

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2026

Pete Dordal Jr.
President
GardaWorld Federal LLC
1700 N Moore St
Suite 1875
Arlington, VA 22209

Mr. Dordal:

We are writing to follow up on our March 11, 2026 letter regarding GardaWorld Federal Services' (GWFS) contract with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to renovate a warehouse for operations as an immigration detention facility in Surprise, AZ. Unfortunately, your response did not adequately address the questions we raised. We are particularly concerned that your company has yet to provide basic information regarding its qualifications, capacity, and plans for the projects it is managing in Arizona as GWFS was awarded yet another \$1.2 billion contract with DHS this month to expand detention facilities in Florence, AZ.

In your April response, you stated that many of our questions should be directed to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which you identified as responsible for facility operations, staffing, and procedures. We continue to question that characterization, particularly because you declined to answer questions plainly within GWFS' knowledge and responsibility as the contractor.

Specifically, you did not provide information about GWFS' prior experience with comparable detention facilities; the personnel and internal capacity it will use to manage the project; the assessments conducted to evaluate the physical condition and suitability of the facility GWFS has been contracted to renovate; or, whether GWFS intends to subcontract construction, staffing, medical services, or facility management. These questions concern GWFS' own qualifications, plans, and capabilities as the contractor and do not require determinations about federal policy or ICE operations.

Public reporting also suggests that GWFS has been involved in the environmental reviews DHS agreed to conduct for the Surprise warehouse. Neither DHS, ICE, nor GWFS appears to have publicly disclosed this role. Instead, we learned of GWFS' involvement through the City of Surprise, which reported that a GWFS representative met with City staff to request information for an environmental assessment.¹ It is also unclear what experience, if any, GWFS has in conducting federal environmental reviews.²

¹ Wayne Schutsky, "ICE detention center in Surprise still paused as environmental review makes slow progress," KJZZ Phoenix, September 4, 2026, <https://www.kjzz.org/politics/2026-09-04/ice-detention-center-in-surprise-still-paused-as-environmental-review-makes-slow-progress>.

² Ibid.

Our concerns have only been exacerbated by the news that GWFS has been awarded a new contract with a \$1.2 billion ceiling to support the expansion of ICE detention facilities in Florence, AZ. This contract raises similar questions about transparency and local coordination that prompted our original inquiry. According to public reporting, the Town of Florence was not notified of the planned expansion and had no additional information about the contract.³ It is deeply concerning that, despite the significant scale of these projects and their potential impact on surrounding communities, local governments continue to learn about them only after contracts have been awarded.

With these points in mind, we request written responses to each of the following questions no later than fifteen (15) business days from receipt of this letter. Please note that many of these are questions GWFS failed to answer in April.

General Questions:

1. Provide a full account of GWFS' prior experience designing, constructing, renovating, or operating immigration or criminal detention facilities of comparable scope — including facility names, locations, bed counts, and dates of operation.
2. Provide documentation of GWFS' internal capacity to manage both the Surprise and Florence contracts, including the qualifications of the personnel who will oversee the renovation and subsequent facility operations.
3. Does GWFS intend to subcontract any portion of the construction, staffing, medical services, or facility management for either of the contracts? If so, identify those subcontractors and describe whether they were selected through a competitive process.
4. What quality-control mechanisms and oversight protocols will GWFS employ to ensure that detention standards and safety requirements are met in both contracts?
5. What is the maximum planned detention capacity for both contracts, and how was that number determined in relation to available square footage, life-safety constraints, and applicable standards?
6. What consultations, if any, have occurred between GWFS and the City of Surprise, Maricopa County, Town of Florence, Pinal County, local school districts, and public safety agencies prior to or following both contract awards? If there have not been any consultations, please explain why.
7. How does GWFS plan to ensure adequate access to emergency medical services, fire protection, and law enforcement support without straining existing local resources and will any costs associated with increased local service demands be borne by GWFS or DHS rather than local taxpayers?
8. What security measures will be in place to ensure the safety of nearby residents, schools, and businesses?

Surprise Warehouse:

1. What structural, mechanical, and code-compliance assessments have been conducted on the Surprise facility to determine its suitability for use as a human detention facility? Please provide all documentation of such assessments.

³ Daniel Gonzalez, “\$1.2B deal contract signals Arizona detention center growth,” Arizona Republic, September 23, 2026, https://tucson.com/news/state-regional/article_55c69305-7067-4ee0-b261-77c822a4168f.html.

2. How will the Surprise facility meet applicable federal, state, and local building codes, fire codes, and health and safety standards — including those established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), OSHA, and the American Correctional Association (ACA) — as well as ICE's own Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS)?
3. What provisions will be made for adequate ventilation, temperature regulation, potable water, sanitation, and medical care? Given that Arizona warehouses routinely reach life-threatening internal temperatures during summer months, what specific heat mitigation systems will be installed and what are the performance standards they must meet?
4. What emergency egress, fire suppression, and evacuation planning will be in place before any detainees are housed at the Surprise location?
5. What traffic impact analyses have been conducted, and what mitigation measures are planned to address increased vehicular traffic from staff, contractors, transport vehicles, and visitors in surrounding neighborhoods?
6. Will detainees be transported to and from the facility by DHS, GWFS personnel, or other federal contractors? What coordination agreements are being contemplated with local agencies?
7. What mechanisms will GWFS put in place to maintain ongoing communication with local officials, emergency responders, and residents once the facility is operational, and who is the designated point of contact for the City of Surprise and Maricopa County?
8. What role is GWFS playing in conducting or supporting the environmental review for the Surprise facility, and what methodology, standards, and personnel is GWFS using to conduct that review? Please describe GWFS' experience conducting or supporting comparable federal environmental reviews, including the number and types of reviews it has previously completed and the qualifications of the personnel responsible for this work.

Florence Expansion:

1. What specific facilities, projects, or task orders does GWFS currently anticipate performing under the \$1.2 billion ICE construction contract awarded on September 21, 2026, including the anticipated scope, location, and value of each project? Please provide the value of any task orders issued to date and identify the facilities to which they relate.
2. The new contract requires a qualified Project Manager, Designer of Record, Superintendent, and Quality Control Manager, among other personnel. Please identify the individuals or positions GWFS has designated to satisfy these requirements for the Florence project and describe their relevant experience with detention-facility construction or renovation.
3. Has GWFS conducted or participated in any environmental, traffic, infrastructure, utility, public-safety, or community-impact assessments related to the expansion in Florence? If so, please identify the assessments and provide copies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The communities surrounding the Surprise and Florence facilities deserve transparency.

Sincerely,

Greg Stanton

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

Yassamin Ansari

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Member of Congress

Adelita S. Grijalva

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