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9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
10 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 LEANDER FRAI GARCIA,
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13 Petitioners,

14 v.

15 KRISTI NOEM, et. al,
16 Respondents.
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Case No.: 25-CV-3759-LL-BLM
RESPONSE TO PETITION

1 On July 8, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) instituted a notice
2 titled “Interim Guidance Regarding Detention Authority for Applicants for Admission”
3 (the “Notice”) requiring, in general, that anyone arrested in the United States and charged
4 with being inadmissible to be considered an “applicant for admission” under 8 U.S.C.
5 § 1225(b)(2)(A), subject to mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(2)(A) and not
6 subject to detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).

7 In *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, No. 5:25-CV-01873-SSS-BFM, --- F. Supp. 3d
8 ---, 2025 WL 3289861 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2025), the district court declared the Notice
9 unlawful under the Administrative Procedures Act but did not issue a final judgment. On
10 December 18, 2025, however, the *Bautista* court entered final judgement. *Bautista*, ECF
11 No. 94. Accordingly, Respondents acknowledge that Petitioner is detained under 8 U.S.C.
12 § 1226(a) and is entitled to an order from this Court directing a bond hearing be held
13 pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).¹

14 Respondents reserve the right to supplement this response in the event of a stay of
15 enforcement of the *Bautista* final judgment, appellate relief, or a change in DHS policy.

16 DATED: January 5, 2026

ADAM GORDON
United States Attorney

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18 s/ Laura C. Sambataro
LAURA C. SAMBATARO
Assistant United States Attorney
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26 ¹ To the extent the Court issues an order directing a bond hearing under 1226(a),
27 considering current and forthcoming federal holidays, heavy caseloads, and staffing levels,
28 Respondents respectfully request that such order provide the government 14 days from
issuance to hold such bond hearing.