

Honorable Mayor Dane White and Escondido City Council Members:nd

We write to you today as faith leaders who represent communities in Escondido. We write to express our deep concern with the City of Escondido's recent approval of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Homeland Security on January 14, 2026 for use of a city-operated firing range. This action has harmful consequences that will negatively impact many local residents unnecessarily.

Allowing ICE to use the City-operated firing range gives the perception that the City is cooperating with ICE in doing their work of arresting and detaining immigrants. Using the firing range will bring in more presence of ICE and incite more fear in the community especially among the immigrants. They will also be less trusting of City police and be less apt to make calls to report crime.

The families we collectively represent in San Diego County and particularly those living in Escondido, are currently and actively affected by immigration enforcement every day. This includes, but is not limited to, the absence of a family member due to detention and deportation, the loss of family's breadwinner to support with paying bills, children not wanting to go to school, families skipping health appointments and extreme emotional and physical trauma as a result of ICE's actions. ICE is making our communities less healthy and more fearful, eroding the recently improved trust with their neighbors, commerce and Peace Keepers.

The approval of these agreements magnifies impacts by furthering ICE presence, sightings and activity in our City and surrounding communities. This makes all of our residents feel less safe.

In light of these serious concerns we respectfully request the following actions from the Escondido City Council.

Use every available legal and administration strategy to cancel the MOA.  
Reject any future contract with any DHS agency that engages in border security or immigration enforcement, including but not limited to ICE, Customs and Border Protection and Border Patrol.

Respectfully,

Escondido Together, Interfaith leaders coalition

The following have agreed to have their names included in this letter.

Verna Sundquist, Baha'i Faith Rev Meg Decker, Elizabeth Crandall, Am Universalist Temple Joann Tenny, Resurrection , Sharon Wiley CUUC RevChristina Delacruz House of Prayer Pastor Laffit Cortes SDA, Sally Busby Nichiren Buddhist, Sozui Schubert, HV Zen Center

Yusef Miller Islamic Center  
Rev. Jim Fidi BC