

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2026

Mr. David Venturella
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Director Venturella:

As Members of Congress representing communities throughout California, we write to express serious concern regarding increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations across our state, including recent enforcement activity in the San Joaquin Valley, Los Angeles, Central Coast, the Inland Empire, and other areas in California. Reports of individuals being detained while traveling to work, immigration enforcement operations at local workplaces, and incidents involving ICE personnel raise serious questions about the tactics, training, and oversight of federal immigration agents operating in our communities. We demand greater transparency regarding the objectives of these operations, the criteria used to identify individuals for detention, and the safeguards in place to protect the constitutional rights and safety of our constituents.

In the aftermath of recent federal immigration operations across the San Joaquin Valley and across the State of California, local families face growing uncertainty about whether they can safely go about their daily lives. Parents are afraid to take their children to school, workers fear being detained on their way to or from work, and families are hesitant to visit grocery stores and local businesses. Recent reports of ICE agents conducting enforcement operations at multiple construction sites in Fresno and Madera counties, where workers were detained, have only heightened these fears. Communities in Los Angeles raise similar concerns. The Trump Administration has repeatedly stated that its immigration enforcement efforts are focused on the “worst of the worst,” yet reports emerging from our communities raise doubt that these operations are consistent with those stated priorities.

Immigrants have long been essential to California's workforce and economy. Generations of immigrant families have helped build our communities, supported local businesses, and sustained the agricultural industry that puts food on America's dinner tables. The effects of increased immigration enforcement extend well beyond those directly detained. When workers are afraid to report to their jobs and families are afraid to leave their homes, our entire economy feels the consequences. Local businesses have reported significant declines in customers, threatening their ability to remain open and support the workers and families who depend on them. These disruptions affect immigrant and nonimmigrant residents alike.

Equally troubling are reports of misconduct and alleged criminal behavior by ICE personnel. On October 9, an off-duty ICE officer from Texas was arrested following an incident in Fresno in which, according to local police, he appeared intoxicated and allegedly assaulted a 72-year-old man and his daughter outside their home. The officer has since been charged with

assault, elder abuse, vandalism, and battery. While this incident occurred off duty, it raises serious questions about the vetting, training, professionalism, and accountability measures governing ICE personnel deployed to California. Our local law enforcement agencies undergo extensive training and are held to strict professional standards. Federal immigration officers should be held to no less.

Federal agencies operating in our communities have a responsibility to act in ways that are transparent, accountable, and respectful of the rights and safety of the people we represent. Accordingly, we request detailed responses to the following questions:

1. **Purpose and duration:** What circumstances prompted the increased ICE enforcement activity across California, including the operations beginning October 5, 2026, in the San Joaquin Valley?
2. **Enforcement priorities:** What criteria are ICE agents using to identify individuals for questioning, arrest, or detention? Are agents conducting targeted operations based on specific individuals or engaging in broader enforcement activities at workplaces, residential neighborhoods, and other public locations?
3. **Arrests and detentions:** How many individuals have been arrested or detained across California since October 5, 2026? Of those individuals, how many have prior criminal convictions, pending criminal charges, or no criminal record? Please provide a county-by-county breakdown.
4. **Agent vetting and training:** What background checks, screening requirements, and training must ICE officers complete before being authorized to conduct immigration enforcement operations? Have any of these requirements been modified, shortened, or waived for recently hired or deployed personnel?
5. **Personnel and accountability:** How many ICE officers have been deployed to California as part of these operations, including personnel from out-of-state field offices? What policies govern their professional conduct, including while off duty? What administrative review or personnel investigation has ICE initiated following the October 9 incident involving an off-duty ICE officer in Fresno? What training and written guidance are agents provided regarding reasonable suspicion, probable cause, warrant requirements, the use of force, and the constitutional rights of individuals encountered during enforcement operations? What procedures are in place to investigate allegations of unlawful detention or misconduct?
6. **Detention locations and due process:** Where are individuals arrested during these operations being transported and held? What procedures govern their initial processing, transfer, and access to legal counsel? How are individuals informed of their rights, and what opportunities are provided to contact family members and receive necessary medical care following an arrest?
7. **Coordination with local authorities:** Were state and local law enforcement agencies or elected officials notified or consulted before these operations began? What coordination protocols are in place to ensure public safety and respond to concerns raised by local communities?

The responsibility to enforce federal immigration law does not diminish the government's obligation to protect public safety, uphold due process, and ensure accountability for the actions

of its officers. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and request a written response to these questions no later than **October 30, 2026**.

Sincerely,



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



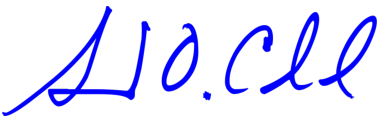
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



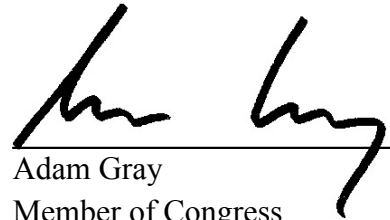
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



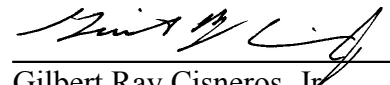
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Adam Gray
Member of Congress



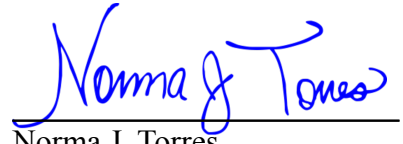
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