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

10 ENDY GUERRA-PORTILLO,
11 Petitioner,

12 v.

13
14 TODD BLANCHE, in his official capacity as
Acting Attorney General, *et al.*,
15 Respondents.

Case No.: 26cv03625 JAO DEB
RESPONSE TO PETITION

17 Petitioner has filed a habeas petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The government has
18 carefully reviewed this petition and determined that the legal issues presented concern the
19 statutory authority for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) detention of
20 Petitioner under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b)(2)(A) or 1226(a). While reserving all rights, including
21 the right to appeal, the government respectfully submits this abbreviated response to
22 preserve the legal issues, to conserve judicial and party resources, and to expedite the
23 Court's consideration of this matter.

24 Petitioner was previously released from immigration custody on conditional parole
25 issued under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a). It is the government's position that Petitioner is subject
26 to mandatory detention under § 1225(b)(2). However, the government acknowledges that
27 this Court, and Courts in this District, have repeatedly reached the opposite conclusion
28

1 under the same and/or similar facts. *See, e.g., Arias Torres v. Bondi*, No. 25-cv-2457-BAS-
 2 MSB, 2025 WL 3214773 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 18, 2025); *Martinez Lopez v. LaRose*, No. 25-
 3 cv-2717-JES-AHG, 2025 WL 3030457 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2025); *Beltran v. Noem*, No.
 4 25cv2650-LL-DEB, 2025 WL 3078837 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 4, 2025); *Garcia v. Noem*, 803 F.
 5 Supp. 3d 1064 (S.D. Cal. 2025); *Esquivel-Ipina v. LaRose*, No. 25-CV-2672 JLS (BLM),
 6 2025 WL 2998361 (S.D. Cal. Oct. 24, 2025); *Lucas-Miguel v. LaRose*, No. 25-cv-3022-
 7 RSH-JLB, 2025 WL 3251580 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2025); *Vasquez-Diaz v. LaRose*, No. 25-
 8 cv-3038-TWR-JLB, ECF No. 6 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2025); *Cardoso v. LaRose*, No. 25-cv-
 9 3043-BJC-VET, ECF No. 7 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 12, 2025); *Maceda-Garcia v. Noem*, No. 25-
 10 cv-2968-JO-JLB, ECF No. 9 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2025); *A.S. v. LaRose*, No. 25-cv-2876-
 11 RBM-VET, ECF No. 9 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 225); *Prieto-Cordova v. LaRose*, No. 25-cv-
 12 2824-CAB-DDL, 2025 WL 3228953 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2025); *Lagarda-Vega v. Noem*,
 13 No. 25-cv-2970-GPC-DDL, 2025 WL 3558931 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 11, 2025); *Nayyer v.*
 14 *LaRose*, No. 25-cv-3111-AGS-DDL, ECF No. 7 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 12, 2025); *Amaya v.*
 15 *Noem*, No. 25cv2892-BTM-DEB, 2025 WL 3182998 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2025).

16 The government acknowledges that this Court's prior decisions will control the
 17 result here if the Court adheres to its prior decisions, as the facts are not materially
 18 distinguishable for purposes of the Court's decision, and on that basis the government does
 19 not oppose the petition and defers to the Court on the appropriate relief.¹

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 23 ¹ To the extent the Court issues an order directing a bond hearing under 1226(a),
 24 considering heavy caseloads and staffing levels, Respondents respectfully request that
 25 such order provide the government 14 days from issuance to hold such bond hearing.
 26 Respondents also respectfully note that the Ninth Circuit has confirmed that at a bond
 27 hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), the burden is on the detainee to demonstrate by a
 28 preponderance of the evidence that he is not a flight risk or danger to the community. *See Rodriguez Diaz v. Garland*, 53 F.4th 1189, 1197 (9th Cir. 2022); *see also Dos Santos v. Becerra*, No. 26-cv-01423-GPC-VET, 2026 WL 800201 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 23, 2026).

1 DATED: June 29, 2026

2 Respectfully submitted,

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5 s/ Douglas D. Nelson

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8 Attorneys for Respondents
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