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COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEES:
MODERNIZATION, RANKING MEMBER

November 20, 2026

Joseph V. Cuffari
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Dr. Building 410
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Inspector General Cuffari:

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, which oversees taxpayer funding of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), I write to request you investigate the recent $950 million purchase of the Adelanto ICE Processing Center (Adelanto) by the Department. The Adelanto facility has been beset by dangerous conditions and inadequate care for detainees at the facility, and I am deeply concerned that ICE rushed to buy Adelanto without adequate safeguards for taxpayer funds, and that it did so to avoid court-ordered inspections exposing the facility's failure to provide basic health care and clean food and water to detainees, and state and local oversight that showed the same. It appears to me that this purchase has been made in an attempt to decrease transparency without regard to the current and future costs to taxpayers.

Four people have died at Adelanto since early 2025, yet reports of unsafe conditions continue even after a federal court ordered the facility to make changes. My office and I have conducted more than 20 oversight visits to Adelanto this year and have seen and heard first hand the failures of the facility to provide adequate health care and living conditions. I have spoken with detained constituents and sought investigations from federal and state officials. I have heard alarming reports of denied emergency medical care, mold in shower rooms, disease outbreaks, worm-like creatures in drinking water, inadequate disability accommodations, delayed family visits with restricted contact, and very limited outdoor time.

In July, U.S. District Judge Sunshine Suzanne Sykes ordered injunctive relief for the plaintiffs in the L.T. case, ordering numerous changes to the care that detainees receive at the Adelanto facility, and mandating the appointment of special monitors for medical and confinement conditions. The first reports filed by the monitors this month unfortunately demonstrate that inhumane conditions still prevail. Conditions Monitor Kelli Wasko reported significant noncompliance with nearly every court order, and Medical Monitor Dr. Marc Stern said the federal government did not even guarantee him physical access to enter the facility. GEO detention officers also allegedly told detainees they have the court order but are not instructed to follow unless ICE says so.

After the first report by these independent monitors was published in October, DHS paid GEO Group $950 million to purchase the three facilities comprising Adelanto: Adelanto West, Adelanto East, and the Desert View Annex. The GEO Group announced it will continue to manage daily operations at facilities under contract with ICE, including Adelanto, effective through December 19, 2029 with an option to extend through 2034. The CEO of GEO group said earlier this year to investors, "There's been litigation regarding overseeing medical services, food services, general cleanliness" and that federal ownership will help insulate the facility from legal challenges[1].

On September 24, 2026, GAO reported that ICE invested billions to expand detention capacity without necessary analysis and planning (GAO-26-108663). Since the start of the Trump Administration in January 2025, ICE has purchased 11 warehouses for $1 billion and now intends to sell 7 of those. ICE spent more than $20 million taxpayer dollars on costs it cannot recover, such as security, while failing to assess the long-term cost of operating the facilities. GAO recommended ICE develop a comprehensive strategic plan to guide its detention expansion efforts and lay out its detailed goals, activities, and resource needs. DHS agreed to comply, but ICE does not expect to complete its plan until August 31, 2027. After the GAO report was published, ICE hastily bought the Adelanto facility, and I am concerned it did not implement any of the GAO recommendations for protecting taxpayer funds from waste, fraud, and abuse.

Given ICE's multi-year detention funding and its record of wasting taxpayer dollars laid out in GAO-26-108663, I urge you to conduct a full investigation into what drove ICE to enter this hasty financial agreement, specifically:

1. Did ICE purchase Adelanto to avoid court-ordered monitoring of unconstitutional conditions? If so, is that a legitimate basis for the need for federal ownership?
2. Did ICE purchase Adelanto to avoid state and local oversight of the facility, as well as recently passed state legislation to expand those oversight roles? Were there internal communications within the Department of Homeland Security that indicated this as a reason for the purchase of Adelanto? If so, is that a legitimate basis for the need for federal ownership?
3. If the GEO Group will continue to run the facility, what changes are being made to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations requiring ICE to provide detainees with adequate medical care, clean food, and clean water? Will this purchase impede the execution of this law?
4. Given the ongoing litigation in *L.T. v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,* who will be responsible for complying with the court orders that are currently in place*?* What steps have been taken to ensure compliance with the court's orders?
5. Who is the responsible party for the maintenance of the physical plant of the property under this purchase agreement? If it is ICE, what analysis has been done

[1] Castillo, A. (2026, July 7). DHS buys two California immigrant detention centers for $1.5 billion. *Los Angeles Times*. https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2026-07-07/dhs-buys-two-california-immigrant-detention-centers-for-1-5-billion

to assess the ongoing cost of repairing and maintaining the facility to ensure compliance with current law and court orders?

6. Did ICE complete the appropriate strategic planning and cost analysis that GAO has said these acquisitions require before agreeing to the purchase?
7. Has ICE provided appropriate transparency about the terms of the purchase, including full transparency on procurement integrity, and how the contract will be managed?
8. Was Acting Director Venturella, a former GEO Group executive who has committed to recuse himself from detention contracts and matters involving GEO Group, involved in any way in the decision to purchase the Adelanto facilities or in negotiating their price? If so, did this violate current acquisition laws or regulations, or did it violate any current ethics laws or regulations?
9. Did any other officials who were involved in any way in the decision to purchase the Adelanto facilities or negotiate their price stand to benefit from the sale? The GEO group has said the money made from the sale will go to stock buy-backs, directly benefiting investors who hold stocks in GEO Group.
10. Were any officials who were involved in any way in the decision to purchase the Adelanto facilities or negotiate their price the beneficiaries of GEO Group's millions of dollars in political donations?

I appreciate your urgent attention to this concern. Detainees at Adelanto are living in conditions a federal court has found likely unconstitutional. Rather than fix those conditions, ICE allegedly spent taxpayer money to buy the facility. If so, ICE is failing its constitutional duties and misusing taxpayer funds to cover it up. Congress and the public deserve to know whether that purchase was a sound use of federal funds or an attempt to escape court oversight. I look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,



NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress