravenes County policy, and must cease.

Non-Compliance with Vehicle Code and Parking Restrictions

California Vehicle Code section 21113 states "a person shall not drive a vehicle or animal, or stop, park, or leave standing a vehicle or animal, whether attended or unattended, upon the driveways, paths, parking facilities, or the grounds of any of the following: …[a] county park …. [a] state, county, or hospital district institution or building. . ."

Further, Monterey County Code section 12.40.030 (Parking at Natividad Medical Center) states "[n]o person shall park any vehicle upon any of said driveways or parking areas at any time …." subject to certain exceptions which allow visitors seeking medical care to park in designated parking areas.

Unsafe Operation of Vehicles

In general, ICE-operated vehicles have been observed parking in red zones, blocking traffic and pedestrians, and generally operating without due regard for the safety of pedestrians and others using County facilities. In particular, ICE vehicles have been blocking access to Natividad Medical Center employee parking. Their operations also forced our jail to temporarily shut down last week. ICE vehicles have also been seen driving with complete disregard to the safety of pedestrians in the area. California law expressly prohibits driving in an off-street parking facility in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property pursuant to California Vehicle Code section 23103(b). The County demands that ICE personnel comply with all applicable traffic laws and operate their vehicles in a safe and reasonable manner.

Demand to Cease and Desist

Accordingly, the County demands that DHS and ICE immediately:

1. Cease any unauthorized use of County parking lots or other County property as a staging area, processing location, or operating base for civil immigration enforcement activities;
2. Comply with all posted parking restrictions;
3. Comply with all applicable traffic laws and operate vehicles safely while on County property; and
4. Refrain from conducting activities on County property in a manner or location that interferes with, intimidates, or impedes individuals from seeking vital County services, particularly medical care.

The County reserves all rights and remedies available to it under law and will take appropriate action to protect County property, County employees, members of the public, and access to County services if this conduct continues.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Blitch, County Counsel

Encl. Resolution No. 26-328

cc: Monterey County Board of Supervisors

Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

Resolution No.: 26-328	)
Approving the Prohibiting the Use of County	)
Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement	)
Activities Policy for inclusion in the Board	)
Policy Manual	)

WHEREAS, the County of Monterey ("County") is home to a diverse and vibrant community, including immigrant families who contribute meaningfully to the social, cultural, and economic vitality of Monterey County; and

WHEREAS, a strong and trusting relationship between the County and its residents contributes to the public safety and well-being of all residents; and

WHEREAS, actions by local, state, or federal government agencies that cause immigrant community members to fear reporting crimes, seeking health services, accessing County facilities, or engaging in civic life, detract from the safety and welfare of the entire community; and

WHEREAS, the County has observed events in other parts of the country and state where facilities owned or controlled by local agencies have been commandeered for immigration enforcement, which is solely the responsibility of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the County owns and maintains numerous public facilities, including parks, open space areas, parking lots, community centers, public buildings, and other County-owned properties; and

WHEREAS, these facilities are community assets maintained for the benefit and enjoyment of County residents and visitors, and in some instances generate revenue to support essential County services; and

WHEREAS, the use of County-owned facilities as staging areas, operational bases, or processing locations for federal civil immigration enforcement activities is not the intended use of these community assets and may undermine community trust, limit access to public spaces, and interfere with the County's authority over its own property; and

WHEREAS, current County policies do not explicitly restrict federal civil immigration enforcement agencies from using County-owned land or facilities for operations, staging, or processing; and

WHEREAS, regulating the use of County-owned or County-controlled property, without regulating the conduct of federal agencies, is a lawful exercise of county authority and an appropriate and necessary means of promoting public safety, community trust, and the

responsible use of public resources that will help ensure community members feel safe accessing County services and facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors in and for the County of Monterey that:

1. The Prohibiting the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement Activities Policy, attached hereto, is approved for inclusion in the Board Policy Manual.

2. This Resolution shall be effective upon the date of its adoption.

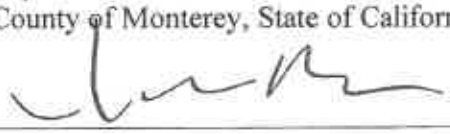
PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 29th day of September 2026, by vote:

AYES: Supervisors Alejo, Church, Lopez, Root Askew and Daniels
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book 82 for the meeting on September 29, 2026.

Dated: October 21, 2026
File ID: RES 26-145
Agenda Item No.: 26

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California



Vicente Ramirez, Deputy

County of Monterey
Board Policy Manual

Policy Name	Policy Number	Page
Prohibiting the Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement Activities	G-271	1 of 3
Policy Category Government and Administration		

I. Purpose

a. This policy establishes limitations on the use of County of Monterey owned or County-controlled property for civil immigration enforcement activities.

b. The County 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.

II. Definitions

a. "Operations Base" shall mean an area that is used to plan, coordinate, and execute civil immigration enforcement activities.

b. "Processing Location" shall mean an area that is used for the identification, intake, processing of documentation, detention, arrest, or temporary holding of individuals in connection with civil immigration enforcement operations.

c. "Property" shall include but not be limited to any County-owned or County-controlled land, vacant lot, parking lot, parking garage, park, open space, or other facility, building, or structure.

d. "Staging Area" shall mean an area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy vehicles, equipment, or materials, and related personnel, for the purpose of carrying out civil immigration enforcement operations.

III. Prohibitions on Use of County Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement Activities

a. No County-owned or County-controlled Property shall be used as a Staging Area, Processing Location, or Operations Base for civil immigration enforcement purposes.

b. No County department, agency, officer, or employee shall give consent for federal or state officials to use a County-owned or County-controlled parking lot, vacant land, or parking garage as a Staging Area, Processing Location, or Operations Base for civil immigration enforcement activities, and no such purported consent by a County department, agency, officer, or employee shall be deemed consent by the County for any such use.

c. No County department, agency, officer or employee shall give consent for federal or state officials to access or use non-public areas of County facilities for purposes of civil immigration enforcement without a valid arrest warrant signed by a federal or state judicial officer, or other signed writ or order from a federal or state judicial officer authorizing such access, and no such purported consent by a County department, agency, officer, or employee shall be deemed consent by the County for any such access or use.

d. The County Administrative Office shall ensure implementation of this policy.

IV. Limitations on Scope

a. Existing Agreements. This policy does not apply to Property that is subject to an existing lease, license, operator agreement, or other contractual restriction entered into with the County, unless otherwise agreed to by the parties to that existing agreement.

b. Criminal Law Enforcement. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as restricting or interfering with the execution of lawful judicial warrants or the enforcement of criminal law by any federal, state, or local law enforcement agency.

c. Other Rights Under Federal or State Law. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the rights of any person or entity under federal or state law.

d. Other Lawful Uses. This policy does not prohibit the lawful use of County Property for purposes other than the civil immigration enforcement activities expressly prohibited hereunder, nor does it restrict any person or entity, including, without limitation, federal law enforcement agencies, from carrying out functions unrelated to those purposes on such Property.

V. Future Agreements

Wherever possible, and allowed by law, the County Administrative Officer or designee shall direct that the use limitations set forth in this policy be included in all future leases, licenses, operator agreements, or other contracts involving the use of County Property.

VI. Severability

If any portion of this policy or its application is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the same will either be reformed to comply with applicable law or stricken if not so conformable, so as to not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this policy. To this end, the provisions of the Policy, and each of them, are severable.

VII. Review Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by September 29, 2030.

VIII. Board Action

Legistar File Number: RES 26-145, September 29, 2026.