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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

STATE OF ARIZONA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 2:21-cv-00186-SRB

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF HOMELAND SECURITY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

**UNOPPOSED MOTION TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF AS AMICI CURIAE
OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, ACLU OF ARIZONA,
AND ACLU OF MONTANA**

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), ACLU of Arizona, and ACLU of Montana respectfully request the Court’s permission to file the attached supplemental brief of amici curiae. All parties have stated in writing that they do not oppose this motion. The

1 Court previously granted amici’s motion to file an amicus brief regarding the 100-day
2 removal pause. Dkts. 29, 30. The attached supplemental amicus brief addresses DHS’s
3 enforcement priorities, which Plaintiffs challenge in their supplemental preliminary
4 injunction brief, Dkt. 61.

6 **I. Identity and Interests of *Amici Curiae***

7 As explained in amici’s earlier motion for leave, amici are public interest
8 organizations that work to protect the civil rights and fundamental liberties of people in
9 Arizona, Montana, and across the country. Dkt. 27 at 2. Amici have extensive experience
10 with the immigration system in general, and in particular with the enforcement priorities that
11 ICE and its predecessors have used to guide their own enforcement decisions. These policies
12 are of significant interest to amici, their members, and their clients.
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14 **II. Why the Motion Should be Granted**

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16 “Amicus briefs are considered at the discretion of the Court.” *Miracle v. Hobbs*, 333
17 F.R.D. 151, 156 (D. Ariz. 2019). “The classic role of *amici* is threefold: (1) to assist in a
18 case of general public interest; (2) to supplement the efforts of counsel; and (3) to draw the
19 court’s attention to law that has escaped consideration.” *Dible v. City of Chandler*, 2004 WL
20 7336848, at *1 (D. Ariz. Dec. 23, 2004) (citing *Miller-Wohl Co. v. Comm’r of Labor &*
21 *Indus., State of Montana*, 694 F.2d 203, 204 (9th Cir. 1982)).
22

23 In their supplemental brief, Plaintiffs assert claims that would have a significant
24 impact on the liberty interests of people in Arizona, Montana, and across the country. Their
25 claims would also alter the immigration enforcement system as it has existed across
26 administrations. Amici bring decades of expertise representing immigrants and litigating a
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1 variety of issues related to immigration enforcement. *See, e.g., Arizona v. U.S.*, 567 U.S. 387
2 (2012) (amicus brief of ACLU and ACLU of Arizona); *Make the Rd. New York v. Wolf*, 962
3 F.3d 612 (D.C. Cir. 2020); *Gonzalez v. United States Immigr. & Customs Enf't*, 975 F.3d
4 788 (9th Cir. 2020); *Ibrahim v. Acosta*, 2018 WL 582520 (S.D. Fla. Jan. 26, 2018).

6 Amici's expertise, as reflected in the attached brief, will assist the Court in resolving
7 Plaintiffs' supplemental claims. The brief explains the deeply-rooted history of prioritization
8 policies like the one Plaintiffs challenge here, which ICE, its predecessors, and other
9 agencies across the government have used for decades. The brief also expands on several
10 key arguments in this case: that such policies have never been subject to notice and
11 comment, and that ICE's priorities cannot be enjoined based on Plaintiffs' so-called SAFE
12 Agreements. Amici believe these arguments will be useful to the Court in resolving
13 Plaintiffs' preliminary injunction motion.
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16 Accordingly, amici respectfully request the Court's leave to file the attached brief.
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1 Dated: May 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

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18 **pro hac vice forthcoming*
19 ***admitted pursuant to Ariz. Sup. Ct. R.*
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 13, 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court by using the District Court CM/ECF system. A true and correct copy of this motion has been served via the Court’s CM/ECF system on all counsel of record.

