

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESEACRH FROM THE TORREY PINES DEMOCRATIC CLUB OPEN FORMUM ON ACTIONS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AND THEIR IMPACTS ON SAN DIEGO

On March 27, 2025 the Torrey Pines Democratic Club held an open forum. In the meeting notice the purpose was described as:

Many democrats are worried about Trump and Musk and their efforts to dismantle our democracy. There is lots of effort at the state and national level to fight back and we encourage you to support those efforts. We don't want to duplicate them. At the meeting we will provide links so you can learn about them. Our program will focus on the local impacts to our schools, UCSD, to local workers and employers, to services for the poor, the undocumented, the homeless, the retired, to renters and landlords. We want to hear from you about your experiences and those of your friends, co-workers, and neighbors. We will prepare a digest of feedback received and use that to formulate an action plan we can share. We will also be collaborating these priorities with other local Democratic clubs and the San Diego County Democratic Party.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED AND RESEARCH BY TP DEMS:

- **Local Schools.** A member of a local school board shared:
 - Attendance is being affected by students and families afraid to attend school.
 - There is concern about the Trump Administration changing the rules to allow ICE to enter open areas of public school campuses and uncertainty about entry to other on campus areas. Attorney General Bonta has issued guidance that ICE is allowed to enter “public” areas of school campuses.
 - There is concern about the Trump Administration’s cutting funding for school programs which is especially impactful to poorer districts in San Diego.
 - There is concern about the fallout in San Diego from Trump’s plans to eliminate the federal Department of Education.
 - There is concern at UCSD, Cal State San Diego, Cal State San Marcos, and other colleges in the area about the impact to foreign students on visas.
 - It is estimated 100,000 college student without permanent status live in California, and 3.3 million Californians live in mixed status households.
- **Military in San Diego.** News reports indicate that there are about 200,000 military veterans in San Diego. Concerns include:
 - Cuts to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs
 - Reductions or elimination of services at the V. A., Balboa Naval Hospital, and other local military facilities.

- **Immigrant Community**

- There is much fear in the immigrant community among the documented, mixed families, and the undocumented.
- California will lose billions in tax revenues from undocumented persons if they leave the state or are removed. All pay sales taxes and many, including in San Diego and its 17 cities, pay income taxes, property taxes, and social security taxes but receive nothing in return.
- There is concern in the immigrant community over new Trump rules allowing ICE to enter sensitive locations such as schools, churches, synagogues, and mosques. Trump's Homeland Security is quoted as saying: "Criminals will no longer be able to hide in America's schools and churches to avoid arrest."

- **Federal Closures.**

- Concern was expressed about loss of services in San Diego due to Trump directed closures. Nationally 10,000,000 sq. feet of federal building space is scheduled for closure. In San Diego 40, 242 sq. feet of office space is being closed:
 - The Carlsbad Social Security office is being closed.
 - The downtown San Diego Social Security office is being closed
 - The public facing IRS service location in San Marcos is being closed.
 - The FDA site in University City is being closed.
 - The International Trade Admin. Center in Kearny Mesa is being closed.
 - The Dept. of Labor office in downtown San Diego is being closed.
- Concern was express over impacts to the tens of thousands of federal employees in San Diego, many of whom provide essential services across defense, healthcare, and public safety.

- **NOAA**

- San Diego has a large and vibrant agricultural and tourist economy. There is concern that the cuts to NOAA will adversely impact weather reporting and tourism, agriculture, and air travel.
- There is concern over the impact to NOAA's critical programs addressing climate change.
- It was noted that Charles David Keeling's critical climate work (being carried on by others since his death) at Scripps Institute of Oceanography is scheduled to be cut.

- **Port of San Diego**
 - There is concern over Trump's tariffs and the impact to the \$6 billion per year in economic activity at the Port of San Diego.
 - There is concern over the fallout to local businesses that rely on the Port.
 - There is concern about the workforce and labor market that depends on Port traffic.
 - There is concern over the predicted rising cost of consumer goods as a result.
- **Coastal Commission and San Diego**
 - There is concern over the future of coastal and environmental protections flowing from the Coastal Act and the Coastal Commission based on Trump and Musk attacks on it.
 - As quoted in the NY Times, Trump said he will not "let them get away with their antics."
- **Medical services.**
 - Concern was expressed about Trump cuts to medical services in San Diego.
 - San Diego received \$13 billion in federal medical aid in 2024 covering 1 million people.
- **Medical and Related Research**
 - San Diego is home to a vibrant and important medical, drug, and science related research community at UCSD, Sanford Burnham, Scripps Research Institute, CIRM, and elsewhere developing important and cutting edge drug and medical research.
 - Great concern was expressed over Trump and Musk cuts to these programs.
 - Two members of the TP Dems Board, and others, have personal knowledge of the fallout in this important area.