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ADAM GORDON
United States Attorney
KELLY A. REIS
Assistant United States Attorney
California State Bar No. 334496
Office of the U.S. Attorney
880 Front Street, Room 6293
San Diego, CA 92101-8893
Telephone: 619-546-8767
Email: kelly.reis@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Respondents

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSE ALEJANDRO LAGOS ALBERTO,

Petitioners,

v.

CHRISTOPHER LAROSE, et al.,

Respondents.

Case No.: 26-cv-742-CAB-MMP
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 Procedure 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: February 12, 2026

ADAM GORDON
United States Attorney

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18 s/ Kelly A. Reis
KELLY A. REIS
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 heavy caseloads and staffing levels, Respondents respectfully request that such
28 order provide the government 14 days from issuance to hold such bond hearing.