/s/ Victoria Lopez
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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

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11 State of Arizona, *et al.*,

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14 *Plaintiffs,*

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Case No. 2:21-cv-00186-SRB

16
17 United States Department of
18 Homeland Security, *et al.*,

19 *Defendants.*
20
21

22 **SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE**
23 **AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, ACLU OF ARIZONA, AND**
24 **ACLU OF MONTANA IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS**
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 4 628 F.3d 1059 (9th Cir. 2010)..... 10

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INTRODUCTION

1
2 In their supplemental brief, Arizona and Montana (“Plaintiffs”) challenge the
3 interim enforcement priorities established by ICE’s February 18, 2021 Interim Guidance
4 (“Guidance”), Dkt. 64-1 at 2-8. *See* Supp. Br., Dkt. 61. Plaintiffs challenge the Guidance
5 only “as applied to removals,” *id.* at 5, not as applied to all other enforcement actions, *see*
6 Guidance 3 (explaining that the Guidance applies to *all* enforcement decisions, such as
7 whether to arrest, initiate removal proceedings, release, or grant deferred action). Amici
8 previously filed a brief regarding the 100-day removal pause, Dkt. 27-2, and Defendants
9 have argued that the entire case is unreviewable for various reasons, Dkt. 26 at 8-14. Amici
10 respectfully submit this supplemental brief to address several additional reasons why
11 Plaintiffs’ new challenge to the Guidance, even assuming it is reviewable in the first place,
12 must fail.
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15
16 Plaintiffs’ central claim is that ICE’s enforcement priorities are arbitrary and
17 capricious. To the contrary, the Guidance is a routine exercise of ICE’s enforcement
18 discretion. For decades, in every administration, ICE and its predecessors have used
19 similar policies to establish enforcement priorities. And all administrations have declined
20 to execute certain removal orders, with the Supreme Court’s explicit approval.
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22
23 Plaintiffs present no basis to upset these established practices. Plaintiffs complain
24 that removal numbers have changed, but nothing obligates ICE to remove any set number
25 of people each month. Plaintiffs also suggest that the Guidance’s invocation of resource
26 limitations is pretextual, but it is obvious that ICE can only pursue a tiny percentage of the
27 millions of people who are potentially removable. Meanwhile Plaintiffs ignore the many
28

1 other rationales stated in the Guidance. And they misread both the Guidance and the record
2 when they claim that the Guidance bars large categories of enforcement.

3
4 In any event, even if the Court determines that ICE should have offered more
5 explanation for its interim priorities, the proper remedy would be to remand to ICE for
6 further explanation without enjoining the policy. Remand without vacatur is clearly
7 appropriate here because the agency could fill out its explanation on remand, and an
8 injunction would seriously disrupt the agency's operations.

9
10 Plaintiffs' notice-and-comment claim must also fail. ICE's priority policies *never*
11 go through notice and comment, nor do those of other agencies. Courts have uniformly
12 concluded that these policies are not subject to notice and comment where they leave the
13 agency free to exercise discretion in individual cases.

14
15 Finally, as explained in earlier briefing, Plaintiffs' contract claim fails for a host of
16 reasons, most of which Plaintiffs do not address. They respond to one defect, suggesting
17 that Congress has waived sovereign immunity for claims seeking to enjoin agency action
18 that violates a contract. But the Ninth Circuit has held squarely to the contrary.

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20 **ARGUMENT**

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22 Even if the Court concludes that the Guidance is reviewable in the first place,
23 Plaintiffs' claims fail on the merits.

24 **I. The Guidance Is a Routine Exercise of ICE's Enforcement Discretion.**

25
26 Plaintiffs are challenging basic components of the immigration system—priority
27 policies and stays of removal—that have been used for decades, across every
28 administration.

