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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BERSAIN VARGAS-MENDEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

MARKWAYNE MULLIN, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security; *et al.*,

Respondents.

Case No. 26-cv-03685-LL-MSB

RETURN TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Petitioner appears to be a member of the Bond Eligible Class certified in *Maldonado Bautista v. Santacruz*, 813 F. Supp. 3d 1084 (C.D. Cal. 2025). The Ninth Circuit has stayed application of the Order beyond the Central District of California. However, Respondents acknowledge the prior orders from this District directing bond hearings pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) in similar cases.[1] Respondents therefore do not oppose an order from this Court directing a bond hearing be held pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a).[2]

DATED: June 30, 2026

ADAM GORDON
United States Attorney

s/ *Hunter Norton*
HUNTER V. NORTON
Assistant United States Attorney

[1] To the extent the Court issues an order directing a bond hearing under 1226(a), considering heavy caseloads and staffing levels, Respondents respectfully request that such order provide the government 14 days from issuance to hold such bond hearing.

[2] The Ninth Circuit has confirmed that at a bond hearing under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a), the burden is on the detainee to demonstrate by a 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); Exhibit 2 (RAP Sheet) at 4-5.