



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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June 2, 2026

The Honorable Edward C. Forst
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20405

Re: Letter Opposing the Proposed ICE Immigration Detention Facility in Gilroy, California

Dear Administrator Forst:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I am writing to formally convey the County of Monterey's opposition to the proposed federal detention facility that is planned for construction on a 25-acre parcel at 7240 Holsclaw Road, near Gilroy, in Santa Clara County. It is our understanding that the U.S. General Services Administration has already secured a lease for this site. On May 19, 2026, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to adopt this position, aligning Monterey County with the County of Santa Clara and other regional leaders who have previously expressed concerns regarding this project. Although the facility is intended for Santa Clara County, we believe its potential impact will be felt well beyond county lines. For this reason, we consider it our responsibility to ensure that our concerns are clearly articulated and included in the ongoing discussion.

Regional Economic Interdependence and Workforce Concerns

Monterey County and the greater Central Coast region are tightly linked through shared labor markets and interconnected communities. Two primary industries—agriculture and hospitality—serve as major economic engines for the area. The continued strength and stability of these sectors are critical not only for Monterey County but also for the broader California economy and the nation's food supply.

Monterey County's agricultural sector represents a \$4.3 billion economic force, relying on approximately 55,000 farm workers each year to harvest crops. The vast majority of these workers are immigrants. In addition, the hospitality industry supports more than 24,000 jobs and generates \$2.5 billion annually in regional travel spending. These industries depend on a stable and productive workforce, which is integral to the region's prosperity.

Members of the Monterey County community have voiced concerns about how the construction and operation of the proposed detention facility could affect the stability and productivity of the regional workforce and economy. These concerns reflect the importance of maintaining robust economic conditions for all who live and work in the Central Coast.



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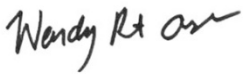
Regional Community Impacts

The proposed detention facility's effects would extend well beyond its immediate location, influencing the entire Central Coast region. This area is characterized by its strong sense of community and extensive interconnections among its cities, towns, businesses, and families. When major developments like this facility are introduced—even if they are situated outside specific county boundaries—they often give rise to uncertainty that permeates throughout the region. This uncertainty can disrupt local neighborhoods, affect business operations, and cause concern among families who rely on the stability of their communities. Recognizing these widespread implications, the Board of Supervisors felt it was essential to join other regional leaders in voicing their apprehensions and adding their perspective to the ongoing dialogue about this project.

Formal Statement of Opposition and Request for Consideration

The County of Monterey respectfully opposes the proposed immigration detention facility and urges the U.S. General Services Administration to carefully review and address the concerns raised throughout the region. Recognizing the significance of this issue for the broader Central Coast and its communities, Monterey County remains dedicated to engaging constructively with federal partners on matters of mutual interest. Furthermore, we welcome the opportunity to continue our dialogue with your office to discuss and evaluate the potential impacts of this project on our communities.

Sincerely,



Wendy Root Askew, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
 The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. Senator for California
 The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, 18th Congressional District
 The Honorable Jimmy Panetta, 19th Congressional District