1 ICE and its predecessors have consistently used policies like the Guidance to
2 establish enforcement priorities. Every administration for decades has issued an equivalent
3 policy identifying its priorities. *See, e.g.*, Kelly Memo., Enforcement of the Immigration
4 Laws to Serve the National Interest (Feb. 20, 2017), <https://bit.ly/3tNxBzk>; Morton
5 Memo., Civil Immigration Enforcement Priorities (Mar. 2, 2011), <https://bit.ly/31hkwC9>;
6 Myers Memo., Prosecutorial and Custody Discretion (Nov. 7, 2007), <https://bit.ly/3rfw8jZ>;
7 Meissner Memo., Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion, (Nov. 17, 2000),
8 <https://bit.ly/3bp1nUC>. Just like the Guidance, these typically identify priority categories,
9 but leave field offices free to make specific enforcement decisions on a case-by-case basis.
10 *See, e.g.*, Guidance 3, 6; Kelly Memo 4; Morton Memo 2. They never go through notice
11 and comment.
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15 Congress has expressly instructed ICE to issue these policies. *See* 6 U.S.C. § 202(5)
16 (directing DHS to establish “enforcement policies and priorities”). And the Supreme Court
17 has understood them as fundamental parts of the immigration system, which implement
18 “the broad discretion exercised by immigration officials,” who “must decide whether . . .
19 to pursue removal at all.” *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387, 407-08, 396, 412 (2012).
20

21
22 These policies are generally issued for the same kinds of reasons as the Guidance.
23 First, ICE does not have the resources to arrest, detain, and remove the millions of people
24 who are technically removable, so it *has* to decide what subset to focus on. *See, e.g.*,
25 Guidance 2; Morton Memo 1; Meissner Memo 4. Second, ICE often faces specific
26 operational challenges; currently, those challenges include the COVID-19 pandemic. *See*
27 Pecoske Memo 1, Dkt. 64-1 at 11; Meissner Memo 8 (noting fluctuations in “detention
28

1 space”). Third, ICE must balance enforcement with “human concerns,” *Arizona*, 567 U.S.
2 at 396, which play an important role in ICE’s choice of enforcement priorities. *See*
3 Guidance 2; Morton Memo., Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion, 4-5 (June 17, 2011),
4 <https://bit.ly/3cfLhgK>; Myers Memo 1; Meissner Memo 7-8, 11. Plaintiffs have no valid
5 claim to dictate how ICE balances these often competing considerations.
6

7 The Guidance’s requirement of supervisor approval for certain actions is also
8 standard practice. ICE frequently requires supervisors to sign off on a variety of
9 enforcement activities. *See, e.g.*, Forman Memo., Issuances of Notices to Appear (June 21,
10 2004), <http://bit.ly/3f6hQQb> (requiring approval from Special Agent in Charge for specific
11 enforcement actions); ICE Directive No. 11072.1 (Jan. 10, 2018), <https://bit.ly/399Ixzt>
12 (approval from Special Agent in Charge or Field Office Director); Morton Memo, Mar. 2,
13 2011, at 3 (same); Morton Memo., Enforcement at Sensitive Locations (Oct. 24, 2011),
14 <https://bit.ly/319y3f0> (similar). Other agencies regularly do the same. *See, e.g.*, U.S. Dep’t
15 of Justice, The Attorney General’s Guidelines for Domestic FBI Operations, 14-15 (2008),
16 <https://bit.ly/3vWDvQ0>; Sec. & Exch. Comm’n, Enforcement Manual 14 (Nov. 28 2017),
17 <https://bit.ly/3becdfO>; Paul J. Ray, OIRA, Memo. to the Deputy Secretaries of Exec.
18 Depts., 5 (Aug. 31, 2020) (recommending that agencies require senior officials to sign off
19 on “the initiation of investigations and enforcement actions”). The Guidance thus requires
20 supervisors to review whether lower-priority enforcement actions “constitute[] a justified
21 allocation” of agency resources. Guidance at 6. And the outcome of that case-by-case
22 review is anything but foreordained: In *Arizona* and *Montana*, supervisors have approved
23 “the majority” of requests so far. Supp. Br. 13; *see* Dkt. 64-3 at 17-18 (listing eight people
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1 who can approve requests in Arizona and Montana); Dkt. 64-2 at 86 (describing “a
2 streamlined, IT-based approval platform”).

