



JIM DESMOND

SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

August 4, 2025

U.S. Attorney Gordon
880 Front Street, Room 6293
San Diego, CA 92101

Request for Independent Investigation into Alleged Misconduct in San Diego County

Dear U.S. Attorney Gordon,

I am requesting that the Department of Justice conduct an independent investigation into recent allegations involving San Diego County governance, as reported by *La Prensa*. These allegations concern the circumstances surrounding the retirement of County Counsel Claudia Silva and alleged dealings tied to ongoing litigation. While I acknowledge that these incidents remain unproven, the seriousness of the claims in San Diego County demands an impartial review to ensure public trust and transparency.

Public confidence in government is already fragile, and the alleged actions taken behind closed doors only deepen concerns about political gamesmanship and corruption. In recent years, the resignation of consecutive Board Chairs has raised additional questions about the integrity and transparency of County leadership. The public deserves clarity and an honest accounting of events—not vague statements or behind-the-scenes maneuvering.

Transparency must remain our highest priority. San Diego County residents have a right to know what occurred, who was involved, and whether any laws or ethical standards were violated. The allegations outlined in the recent *La Prensa* report, combined with concerns about a wrongful termination lawsuit and the perception of unethical conduct, point to a pattern that warrants federal scrutiny. These issues have already cost taxpayers more than \$11 million in legal fees and special election costs, further underscoring the need for accountability.

I urge my fellow supervisors and county officials to cooperate fully with any federal investigation. San Diego County residents deserve clear answers and the assurance that

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their government is acting with honesty, integrity, and accountability—particularly when millions of taxpayer dollars are at stake.

I respectfully request that your office review the La Prensa allegations and consider an independent investigation to determine if any misconduct or violations of law have occurred. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Desmond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Desmond" clearly distinguishable.

JIM DESMOND

Fifth District Supervisor

County of San Diego