January 23, 2026

Chief Ken Plunkett
Escondido Police Department
1163 N. Centre City Parkway
Escondido, CA 92026
Ken.Plunkett@escondido.gov

**RE: Community Request to Cancel ICE Firing Range Contract Immediately**

Dear Chief Plunkett,

We, the undersigned organizations and community members representing over 1,000 Escondido residents, are writing to you regarding the recently reported contract entered into at the request of the Escondido Police Department, that allows the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to access the Escondido Police Department's training and firing range.

This letter serves both as notice of our deep concern and as a formal request for specific actions from you and the Escondido City Council to reverse this decision,

**Our Requests**

We respectfully but firmly request the following actions:

1. That the Escondido Police Department immediately cancel the contract allowing ICE access to Escondido's police training facilities, including the firing range; or, if cancellation is not within your sole authority,
2. That the contract be placed on the next available City Council agenda for full public discussion, transparency, and a vote, allowing the community to voice its strong opposition.

**Conditions in Our Community That Compel These Requests**

We are making these requests because of the conditions that currently exist in our community:

- Our community does not want or need ICE operating in Escondido and this contract draws more armed ICE agents into Escondido.
- The presence or perceived presence of ICE creates fear, instability, and trauma particularly among our immigrant families, mixed-status households, and communities of color.
- Many residents already feel unsafe and distrustful due to past experiences involving immigration enforcement and local authorities.
- The recent and tragic death of Renee Good has underscored how quickly encounters involving immigration enforcement can turn fatal and has heightened community concern about safety, escalation, and accountability.
- Residents are more at risk from ICE agents now that the Vice President has stated he believes ICE agents, even when they kill, *"The precedent here is very simple…That guy is protected by absolute immunity. He was doing his job,"*[1] sending chilling message that the killing of Renee Good was an agent 'doing his job'.
- ICE agents have begun to detain children as young as 5-years old, meaning the children of Escondido attending school are also at risk.[2]

**Rationale for Our Requests**

**1. ICE Presence Increases Fear and Decreases Public Safety**

Allowing ICE to train at Escondido police facilities, regardless of whether enforcement activity occurs on site, creates the perception of collaboration. This perception alone is enough to deter residents from reporting crimes, cooperating with police, seeking emergency assistance, or engaging with city services. Public safety is weakened when fear drives people into the shadows.

**2. The Contract Reflects Poor Judgment Given Current Conditions**

We understand that the original contract was executed in or around 2013 and that it has continued through annual renewals and extensions. However, the fact that this agreement is recurring does not excuse its continuation, particularly under current social, political, and community conditions. Renewing or re-entering into this agreement now represents a serious lapse in judgment and a failure to respond to the realities facing Escondido residents today.

[1] https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/ice-detains-four-children-minnesota-school-district-school-officials-say-2026-01-22/
[2] https://apnews.com/article/immigration-minnesota-boy-father-detained-342f319fafb766d13afe07f5bcc1f112 , https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/ice-detains-four-children-minnesota-school-district-school-officials-say-2026-01-22/

### 3. The Contract is Arguably a Violation of SB54's Prohibition on Sharing Resources

We are concerned that is contract is a likely violation of California's SB-54 (the California Values Act)[3] which **broadly** prohibits law enforcement agencies from using "agency or department moneys or personnel" for immigration enforcement purposes.[4] We believe renting a shooting range to ICE constitutes using agency resources to facilitate immigration enforcement activities, placing it within the scope of this prohibition which specifically prohibits "providing office space exclusively dedicated for immigration authorities for use within a city or county law enforcement facility"[5] The legislative intent here is to restrict facility-sharing arrangements that could support immigration operations.

We are not attorneys, but the plain reading of the statute begs the questions of noncompliance with SB54. We request a review of this matter by the City Attorney.

### 4. Community History Matters

While we believe this contract represents a gross error, we also recognize that you are new to Escondido and may not be fully aware of the long and painful history surrounding the treatment of immigrant neighbors by both the Escondido Police Department and the City itself. For that reason, we are choosing to address you directly and give you the opportunity to do the right thing.

By canceling this contract or by ensuring it is publicly reviewed, you have the opportunity to demonstrate that you are listening, that you care about all who live and work in Escondido, and that you are committed to rebuilding trust with a community that has reason to be wary.

### 5. Escondido Police Are Fully Capable of Addressing Local Public Safety Needs

We do not need ICE in Escondido. Local law enforcement is fully capable of addressing local issues without the involvement of a federal immigration enforcement agency whose mission, tactics, and outcomes are deeply controversial and harmful to community trust.

### Conclusion and Request for Response

We expect and request a meeting with you as well as a written response addressing our concerns and clearly stating the actions you intend to take regarding this contract. If you are not authorized to cancel the agreement unilaterally, then placing it on the City Council agenda is the minimum necessary step toward transparency, accountability, and democratic participation.

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[3] California Government Code § 7284.6(a)(1)

[4] CA GOVT § 7284.6.

[5] CA GOVT § 7284.6.

Our community is watching closely. Canceling this contract would be a meaningful step toward healing, safety, and trust. Failing to do so will only deepen fear and division.

We urge you to act promptly and responsibly. Please contact us soon to let us know how you intend to proceed and to arrange a meeting with a delegation from the signed organizations below at escondidoneighborsforsolutions@gmail.com.

Time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

**Organizations**
Escondido Neighbors for Solutions
Escondido Democratic Club
Indivisible North County San Diego
Escondido Indivisible
Escondido Neighbors United
50501 North County San Diego
North County Equity & Justice Coalition

**Individuals**
Lisa Richards
Joanne Tenney
Olukemi Barnes
Kate Barba
Brenda and Dan Townsend
Laura Hunter
Patricia and Trevor Williams
Darlene Simpson
Lillian Arjona Garzón
Keira Moore
Jennifer Heraty
Beverly Kilman
Richard Cannon
Cathy Haven
Maria Wallace
Julie Frank
Ron Forster
Christine Nava
Michele Schmalvogl
Sparky Mitra
Paula Sheridan
Rebecca Dee
Rev. Meg Decker
Maria Wallace
Tracie Barham
Ann McSwain
Reginold Branch
Carolina Pazmino
Alia Fitzgerald
Richard Garner
Ana Marie Velasco
Lynnea Waters
Marot Kinberg
Connie Kaess
Bonnie Sealey
David Barber
Gregg Oliver
Ann Chute-Jacobs
Maria Escobado
Rick Bova
Kathleen D Lamb
Denise Rolen
Susan Cooper

Cc:
Mayor Dane White and Members of the Escondido City Council
City Manager, Sean McGlynn
City Attorney, Mike McGuinness
City Clerk, Zack Beck