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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

ARGHAVAN SALLES; ABIGAIL HATCHER;
 ANDREA ROSSO; ANN D. COHEN-WILSON;
 DOLORES ALBARRACÍN; HEIDI MOSESON;
 JADE PAGKAS-BATHER; JONATHAN KYLE
 DAW; KATIE EDWARDS; KELTON MINOR;
 MICHAEL D. GREEN; SARA JACKSON;
 SUZANNE BELL; JORDAN DOE 1; JORDAN DOE
 2; JORDAN DOE 3; and JORDAN DOE 4, *on behalf*
of themselves and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH; JAY
 BHATTACHARYA, *in his official capacity as*
Director of the National Institutes of Health; UNITED
 STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
 HUMAN SERVICES; ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.,
in his official capacity as Secretary of the United States
Department of Health and Human Services; and
 UNITED STATES DOGE SERVICE,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:26-cv-10510-SK

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
 MOTION TO CONSIDER WHETHER
 CASES SHOULD BE RELATED,
 PURSUANT TO CIVIL L.R. 3-12(b) AND
 7-11**

* Application for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission Forthcoming
 **Out-of-State Licensee Renewal Pending

(Additional Counsel on Behalf of Plaintiffs)

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NOTICE OF MOTION

Pursuant to Local Rule 3-12(b), Plaintiffs Arghavan Salles, Abigail Hatcher, Andrea Rosso, Ann D. Cohen-Wilson, Dolores Albarracín, Heidi Moseson, Jade Pagkas-Bather, Jonathan Kyle Daw, Katie Edwards, Kelton Minor, Michael D. Green, Sara Jackson, Suzanne Bell, Jordan Doe 1, Jordan Doe 2, Jordan Doe 3, and Jordan Doe 4 (“Plaintiffs”) hereby give notice that they have filed an Administrative Motion to Consider Whether Cases Should be Related (“Motion to Relate”) so as to relate the above-captioned matter to *Thakur, et al. v. Trump, et al.*, N.D. Cal. Case No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL, which was filed on June 4, 2025. Pursuant to Local Rule 3-12(b), the Motion to Relate was filed in the lowest-numbered case, *Thakur, et al. v. Trump, et al.*, N.D. Cal. Case No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL. Plaintiffs hereby lodge with this Court as **Exhibit 1** hereto a courtesy copy of the Motion to Relate.

Dated: September 17, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Neil K. Sawhney

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EXHIBIT 1

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Salles, et al. v. National Institutes of Health, et al., Case No. 3:26-cv-10510-SK

(Additional Counsel on Following Page)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

NEETA THAKUR, *et al.*, on behalf of themselves and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD TRUMP, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL

Assigned to the Honorable Rita Lin

**ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO
CONSIDER WHETHER CASES
SHOULD BE RELATED, PURSUANT
TO CIVIL L.R. 3-12(b) AND 7-11**

* Application for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission Forthcoming

** Out-of-State Licensee Renewal Pending

(Additional Counsel on Behalf of Plaintiffs in
Salles, et al. v. National Institutes of Health, et al.)

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* Application for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission Forthcoming

Pursuant to Civil Local Rules 3-12 and 7-11, Non-Parties Arghavan Salles, Abigail Hatcher, Andrea Rosso, Ann D. Cohen-Wilson, Dolores Albarracín, Heidi Moseson, Jade Pagkas-Bather, Jonathan Kyle Daw, Katie Edwards, Kelton Minor, Michael D. Green, Sara Jackson, Suzanne Bell, Jordan Doe 1, Jordan Doe 2, Jordan Doe 3, and Jordan Doe 4 (collectively, the “*Salles* Plaintiffs”) respectfully request that the Court consider whether *Salles, et al. v. National Institutes of Health, et al.*, Case No. 3:26-cv-10510-SK (“*Salles*”), filed yesterday, September 17, 2026, in this District and currently assigned to the Honorable Sallie Kim, should be related to this action, *Thakur, et al. v. Trump, et al.*, Case No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL (“*Thakur*”).

Under Civil Local Rule 3-12, an “action is related to another when: (1) [t]he actions concern substantially the same parties, property, transaction or event; and (2) [i]t appears likely that there will be an unduly burdensome duplication of labor and expense or conflicting results if the cases are conducted before different Judges.” Civil L.R. 3-12(a). As explained below, both requirements are satisfied here.

First, the two actions involve substantially similar transactions, events, and parties. In *Thakur*, individual researchers at the University of California on behalf of a class challenge policies adopted by multiple federal agencies—including the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) and National Institutes of Health (“NIH”)—that “terminat[ed] research grants, *en masse*, through unreasoned form letters with little or no explanation, and . . . cut[] off funds to stop research involving forbidden topics such as diversity, equity, and inclusion.” ECF No. 133 at 1. The *Thakur* Plaintiffs assert multiple constitutional claims, including under the First Amendment, as well as claims that the agency actions are contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious under the Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”). *See id.* at 3; ECF No. 54 at 16. Similarly, in *Salles*, individual scientific researchers on behalf of a class challenge HHS and NIH policies terminating NIH grants and otherwise blocking researchers from obtaining federal funding based on the researchers’ actual or perceived viewpoints. *See Compl., Salles v. N.I.H.*, No. 3:26-cv-10510-SK, ECF No. 1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 16, 2026). As in *Thakur*, the *Salles* Plaintiffs allege that the federal agencies targeted research that federal officials perceive are connected to or will result in speech expressing viewpoints disfavored by the current Administration, including those supporting “diversity, equity, and inclusion” and acknowledging

“gender identity.” *Id.* ¶¶ 86–159. And, like the *Thakur* Plaintiffs, the *Salles* Plaintiffs assert First Amendment claims and APA contrary to law and arbitrary and capricious claims. *Id.* ¶¶ 206–66.

Second, given the overlapping factual and legal issues in both actions, consideration of this action by a separate district judge would risk conflicting results and entail unduly burdensome duplication of labor and expense. Both cases involve, and require an understanding of, similar factual subject matter—namely, the federal grantmaking process, including specifically at NIH, and the changes that the current Administration made to that process. They also involve substantially similar legal questions: In this action, this Court has already considered and decided whether federal agencies’ decisions to terminate and suspend research grants constitute impermissible viewpoint-based discrimination under the First Amendment, ECF No. 54 at 17–21; ECF No. 133 at 23–26, and whether those agency actions are arbitrary and capricious and contrary to law under the APA, ECF No. 54 at 21–30; ECF No. 133 at 18–23. Accordingly, relating *Salles* to this action will serve the interests of judicial economy and avoid inconsistent legal rulings.

Civil Local Rule 7-11(a) requires an administrative motion “be accompanied . . . by either a stipulation under Civil L.R. 7-12 or by a declaration that explains why a stipulation could not be obtained.” As explained in the accompanying declaration, the undersigned counsel contacted counsel for Plaintiffs in this action, who stated that they do not oppose this motion. Sawhney Decl. in Support of Admin. Mot. ¶ 2. The undersigned counsel also contacted counsel for Defendants in this action, who stated the government opposes Plaintiffs’ administrative motion and intends to file a response in opposition to Plaintiffs’ motion. *Id.* at ¶ 3.

For the foregoing reasons, the *Salles* Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court enter an order relating *Salles, et al. v. National Institutes of Health, et al.*, Case No. 3:26-cv-10510-SK, with *Thakur, et al. v. Trump, et al.*, Case No. 3:25-cv-04737-RFL.

Dated: September 17, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Neil K. Sawhney

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