3 The Guidance is likewise a routine exercise of ICE’s longstanding discretion over
4 executing removal orders. As explained in amici’s prior brief, ICE has exercised this
5 discretion continuously for a century, during every administration. *See* Dkt. 27-2 at 6-8
6 (documenting extensive practice of deferring removal on humanitarian and other grounds).
7 The Supreme Court has been clear that this is a valid exercise of ICE’s deeply-rooted
8 prosecutorial discretion. *See Reno v. Am.-Arab Anti-Discr. Comm.*, 525 U.S. 471, 483-84
9 (1999). And even the district court that enjoined the 100-day removal pause acknowledged
10 that ICE has discretion to stay removals on an “individual case by case basis,” *Texas v.*
11 *United States*, 2021 WL 723856, *19 (S.D. Tex. Feb. 23, 2021) (italics omitted)—exactly
12 as the Guidance provides, *see* Guidance 3, 6 (requiring all enforcement decisions to be
13 made on an individualized basis). The Guidance, as applied to removals, fits squarely
14 within decades of uninterrupted administrative practice.
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19 **II. There Is Nothing Arbitrary About the Guidance.**

20 Plaintiffs offer a list of complaints about the Guidance, but all of them are either
21 irrelevant or contradicted by the record.
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23 First, Plaintiffs criticize ICE for not “[s]ustaining th[e] level of removals” that
24 occurred in previous months. Supp. Br. 7. But Plaintiffs do not seriously claim that ICE
25 is required to effectuate any set number of removals per month, or that ICE must choose
26 priorities that maximize removal numbers. Nor do Plaintiffs even attempt to show that the
27 Guidance is solely responsible for the change in aggregate removal numbers. Removal
28

1 numbers are always changing, whether in response to the pandemic, or the situation at the
2 border, or humanitarian needs, or any number of other factors. *See, e.g.*, Dkt. 64-3 at 19
3 (73% drop from January to May 2020, 44% drop from October to November 2020); TRAC,
4 Latest Data: ICE Removals, <https://bit.ly/2SCPl3e> (multiple large fluctuations over the last
5 decade). Plaintiffs cannot use the judiciary to dictate how many people ICE must remove.
6

7 Second, Plaintiffs remarkably claim that ICE’s invocation of resource limitations as
8 a reason for the Guidance is pretextual. Supp. Br. 1, 7-8. But they offer no real evidence
9 of pretext. *Cf. Dep’t of Com. v. New York*, 139 S. Ct. 2551, 2575-76 (2019) (discussing
10 “rare” and “unusual” evidence of pretext). Nor can there be any doubt that the agency must
11 make choices regarding how to deploy its limited resources. There are *millions* of
12 potentially removable people in the United States, and ICE can only take enforcement
13 action against a tiny percentage each year. *See* DHS Office of Imm. Stats., *Estimates of*
14 *the Unauthorized Immigrant Population* (Jan. 2021), <https://bit.ly/3tGLJdA>. ICE therefore
15 *must* set priorities, as the agency has made clear for decades. *See* Morton Memo 1;
16 Meissner Memo 4; Guidance at 2 (“ICE has always prioritized, and necessarily must
17 prioritize, certain enforcement and removal actions over others.”).
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22 Plaintiffs argue that decreases in removal numbers undermine ICE’s resource
23 concerns. Supp. Br. 1. But some enforcement actions take more resources than others, so
24 changes in overall removal numbers do not alter the reality that ICE faces resource
25 constraints. And more importantly, Plaintiffs ignore the Guidance’s many *other* rationales,
26 which also impact removal numbers. Supp. Br. 1 (calling resource limitations the “sole”
27 justification). ICE has explained that in addition to resource limitations, its priorities are
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1 informed by health and safety concerns “during the current COVID-19 pandemic,” the
2 need to ensure that people can pursue available “relief from removal under the immigration
3 laws,” “litigation in various fora,” and constraints placed by other countries’ “laws and
4 expectations.” Guidance 2; *see also* Pekoske Memo 1 (explaining need to “surge resources
5 to the border”). Plaintiffs do not deny that these are valid bases to exercise prosecutorial
6 discretion or divert resources to other tasks. They simply ignore these other reasons.
7

