

# California State Senate

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SENATOR  
**MELISSA HURTADO**  
FOURTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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October 13, 2022

The Honorable Rob Bonta  
Attorney General  
California Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 944255  
Sacramento, CA 94244

Re: Request for Special Law Enforcement Task Force to Provide Immediate Assistance to Address Kern County Violence

Dear Attorney General Bonta,

I am writing today to request that, as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the State of California, you direct the Department of Justice to create a special law enforcement task force providing immediate assistance to Kern County to address rising violence, including homicide rates.

Kern is a rural and underfunded county. The law enforcement special task force I am requesting will provide the additional resources we need to keep our communities safe.

This special task force should include Department of Justice Special Agents to provide immediate additional tactical support to our existing law enforcement officers who, despite their brave and best efforts, are not able to keep up with the surge of violence facing our communities.

The special law enforcement task force should also include Deputy Attorneys General who, as prosecutors, can provide the law enforcement tactical teams with the support they need to execute their mission and bring criminals to justice.

To provide you with context regarding the situation we face in the Valley, yesterday morning, I woke up to the news that McFarland Unified School District in my Senate District was canceling its remaining athletic events for the week, including Friday night's homecoming game set to be hosted by Robert F. Kennedy High School. They are doing so over concerns of a rash of recent violence that has resulted in the shooting deaths of multiple individuals in the surrounding community.

This situation is unacceptable to me and to our communities which is why I am requesting additional state resources through the creation of a special law enforcement task force to address the issues.

The people of the Valley deserve to feel safe, and the State of California has a duty to provide our communities with the resources at its disposal to bring these criminals to justice.

I trust you will stand with me and the people of the Valley on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Hurtado". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Melissa Hurtado  
Senator, 14<sup>th</sup> District