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Attorney General Rob Bonta and California
10 Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber

*Exempt from Payment of Filing Fee
Pursuant to Gov. Code, § 6103*

11 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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16 **ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE
OF CALIFORNIA, ROB BONTA;
17 CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE,
SHIRLEY N. WEBER**

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19 Petitioners,

20 v.

21 **CHAD BIANCO, RIVERSIDE COUNTY
SHERIFF; and THE RIVERSIDE
22 COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE,**

23 Respondents.
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Case No. CVRI2601580

**STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED]
ORDER TO HOLD PROCEEDINGS IN
ABEYANCE PENDING RESOLUTION
OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE
CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT**

Date: April 13, 2026
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: 7
Judge: Hon. O.G. Magno
Action Filed: March 25, 2026

1 Petitioners Attorney General Rob Bonta and Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber and
2 Respondents Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco and the Riverside County Sheriff’s Office
3 hereby jointly stipulate and respectfully request that this Court stay all proceedings in this case
4 pending the California Supreme Court’s resolution of *Attorney General of the State of California*
5 *v. Bianco*, Case No. S295901, which presents substantially identical issues and involves the
6 Attorney General and Respondents.

7 On April 8, 2026, the California Supreme Court granted the Attorney General’s petition for
8 review of the Fourth District Court of Appeal’s denial of the Attorney General’s petition for writ
9 of mandate, filed on March 23, 2026 (Case No. E088096). The Supreme Court directed
10 Respondents to show cause why the relief requested by the Attorney General should not be
11 granted. (Order (Apr. 8, 2026), *Attorney General of the State of California v. Bianco*, Case No.
12 S295901.) It also granted the Attorney General’s application for an emergency stay and ordered
13 Respondents “to pause the investigation into the November 2025 special election and preserve all
14 seized items.” (*Ibid.*) The Supreme Court further directed the Attorney General and
15 Respondents to meet and confer “regarding additional measures to protect the integrity of the
16 seized items during the pendency of this matter” and either file a stipulation and proposed order
17 or submit competing proposals. (*Ibid.*) Accordingly, the parties anticipate that the Supreme
18 Court will both review the legal merits of the issues presented in the petition in this case and enter
19 an order regarding custody and preservation of the seized ballots (among other materials) while
20 proceedings in the Supreme Court remain pending. A true and correct copy of the Supreme
21 Court’s order is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

22 Therefore, in the interest of conserving judicial and party resources, the Parties stipulate
23 and respectfully request that the Court order as follows:

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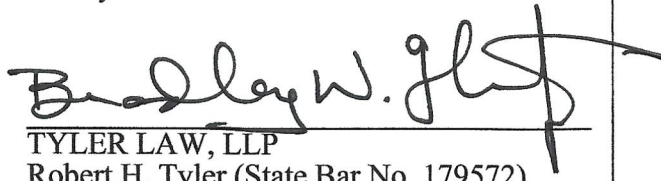
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Dated: April 10, 2026

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/s/ Malcolm A. Brudigam

MALCOLM A. BRUDIGAM
Deputy Attorney General
*Attorneys for Petitioners California
Attorney General Rob Bonta and
California Secretary of State
Shirley N. Weber*



Dated: April 10, 2026

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*Attorneys for Respondents Riverside County
Sheriff Chad Bianco and Riverside County
Sheriff's Office*

1 **[PROPOSED] ORDER**

2 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN:

- 3 (1) The hearing in this Court on Monday, April 13 is taken off calendar and held in
4 abeyance until the conclusion of the proceedings in the California Supreme Court in
5 *Attorney General of the State of California v. Bianco*, Case No. S295901; and
6 (2) No later than four days after the conclusion of proceedings in the California Supreme
7 Court, the Parties are ordered to submit a joint statement setting out the status of the
8 dispute, identifying whether any issues remain for this Court’s disposition, and
9 proposing a schedule for further proceedings, if needed.

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11 IT IS ORDERED.

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13 Date: April ____, 2026

14 _____
15 HON. O.G. MAGNO
16 JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
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EXHIBIT A

S295901

Jorge Navarrete Clerk

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA
En Banc

Deputy

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, Petitioner,

v.

SUPERIOR COURT OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY, Respondent;

CHAD BIANCO, as Sheriff, etc. et al., Real Parties in Interest.

The petition for review is granted. Petitioner must serve and file his petition for writ of mandate, filed on March 23, 2026, with the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two (Case No. E088096) with this court no later than April 15, 2026. Real parties Sheriff Chad Bianco and the Riverside County Sheriff's Department are ordered to show cause before this court, when the above-entitled matter is placed on calendar, why the relief sought by petitioner should not be granted. The return must be served and filed within 30 days after the petition is filed.