8
9 Third, Plaintiffs assert that the Guidance “preclud[es]” enforcement actions that fall
10 outside of its main priorities. Supp. Br. 1. The record forecloses this argument. The
11 Guidance makes crystal clear that it does not “prohibit the arrest, detention, or removal of
12 *any* noncitizen,” and it provides a process to approve enforcement “that falls outside” the
13 priorities. Guidance 3, 6 (emphasis added); *see* Dkt. 64-2 at 83-84 (ICE FAQs stating the
14 same). And Plaintiffs admit that ICE is actively approving requests for enforcement
15 outside the priorities. Supp. Br. 12-13. Even if ICE did require officers to stick to set
16 priorities, there would be nothing improper about that. But here it could not be clearer that
17 ICE has not imposed any categorical bars.
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20 Plaintiffs cite isolated cases in which supervisors did not approve particular
21 removals that fell outside the priorities. Supp. Br. 7, 10. But individual decisions hardly
22 demonstrate a categorical bar. Plaintiffs do not suggest that ICE lacked valid reasons for
23 deferring these particular removals—for instance, the individuals may have still been
24 pursuing relief from removal. Dkt. 64-2 at 6-7, 30. And, critically, the cases Plaintiffs cite
25 came *before* February 18 when ICE issued the current Guidance, which established a new
26 process for approving enforcement outside the priorities. So even the few cases Plaintiffs
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1 cherry-pick are not traceable to the February 18 Guidance they now challenge.

2 Finally, Plaintiffs repeatedly complain that ICE has received letters from lawyers
3 and advocates. Supp. Br. 1, 6, 7, 10 (ICE received “no fewer than four different letters
4 from advocacy groups”). Agencies receive such letters all the time, and there is nothing
5 improper about that fact. Plaintiffs try to portray ICE’s internal guidance regarding the
6 priorities as a “politicized process,” Supp. Br. 2-3, 6, but their complaints are remarkably
7 thin. Four times, they criticize an ICE official for sending an email at “midnight.” *Id.* at
8 1, 3, 6, 7. They suggest that ICE clarified the priorities’ application to removals hours after
9 receiving a letter from advocates. *Id.* This appears to misstate the facts, because the letter
10 was received on February 1, but the clarification came on February 4. *Id.* at 3. At any rate,
11 there would be nothing strange about an agency receiving information from the public and
12 acting accordingly. Nor is there anything remarkable about an agency refining its guidance
13 over the course of several days, particularly in the first days of a new administration and in
14 connection with related litigation.

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19 **III. Even If the Court Concludes that More Explanation Was Warranted, the**
20 **Proper Remedy Would Be to Remand Without an Injunction.**

21 No injunction is appropriate here even if the Court concludes that ICE failed to
22 sufficiently explain the Guidance’s stated rationales. Rather, when there is “at least a
23 serious possibility that the agency would be able to substantiate its decision on remand,”
24 and when an injunction would impose “disruptive consequences,” remand without vacatur
25 is the proper remedy. *Pollinator Stewardship Council v. EPA*, 806 F.3d 520, 532 (9th Cir.
26 2015) (quoting *Allied-Signal, Inc. v. U.S. Nuclear Reg. Comm’n*, 988 F.2d 146, 150-51
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1 (D.C. Cir. 1993)). Courts “commonly remand[] without vacating an agency’s rule or order
2 where the failure lay in lack of reasoned decision making” that could be fixed on remand.
3 *Int’l Union, United Mine Workers of Am. v. Fed. Mine Safety & Health Admin.*, 920 F.2d
4 960, 966–67 (D.C. Cir. 1990). Even the district court that enjoined the 100-day pause
5 acknowledged that such a failure to explain would not itself be sufficient to justify an
6 injunction, because “the proper remedy” in that instance “is to remand the matter back to
7 the agency.” *Texas*, 2021 WL 723856, at *42 n.47.
8
9

