



# Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

## Summary of CRCL's Recommendations and ICE's Response *La Palma Correctional Center*

On March 4, 2022, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) responded to an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* issued in August 2021 by the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) that followed an onsite investigation at the La Palma Correctional Center (LPCC). ICE concurred with two recommendations, partially concurred with 11, and non-concurred with 18.

### Background

Between July and November 2020, CRCL opened six complaint investigations involving noncitizens in ICE custody at LPCC. The allegations raised concerns related to language access, COVID-19 protocols, use of force, personal hygiene, dietary restrictions, and sexual abuse and assault prevention. As a result of these complaints, CRCL conducted a multidisciplinary onsite investigation at LPCC in February 2021 to examine the facility's operations and assess issues raising civil rights and civil liberties concerns.

### Findings and Recommendations

In August 2021, CRCL issued ICE an *Expert Recommendation Memorandum* based on its investigation conducted with the assistance of contract subject matter experts. The memo includes 31 recommendations in the general areas of conditions of detention, medical care, and environmental health and safety. The following highlights the top three findings and actions that ICE agreed to take as a result of CRCL's recommendations.

### **Legal Access**

CRCL determined that LPCC did not provide alternative options for quarantined noncitizens to participate in their virtual court hearings. ICE agreed to provide ICE staff with telephone and computer access in another area of the housing unit that would facilitate appearances to court hearings for quarantined noncitizens.

### **Language Access**

CRCL found that LPCC's local detainee handbook was not translated into languages other than English and Spanish. Following CRCL's visit, LPCC translated their local detainee handbook into 12 additional languages. These translated versions are now available on the noncitizen tablets.

### **Recreation**

CRCL found that LPCC did not take into account seasonal and temperature conditions for scheduling recreational time. ICE agreed to adjust the recreational schedule to account for seasonal changes in the weather and daylight hours.

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CRCL provides the public with documents related to complaint investigations. After it is prepared and reviewed, CRCL will post a redacted version of this Expert Recommendation Memorandum on our [website](#) that will contain additional information about the complaint investigation and CRCL's findings and recommendations.

March 4, 2024