

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT, AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO UPHOLD THE CIVIL RIGHTS, DIGNITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR IMMIGRANT POPULATION AND ALL SONOMA COUNTY RESIDENTS

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and the Board of Commissioners of the Community Development Commission hereby find and declare as follows:

Section 1. Findings.

WHEREAS, Sonoma County is home to persons and families of diverse racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, all Sonoma County immigrant residents, whether they are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, undocumented residents, refugees, or residents with any other immigration status, are valued and integral members of our social, cultural, and economic fabric; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of immigrants are working people and the primary breadwinners of their families, and many are at risk of losing employment and the ability to provide for their families due to detention or deportation; and,

WHEREAS, about half of all children in California have at least one immigrant parent, and stabilizing and improving the experience of all families, including households with undocumented and mixed immigration statuses, is an investment in our community's long-term future; and

WHEREAS, many immigrants have created deep and long-term ties in Sonoma County, which they have cultivated for themselves, their families, and their communities, and immigrants are integral to the culture, workforce, economic success, and ongoing prosperity of our county; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sonoma assures its support to communities experiencing vulnerabilities and will strive to maintain and improve their dignity and quality of life, and will not tolerate acts of hate, discrimination, bullying, or harassment; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors desires to make Sonoma County a safe place for everyone, including, but not limited to, immigrants from all countries, people of color, people of all religions, gender identity, sexual orientation, people with disabilities, and all communities experiencing vulnerabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is the Board’s desire to ensure that its immigrant residents are able to participate in civic life and daily activities, and receive essential government services without fear of being detained by, or reported to federal immigration authorities based solely on immigration status; the languages they speak, or the color of their skin; and

WHEREAS, the national rhetoric regarding immigration during and since the 2024 National Presidential Election has resulted in concerns and uncertainty among many, including but not limited to immigrants, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and individuals and families experiencing vulnerabilities in our community, across our State, and across our nation; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2025 the Board of Supervisors adopted that certain “Resolution to Uphold the Civil Rights, Dignity, Health and Safety of Our Immigrant Population and All Sonoma County Residents”; and

WHEREAS, the statewide TRUST Act (AB 4) California Trust Act limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement can detain individuals on behalf of federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, the statewide TRUTH Act (AB 2792) California TRUTH Act increases transparency and oversight regarding local law enforcement’s communication with federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, the statewide VALUES Act (SB 54) California Values Act limits the circumstances under which local law enforcement may use funds or personnel to support immigration enforcement, and authorizes localities in California to establish further restrictions in local policies. It also prevents police and sheriff’s deputies from asking about an individual’s immigration status or from sharing a person’s sensitive personal information with immigration authorities, unless otherwise required or permitted by law, or from arresting anyone only for having a deportation removal order or for most other immigration related violations; and

WHEREAS, the California Education Code § 234.7 prohibits schools from adopting policies or practices and discriminate against or hinder access to school services based on immigration status, and restricts schools from collecting or sharing information about immigration status; and

WHEREAS, the above referenced laws have been enacted statewide as a declaration that California recognizes and values the contributions of immigrants in our communities. While the County acknowledges the federal government’s extensive legislation related to immigration regulation and enforcement, consistent with these state laws, the County declines to participate in federal efforts to enforce such federal laws in our communities; and

WHEREAS, in a letter to the community in November 2024, the Sonoma County Law Enforcement Chiefs Association reaffirmed local police and sheriff’s commitment to the above-mentioned state laws, and acknowledged that “participating in federal immigration

enforcement undermines the trust and cooperation necessary for effective policing” in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors continues to welcome opportunities to partner with the Legislature, other jurisdictions, local organizations, and businesses that support and defend these populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 2. Definitions. For purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

“Agency” means the County of Sonoma and department, agency, division, commission, council, committee, board, other body, or person under the policy direction of the Board of Supervisors and where the Board of Supervisors acts as the Board of Directors and Commissioners for applicable department and agencies. Board of Supervisors’ policy authority does not extend to other elected officials, including the District Attorney and the Sonoma County Sheriff, who have legal authority over the policy directives of their respective operations.

“Representative” means any person employed by or acting on behalf of an Agency.

“Citizenship or immigration status” means all matters regarding questions of citizenship of the United States or any other country, including place of birth, and/or authority to reside in or otherwise be present in the United States.

“Immigration enforcement” includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal civil immigration law, and also includes any and all efforts to investigate, enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal criminal immigration law that penalizes a person’s presence in, entry, or reentry to, or employment in, the United States (as defined in California Government Code §7284.4(f)).

“Sensitive personal information” is as defined in California Civil Code § 1798.140(ae) and also includes a person’s social media identifiers, place of birth, home address, employment status, citizenship or immigration status, disability, credit score, or English language ability.”