10 Both factors are clearly present here. There is at the very least “a serious possibility”
11 that ICE could offer further explanation on remand. *Allied-Signal*, 988 F.2d at 150-51.
12 The Guidance rests on a number of rationales, including limited resources, the pandemic,
13 the border situation, humanitarian concerns, and foreign policy constraints. *See* Guidance
14 2; Pecoske Memo at 1. If the Court thought more explanation was necessary, it is very
15 likely the agency could provide it. And an injunction would be highly “disruptive,” as it
16 would leave ICE officers without *any* priorities to guide their enforcement, *see* Pecoske
17 Memo 5 (rescinding previous priority policy), and would hamper ICE’s efforts to channel
18 resources to the areas of highest need. Thus, even if the Court remands for further
19 explanation, it should leave the Guidance in place.
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23 **IV. The Guidance Did Not Require Notice and Comment.**

24 As mentioned, ICE and other agencies consistently use policies like the Guidance
25 to set enforcement priorities. These policies *never* go through notice and comment. None
26 of ICE’s policies ever have, nor do similar policies at other agencies. Plaintiffs’ notice-
27 and-comment claim would cause a sea change in administrative practice.
28

1 It is well established that these policies do not require notice and comment. Under
2 the APA, legislative rules require notice and comment, but “general statements of policy”
3 do not. 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(A). And “courts have uniformly construed enforcement
4 guidelines as policy statements.” *Ctr. for Auto Safety, Inc. v. NHTSA*, 342 F. Supp. 2d 1,
5 20 (D.D.C. 2004), *aff’d*, 452 F.3d 798 (D.C. Cir. 2006) (collecting cases upholding policies
6 that established priorities but allowed officials to deviate in individual cases).
7

8 The Ninth Circuit is no exception. In *Mada-Luna v. Fitzpatrick*, 813 F.2d 1006 (9th
9 Cir. 1987), the Court rejected a notice-and-comment challenge to the INS’s “enforcement
10 priority” policy, *id.* at 1009 n.2, because the policy left immigration officials ““free to
11 consider the individual facts’ in each case,” *id.* at 1014, 1017 (quoting *Ryder Truck Lines,*
12 *Inc. v. United States*, 716 F.2d 1369, 1377 (11th Cir. 1983)). The Ninth Circuit has upheld
13 numerous guidance policies for the same reason. *See, e.g., Gill v. DOJ*, 913 F.3d 1179,
14 1186 (9th Cir. 2019) (policy “allows analysts to exercise discretion”); *Los Coyotes Band*
15 *of Cahuilla & Cupeno Indians v. Jewell*, 729 F.3d 1025, 1039 (9th Cir. 2013) (same);
16 *Sacora v. Thomas*, 628 F.3d 1059, 1070 (9th Cir. 2010) (same). The exact same is true of
17 the Guidance, which leaves officials free to make individualized decisions based on “all
18 relevant facts and circumstances” of each case. Guidance at 3, 6.
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20 Plaintiffs maintain that notice and comment was required because of the Guidance’s
21 “impact” on aggregate removal numbers. Supp. Br. 12, 13. But the Ninth Circuit has
22 “expressly rejected the argument that, for purposes of imposing notice-and-comment
23 requirements[,] . . . courts should look to the ‘substantial impact’ of the rule.” *Mada-Luna*,
24 813 F.3d at 1016 & n.11 (cleaned up); *see Chief Probation Officers of Cal. v. Shalala*, 118
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1 F.3d 1327, 1335 (9th Cir. 1997). Nor does it matter whether a policy changes “the
2 likelihood” of particular enforcement actions, as long as it preserves individual-case
3 discretion. *Mada Luna*, 813 F.3d at 1016.

