

MINUTES

Imperial County Data Center Committee

City of Imperial Council Chambers

200 W. 9th Street

Imperial, CA 92251

Monday, October 5, 2026

6:00 P.M.

Committee Members:

Present

- Sheleah Kay Edwards, Healthcare
- Sandie Finnell, Business
- Peggy Price, District 3, Board of Supervisors
- Mike Goodsell, City of Holtville
- Mark Hamby, Unincorporated Local Government
- Marjorie D. Marquez, Education
- Kristian Michelle Salgado, Environmental

- John, Hawk, District 5, Board of Supervisors
- John Grass, City of Brawley
- Flavio Grijalva, Jr., Public Member
- Dennis Morita, City of Imperial
- Ann Michelle Holligner, Public Member

Absent

- Oli Bachie, Non-Profit
- Michael Luellen
- Jeffrey Nemeth, Energy Industry
- Gilberto Manzanares, City of Calexico
- Angel Hernandez, City of El Centro
- Andrew Schwartz, Organized Labor,

I. Preliminary Business

A. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Kristian Salgado at 6:02pm

B. Roll Call- 1 present, Michael Luellen and Gilberto Manzanarez arrived late. Committee has a quorum of members

C. Pledge of Allegiance, led by Mike Goodsell

D. Reiteration of the Purpose and Charge of the DCAC, Chairperson, Kristian Salgado

E. Public Comment- 3 minutes per speaker

i. Kelly Jordan

II. Administrative Matters

- A. Review and Adoption of the Minutes. Motion to approve the minutes by Flavio Grijalva, Seconded by Sandy Finnell. Motion passed 12-0
- B. Approval of the Order of the Agenda. Motion to approve the Order of the Agenda by Mike Goodsell, seconded by Sandy Finnell. Motion passed 12-0

III. Discussion/ Action Items

A. Bylaw change recommendation put forth by committee.

(Michael Luellen arrives at 6:15 pm)

Section 3 Data Center ban would be included under section 3b.

Section 4: Membership. Committee discussed a requirement of members to be Imperial County residents. Two current members of the committee are non-residents however provide subject matter expertise.

- Michael Luellen motioned to change the language “that all committee members should be Imperial County residents”. Michelle Hollinger seconded the motion. Yes votes-4, No votes-9. The motion failed.
- Gilbert Manzanares arrives at 6:45 pm
- The committee discussed whether or not having committee members with subject matter expertise would be helpful to the committee.

Public Comment:

- i. Terry Rodriguez

- Flavio Grijalva made the motion that the language on Section 4 should read, “The DCAC consists of nineteen (19) members. The members shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, unless otherwise indicated. The composition of the committee shall consist primarily of Imperial County residents with no more than three (3) non-residents who are able to provide subject matter expertise”. Sheleah Edwards seconded the motion. Yes Votes-13, No Votes-1

Section 5(b). Appointments and Term:

- Motion made by Michael Luellen, seconded by Flavio Grijalva to adopt the following: “Each appointing authority shall have sole

authority to remove any member appointed to that appointing authority. If a city fails to remove and replace its designated member within three (3) weeks of a vacancy, the Board of Supervisors may appoint to fill the vacancy.” Yes Votes-14, No Votes-0, motion passes.

Section 7(c) Meetings.

- Michael Luellen motion to approved the following language, Michelle Hollinger seconded the motion. “Regular meetings shall be **set through formal action of the DCAS**. Notice and agendas for regular meetings shall be posted and distributed in accordance with the requirements of the Ralph M. Brwon Act, including at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.” Yes votes-14, No votes-0, motion passes.

Section 7(f) Meetings.

- Mike Goodsell motioned to approve the following language. Sandy Finnell seconded the motion. “**Any member may request than an item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the DCAC be placed on the agenda for a regular meeting. The request shall be submitted to the Chair sufficiently in advance of the meeting to allow for preparation and timely posting of the agenda in accordance with applicable law. The timing, wording, or placement of a requested agenda item may be reasonably modified as necessary to address legal, procedural, or practical considerations; provided, however, that reasonable efforts shall be made to place each timely requested item on an agenda without materially altering the substance of the member’s request.**” Yes Votes-14, No Votes-0, motion passes

Section 9, Attendance.

- Michael Luellen motioned to accept the following language, Sandy Finnell seconded the motion. “Members are expected to attend all regular meetings. Any member who is absent from three (3) consecutive regular meetings **without good cause** may be recommended to the **applicable appointing authority** for removal from the DCAS.” Yes Votes-14, No Votes-0, motion passes.

By law changes will be submitted to County Counsel for review

B. Data Center Moratorium Resolution: (proposed resolution attached for discussion and action)

- Michael Luellen motioned to approved the proposed resolution; Flavio Grijalva seconded the motion.
- Discussion. Mark Hamby wanted the following point made in the resolution.
 1. The County needs to give the DCAC a task to accomplish within its ability.
 2. The County needs to explain what happened and needed ordinances
 3. The County needs to give the DCAC permission to hire their own experts.

There were no motions made or seconded to change the language of the resolution. Yes Votes-13, No Votes-1, motion passes

IV. Informational Items

A. Presentation: Imperial County Planning and Development Services regarding General Plan and Codified Ordinance by Michael Minnick. Land Use Regulations follow a hierarchy of General Plan, Urban/Community Plans and Specific-Developer initiated plans. Land use is governed by Title 9 which includes 32 Divisions and 19 different zones in Imperial County. Zones include Residential, Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Open Space. Data Centers would be classified as M-1 or M-2 manufacturing. Data Centers will be required to obtain a CEQA clearance.

- Discussion involved establishing specific zones for Data Centers, Environmental Justice, Renewable Energy, Data Center Standards, incorporation of newly passed data center regulations and Utility company assessments on capacity and efforts to protect ratepayers. Imperial County does not get involved in site selection.

B. Review of the Board of Supervisors' June 2026 Draft Guidelines for Data Centers. It was suggested that the Planning Department, Air Pollution Control District, Workforce Development and IID should address relevant portions of the guidelines.

C. Policy Brief: Remote access requirement to attend meetings virtually. Presented by Cythia Medina, Clerk of the Board and Kris Becker, Deputy County Counsel. Reviewed attached document regarding the guidelines

for how members can appear remotely at a regular meeting through three pathways; clarification was provided regarding the “Just Cause Rule”.

V. Closing Business

A. Member Reports,

- Kristian Salgado reported that contact are being made to invite subject matter experts to make presentations to the DCAC. IID Power division will present during November and Good Jobs First will present on the Economic Advantages of data centers.

VI. Meeting Adjournment

Motion by Dennis Morita, Seconded by Flavio Grijalva, Yes Votes-14, No Votes-0, motion passes