Section 3. Confidentiality. In order for all residents to feel safe while interacting with local government – whether to access benefits, report a crime, or file a legal document – the Board of Supervisors directs all Representatives to closely protect the sensitive personal information of residents, whether that information is collected at birth, marriage, or death, through the application for benefits for health, housing, or human services, or via other situations in which sensitive information comes into possession or awareness of the Agency.

(A) No Representative or Agency shall request, maintain, or disclose sensitive personal information, unless and only if required by state or federal statute or regulation, court order or a lawfully issued judicial search warrant or subpoena.

(B) All Agency Heads shall report any interactions with federal immigration authorities,

including, but not limited to, any service of subpoenas, warrants or surveillance of County facilities to the County Executive within 24 hours of their occurrence.

Section 4: Use of Agency Resources. All County departments, agencies, commissions, officers, Representatives, and employees are prohibited from using Agency resources, property, personnel, time, labor, or funds to:

- (A) Inquire into or collect information about an individual's citizenship, place of birth, or Citizenship or immigration status in relation to an application, questionnaire, or interview form in relation to Agency benefits, opportunities, or services unless required by law in order to provide an Agency service or carry out a function of Agency government or if relevant to potential or actual litigation or an administrative proceeding in which the Agency is or may be a party; or
- (B) Assist or cooperate with any and all Immigration enforcement operations or requests by federal immigration authorities or entities contracted to act on behalf of federal immigration authorities, unless pursuant to a court order or otherwise required by federal or state statute, regulation, or court decision. This extends to the use of any and all Agency-owned, leased, or rented properties, which may not be used for any Immigration enforcement related activity. This does not apply to property that is currently subject to an existing lease or concession agreement to which the Agency is a party; or
- (C) Provide access to or use non-public Agency property, facilities, or assets, including but not limited to office space, conference rooms, as well as databases and other electronic Agency property and tools, to federal immigration authorities, unless pursuant to a judicial warrant or otherwise required by federal or state statute, regulation, or court decision.

Section 5: Public Information and Education. The Agency shall maintain a centralized webpage of information about the County of Sonoma's services, policies, and procedures related to prohibiting cooperation between local government officials, Agency employees, and federal immigration authorities, as well as information regarding legal and other community resources available to local immigrant communities.

Section 6: Staff and Representative Training. Agency Heads shall implement training for staff on how to interact with and address federal immigration authorities regarding the prohibitions provided in this Ordinance. Agency Heads shall also develop and disseminate specific protocols and procedures for all staff or representatives regarding interactions with federal immigration authorities, consistent with this Ordinance.

Section 7: County Affirmation. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors affirms the importance of directing its Agency staff or representatives to prominently place signs explaining that a County resident's citizenship and immigration status will not be collected or disclosed unless required by state, federal or other law in order to provide a County services. Signs will be prominently placed in lobbies of all County departments or agencies. The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors encourages all County residents and all County departments and agencies, including its staff and representatives to speak out against acts of bullying, discrimination and hate violence and to stand up for those who are targeted for

such acts in accordance with applicable laws.

Section 8: Review and Reporting Requirements. In order to ensure compliance with this Ordinance, within six months of adoption or whenever feasible, but in no event later than one year, impacted Agency departments shall:

- (A) Review all Agency policies and practices to ensure compliance with this Ordinance and to provide a report to the Chief Executive outlining steps taken to implement these provisions.
- (B) Report to the Chief Executive that the signs have been placed in all lobbies of all Agencies.
- (C) Report to the Chief Executive all the trainings completed to ensure full compliance with this Ordinance.

Section 9: Commitment to Policies and Procedures: The County of Sonoma shall continue to promote, enforce, and defend County policies and procedures that protect the human and civil rights of all residents and that ensure adherence to the non-discrimination principles enacted by the County of Sonoma in this Ordinance and in other Ordinances and official enactments.

Section 10. Consistency with Applicable Law. Nothing herein shall be construed to violate, or to encourage noncompliance with, any State or Federal laws with regard to immigration or other law enforcement. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as contrary to or in defiance of any Federal or State Law.

Section 11: Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or its application of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid and/or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance.

Section 12: Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days from the date of adoption. This Ordinance shall be and the same is hereby declared to be in full force and effect from and after thirty (30) days after the date of its passage and shall be published once before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after said passage, with the names of the Supervisors voting for or against the same, in *The Press Democrat*, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sonoma, State of California.

In regular session of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, introduced on the 7th day of April, 2026, and finally passed and adopted on this ___ day of _____, 2026 on regular roll call of the members of Said Board by the following vote:

Supervisors:

Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins: Hermosillo:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared the above and foregoing Ordinance duly adopted and

SO ORDERED

Chair, Board of Supervisors County of
Sonoma, the Board of Directors of the
Sonoma County Water Agency, the Board of
Directors of the Sonoma County Agricultural
Preservation and Open Space District, and
the Board of Commissioners of the
Community Development Commission

ATTEST:

M. Christina Rivera
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors,
Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency,
the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District,
and the Board of Commissioners of the Community Development Commission