4
5 **V. The Guidance Cannot Be Enjoined Based on the SAFE Agreements.**

6 Plaintiffs renew their effort to enforce their so-called “SAFE Agreements,” in which
7 an outgoing DHS official purported to promise that the recently elected incoming
8 administration would be unable to change any immigration policies for six months without
9 Plaintiffs’ consent. As amici have explained, this contract is unenforceable, invalid, and
10 unconstitutional. Dkt. 27-2 at 9-13. And as other amici have explained, the outgoing
11 official lacked authority to sign the Agreements for DHS. Dkt. 63 (explaining that his
12 appointment was invalid).
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15 Plaintiffs do not dispute that sovereign immunity bars claims for specific
16 performance of a contract. *Tucson Airport Auth. v. Gen. Dyn. Corp.*, 136 F.3d 641, 646
17 (9th Cir. 1998). Instead, they claim that they can seek “a negative injunction” under the
18 APA to enforce their contract. Supp. Br. 14. The Ninth Circuit has foreclosed such
19 attempts to repackage contract claims as APA claims. There is no waiver of sovereign
20 immunity for claims seeking *any* “declaratory and injunctive relief”—specific performance
21 or otherwise—to enforce “contractually-based” rights. *Tucson Airport*, 136 F.3d at 646.
22
23 In other words, there is no waiver where a contract provides “the source of the rights upon
24 which the plaintiff bases its claim.” *United States v. Park Place Assoc., Ltd.*, 563 F.3d 907,
25 931 (9th Cir. 2009) (quotation marks omitted). And there is no question that the Agreement
26 is “the source” of Plaintiffs’ claimed right to “consult” for six months “prior to any change
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1 in policy.” Supp. Br. 14. The Ninth Circuit has repeatedly rejected claims on exactly this
2 basis, even where plaintiffs claimed that they were only seeking relief under the APA. *See,*
3 *e.g., North Side Lumber Co. v. Block*, 753 F.2d 1482, 1486 (9th Cir. 1985) (rejecting
4 supposed APA claim because it sought to enforce “rights created within the contractual
5 relationship”); *Tucson Airport*, 136 F.3d at 647 (no APA waiver of immunity because the
6 asserted “duty, if it exists, derives from the contract”); *Park Place*, 563 F.3d at 931 (same
7 because claim “does not exist independent of the contract”) (cleaned up); *Russell v. United*
8 *States*, 2009 WL 4050938, *9 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2009) (same).

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11 In any event, Plaintiffs have never responded to amici’s arguments that the
12 Agreements are invalid under the reserved powers doctrine, Dkt. 27-2 at 10-11, or that they
13 are unconstitutional, *id.* at 12-13. *See* PI Reply, Dkt. 38 at 14 (no defense of agreement’s
14 substantive legality); Supp. Br. 13-15 (same). Plaintiffs’ inability to defend them is telling.
15 The Agreements, a transparent attempt to hobble an incoming administration days before
16 the transition, are incompatible with democracy and should be forcefully rejected.
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19 CONCLUSION

20 The motion for preliminary injunction should be denied.
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Dated: May 13, 2021

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***admitted pursuant to Ariz. Sup. Ct. R.
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 13, 2021, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court by using the District Court CM/ECF system. A true and correct copy of this brief has been served via the Court’s CM/ECF system on all counsel of record.

/s/ Victoria Lopez
Victoria Lopez

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

STATE OF ARIZONA, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 2:21-cv-00186-SRB

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF HOMELAND SECURITY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR
LEAVE TO FILE AMICUS BRIEF**

This matter comes before the Court on motion for leave for the ACLU, ACLU of Arizona, and ACLU of Montana to file a supplemental amicus brief regarding Plaintiffs’ Supplemental Preliminary Injunction Brief (Doc. ____). Having reviewed the parties’ arguments and the proposed brief, the Court exercises its discretion to **GRANT** the motion. The amicus brief is deemed filed.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Susan R. Bolton
United States District Judge