

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Santa Cruz local resilience vs federal desires
Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 2:42:47 PM

From: David Faulkner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Santa Cruz local resilience vs federal desires

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David Faulkner
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4/1/25

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: Santa Cruz County's Plan to Protect Against Federal Retaliation and Authoritarian Overreach

Dear Chair Felipe Hernandez and Members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Santa Cruz County regarding the return of the Trump administration that wishes to undermine democracy, punish progressive communities, and strip local governments of their autonomy. Given Trump's actions—such as threatening to withhold federal funding from sanctuary cities, escalating immigration enforcement in targeted areas, and undermining state and local policies that protect vulnerable populations—I believe it is critical for our county to have a clear, proactive plan to resist federal overreach and defend our community.

Santa Cruz County has long been a leader in standing up for social justice, environmental protection, and immigrant rights. However, as we saw in Trump's previous administration, federal retaliation against progressive regions is a real threat.

With this in mind, I would like to understand what specific steps the Board is taking to:

1. **Protect Local Funding and Services** – If a future Trump administration attempts to cut federal funding due to our sanctuary policies or other progressive initiatives, what contingency plans does the County have in place to ensure the continuation of essential services, including housing, healthcare, and social programs? We need an alternative plan to federal funding.
2. **Shield Residents from Federal Overreach** – What policies are being considered to ensure that local law enforcement agencies, including the Sheriff's Office, do not cooperate with unconstitutional federal mandates, such as mass deportations, politically motivated prosecutions, or surveillance of activists?
3. **Ensure County Employees and Agencies Uphold Democratic Values** – How will the County ensure that its employees, law enforcement officers, and public officials are not coerced into enforcing federal policies that violate our community's values and legal protections?
4. **Strengthen Community Resilience Against Authoritarianism** – What steps can the County take to promote civic engagement, local resistance strategies, and legal protections against any attempts to erode democratic governance?

I urge the Board to take these threats seriously and to be transparent with the public about what steps are being taken to prepare for and resist any federal overreach. Santa Cruz County has always been a community that values inclusion, justice, and democratic integrity—we must be ready to defend those principles.

I appreciate your time and look forward to your response. Please let me know how I and others in our community can support these efforts.

Sincerely,

David Faulkner

Santa Cruz County