

January 23, 2025

To: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
500 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: Supporting Immigrant Communities

Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

We, the undersigned immigrant rights organizations, united by our shared mission to uphold and protect the rights of immigrants, respectfully urge you to take immediate and meaningful steps to alleviate the fears and ensure the safety, dignity, and inclusion of the diverse immigrant communities in San Mateo County.

In November, following the election results, we presented a letter with specific requests aimed at strengthening the infrastructure to protect immigrants in our community. Since then, we have hosted several "Know Your Rights" workshops and listened closely to the concerns of the people we serve. What we have heard is deeply concerning:

- **Fear of family separation**
- **Concerns about the economic destabilization that would result from the removal of a loved one from the household**
- **Mental health struggles, driven by the constant anxiety of not knowing if a family member will return home safely from work**

Today, we return with an even larger coalition of community organizations, united in our call for your action. We are committed to offering our full support in this collective effort so that, together, we can safeguard our neighbors who are at risk from the threats posed by the incoming federal administration.

San Mateo County has long been a beacon of inclusivity, compassion, and justice. Immigrant communities in the county come from all corners of the world—Mexico, China, El Salvador, the Philippines, and many other countries across Europe, the Middle East, and beyond. We ask that you continue this proud legacy by enacting policies that protect our immigrant families and demonstrate that San Mateo County values and stands with all of its residents, regardless of their immigration status.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urgently call for your support of the following actions:

1. **Preserve and increase funding** for Rapid Response and Removal Defense programs, as well as for immigration legal services in general. Low-income immigrant families rely on nonprofit organizations for affordable legal immigration services. There are several strong, experienced, and effective community-based organizations in our region that serve immigrants across all five districts. We ask that you provide funding to these organizations so they can prepare and be ready to support our community in the coming months, and potentially years.

2. **Uphold the Sanctuary ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors in 2023 to keep families together.** Sanctuary policies ensure that our local resources are not used to fuel Trump's mass deportation machine and are part of the solution for community safety. It protects our neighbors from racial profiling and abuse at the hands of ICE and helps community members who have survived or witnessed violence come forward to get the support they need without the fear of deportation.
3. **Launch a comprehensive communications campaign** to inform immigrants of their rights, available in multiple languages. This campaign should include information on how and where to report any violation of their rights. We urge you to show the communities that you stand in solidarity with them, protecting them from misinformation, racist rhetoric, and unjust treatment.
4. **Lead a collaborative and interconnected response approach** by hosting regular conversations with organizations working on this issue. Support community organizing efforts, the production of materials, staffing to meet the increasing demands, and initiatives to prepare for the potential challenges ahead.

By fostering an inclusive environment and preparing to address upcoming challenges, we strengthen the trust, cohesion, and well-being of all residents in San Mateo County. It is essential to remember that we are all residents of this county, and many of our immigrant families are of mixed status. Some are voters, and some are not, but all of us are advocating for the rights of those who could not vote in the recent elections. Furthermore, many immigrants in our community are the workers who put food on our tables and contribute to the essential services that allow San Mateo County to thrive.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and partnership in supporting the rights and dignity of our immigrant communities. We appreciate the initiatives you have already undertaken, and we encourage you to continue defending immigrant families in San Mateo County.

Sincerely,

Abundant Grace Coastside Worker

ACLU Mid-Pen

ACLU-North Peninsula Chapter

Arriba South Coast

Asian Law Caucus

Ayudando Latinos a soñar (ALAS)

Center for Common Ground, Peninsula/So Bay Chapter

Center for Independence of Individuals With Disabilities (CID)

Chicana Latina Foundation

Christ Episcopal Church Portola Valley and Woodside

CoastPride
Coastside Canines
Coastside Faith in Action
Coastside Hope
Coastside Jewish Community
Coastside Lutheran Church
Coastside United for Action/Coastside Indivisible
College Heights United Church of Christ
Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto
Congregational church of the peninsula UCC. Belmont Ca
Deep Medicine Circle
Democratic Volunteer Center Board of Directors
El Concilio of San Mateo County
Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, San Carlos
Faith In Action Bay Area
Familias Tomando Acción (Families Taking Action)
Fixin' San Mateo County
Grove Action Fund
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Institute of the Bay Area
In Our Care SMC
Indivisible Mid-Peninsula
Island United Church UCC
La Honda Indivisible
La Raza Centro Legal
Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County
Mavericks Community Foundation
MidPen Housing Corporation
Nuestra Casa

Pacifica Progressive Alliance, Pacifica Housing 4 All, Pacifica Peace People
Pacifica Resource Center
Pacifica Social Justice
Peninsula Democratic Coalition
Peninsula Sinai Congregation
Peninsula Solidarity Cohort
Peninsula Temple Beth El, San Mateo
Pie Ranch
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Public Advocates
Public Policy Committee of Peninsula Temple Shalom, Burlingame
Puente de la Costa Sur (Puente)
REACH Coalition
Saint Edmund's Episcopal Church in Pacifica, CA
San Francisco Peninsula People Power
San Mateo County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission
San Mateo Quaker Worship Group
Senior Coastsiders
Services, Immigrant Rights and Education Network
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) San Mateo
Silicon Valley De-Bug
Sisters of Mercy Burlingame
Social Action Committee, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City
Social Justice Task Force, Democracy for America
Sonrisas Dental Health
St Andrew Presbyterian Church
Table of Plenty
Thrive Alliance
Trinity Baptist Church of San Mateo

Unitarian Universalist Coastside Community

Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo

Upward Scholars

Urban Habitat

USF Immigration & Deportation Defense Clinic

YMCA Community Resource Center, YGSF

Youth United for Community Action (YUCA)

