

City of Encinitas City Council's Office

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September 8, 2025

Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate
1021 O St., Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Bruce Ehlers
Mayor

RE: Support for Senate Bill 627 (Wiener, Arreguin, Perez) As Amended 8/21/25 – Law enforcement: masks

Dear Senator Wiener,

Joy Lyndes
Deputy Mayor

On behalf of the City of Encinitas, I write in strong support of Senate Bill 627 (SB 627). SB 627 prohibits law enforcement at all levels operating in California from covering their faces while conducting operations, with limited exemptions. The bill will also ensure that SWAT and undercover officers can protect their faces as necessary on duty.

Jim O'Hara
Council Member

The City of Encinitas serves approximately 62,000 residents in northern San Diego County. The City employs around 250 staff members across various departments, including public works, planning, parks and recreation, and public safety, all operating within the city's five distinct communities: Old Encinitas, Leucadia, Olivenhain, Cardiff-by-the-Sea, and New Encinitas.

Maro San Antonio
Council Member

In recent months, federal law enforcement officials have conducted raids in California and across the country while covering their faces and, at times, badges, names, and other identifying information. Such raids have occurred in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Concord, Downey, Montebello, and many other places since the new federal administration began ramping up its immigration enforcement efforts. In some operations, federal law enforcement agents have appeared masked to grab residents off the street and whisk them away to detention centers across state lines without contacting their families or loved ones.

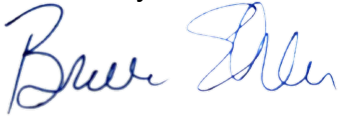
Luke Shaffer
Council Member

Masking their faces while conducting operations undermines the public's trust in law enforcement, making it less likely people will report crimes and testify in court. This practice also inspires an environment of fear among the general public that runs counter to the basic principles of democracy.

Jennifer Campbell
City Manager

Our organization lends our voice to the broad coalition calling for your support for SB 627.
Thank you for considering our support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Bruce Ehlers
Mayor
City of Encinitas

cc: Assemblymember Tasha Boerner
Senator Catherine Blakespear