Petitioner's motion to file the unredacted petition for review and the unredacted reply under seal is granted. Real parties' motion to file the unredacted answer and the unredacted declaration of James Merrill under seal is granted. (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.550(d), 8.46(d).) In ordering the sealing, this court makes the findings required by California Rules of Court, rules 2.550(d) and 8.46(d)(6). These unredacted documents are ordered sealed because they include information contained in search warrants, which remain subject to the Riverside County Superior Court's sealing order. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.46(g)(1) ["Nothing filed publicly in the reviewing court—including any application, brief, petition, or memorandum—may disclose material contained in a record that is sealed, lodged conditionally under seal, or otherwise subject to a pending motion to file under seal."].) The clerk of this court is directed to file the unredacted petition for review, the unredacted reply, the unredacted answer, and the unredacted declaration of James Merrill under seal.

Real parties' motion to file the unredacted declarations of Sheriff Chad Bianco and Robert H. Tyler under seal, filed on April 1, 2026, is denied. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.550, 2.551, and 8.46.) Real parties shall, within 48 hours, either refile the documents with proper redactions (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.551(c)) or notify the Clerk of this court that these two unredacted declarations (lodged conditionally under seal on April 1, 2026) should be filed unsealed as part of the public record. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.46(d)(7), 8.47(c)(2)(D).)

The parties are ordered to file within 48 hours any opposition to the Media Coalition's motion to unseal, filed in this court on April 3, 2026. The parties are directed to address whether the search warrants properly remain sealed (Pen. Code, § 1534, subd. (a)) and whether an order from this court unsealing the search warrants would require the unsealing of all of the other sealed documents (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 2.550(c) & 8.46).

The application for stay is granted. To permit further consideration of the petition for review, real parties, their agents, employees, and anyone acting on their behalf are hereby ordered to pause the investigation into the November 2025 special election and preserve all seized items. (*People ex rel. S.F. Bay etc. Com. v. Town of Emeryville* (1968) 69 Cal.2d 533, 537.)

Petitioner and real parties are directed to meet and confer regarding additional measures to protect the integrity of the seized items during the pendency of this matter, including but not limited to the appointment of a special master to take temporary possession of them. If the parties reach agreement regarding such measures, they shall jointly file and serve a stipulation and proposed order with the court for its consideration on or before April 15, 2026. If the parties cannot reach agreement, each party shall file and serve simultaneous letter briefs regarding the measures they propose to be taken to safeguard the integrity of the seized items by the same date. The parties shall file and serve simultaneous letter briefs in response on or before April 20, 2026.

GUERRERO

Chief Justice

CORRIGAN

Associate Justice

LIU

Associate Justice

KRUGER

Associate Justice

GROBAN

Associate Justice

EVANS

Associate Justice

Associate Justice

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY E-MAIL and U.S. MAIL

Case Name: *Attorney General of the State of California Rob Bonta, et al. v. Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco, et al.*
Case Number: CVRI2601580

I declare:

1. I am at least 18 years of age and not a party to this matter.
2. I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General of the State of California. My business address is 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000, San Francisco, CA 94102-7004, County of San Francisco.
3. My electronic service address is Melissa.Mendiola@doj.ca.gov.
4. On April 10, 2026, I electronically served the following document[s]:
 - a. **STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED] ORDER TO HOLD PROCEEDINGS IN ABEYANCE PENDING RESOLUTION OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT**
5. I electronically served the aforementioned document[s] by emailing them to the following individual[s], counsel for Respondents Sheriff Chad Bianco and Riverside County Sheriff's Office, pursuant to counsels' agreement to accept service for Respondents:
 - a. Robert H. Tyler
Tyler Law, LLP
Advocates for Faith & Freedom
E-Mail: rtyler@tylerlawllp.com
 - b. Bradley W. Hertz, Esq.
(SBN 138564)
Law Offices of Bradley W. Hertz
E-Mail: Brad@bradleyhertzlaw.com
6. In addition to service via electronic mail, on April 10, 2026, I caused the aforementioned documents to be mailed by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope, in the internal mail system of the Office of the Attorney General to the following person(s) at the address(es) as follows, pursuant to counsels' agreement to accept service for Respondents:
 - a. Robert H. Tyler
Tyler Law, LLP
Advocates for Faith & Freedom
25026 Las Brisas Road
Murrieta, California 92562
 - b. Bradley W. Hertz, Esq.
(SBN 138564)
Law Offices of Bradley W. Hertz
22815 Ventura Boulevard, #405
Los Angeles, California 91364

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on April 10, 2026.

M. Mendiola
Declarant

M. Mendiola
Signature

SA2026301060

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