MINUTES

Imperial County Data Center Committee
City of Imperial Council Chambers
200 W. 9th Street
Imperial, CA 92251
Monday, October 19, 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 E. Marquez, Education
- Kristian Michelle Salgado, Environmental
- John, Hawk, District 5, Board of Supervisors
- John Grass, City of Brawley
- Ann Michelle Holligner, Public Member
- Andrew Schwartz, Organized Labor
- Gilberto Manzanares, City of Calexico
- Angel Hernandez, City of El Centro

Absent
- Oli Bachie, Non-Profit
- Michael Luellen, City of Calipatria
- Flavio Grijalva Jr., Public Member
- Dennis Morita, City of Imperial
- Jefferey Nemeth, Energy Industry

I. Preliminary Business

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

B. Roll Call- 13 present, 5 Absent. 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. Fabiola Moreno-IBEW 569
ii. Jake Tison

II. Administrative Matters

A. Review and Adoption of the Minutes. Mark Hamby requested that the documents and meeting video be posted earlier.
Public Comment:
i. Joseph Guilen
Motion to approve the minutes by Sheleah Edwards, Seconded by Marjorie Marquez. 13 yes, 1 abstention, 0 no votes. Motion passed 13-0

- Jefferey Nemeth arrives at 6:10pm

B. Approval of the Order of the Agenda. Motion to approve the Order of the Agenda by Marjorie Marquez, seconded by John Hawk. Yes 14, No 0, abstentions 0 votes. Motion passed 12-0

III. Discussion/ Action Items

A. Bylaw change recommendation put forth by committee.

Section 4: Membership. The following changes were made to the by-laws. "The DCAC consists of nineteen (19) members. The members shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors, unless otherwise indicated. To be appointed to the DCAC or remain a member of the DCAC, an individual must be a resident of the County of Imperial; however, up to three (3) members may be non-residents provided they have relevant subject-matter expertise in an area within the charge of the DCAC."

Motion to approve the changes to the by-laws by Mike Goodsell, seconded by Marjorie Marquez. Yes-14, No-0, abstentions-0. Motion passes.

Motion to adopt the by-laws including all committee approved changes, by Mike Goodsell, seconded by Sheleah Edwards. Yes-14, No-0, abstentions-0. Motion passes

IV. Informational Items

A. Presentation: Data Centers and Economic Development by Good Jobs First, Arlene Martinez, Deputy Executive Director.

Presentation slide deck attached to agenda.
The organizations goals in addressing data centers include transparency, industry promises and the standard of "No community left behind".

The following areas were addressed in the presentation:

- Jobs, temporary, permanent, local employment
- Capitol Investment: The primary goal is to build fast
- Money on the Table: Tax abatements/ subsidies and other incentives result in lost tax revenue. Locally, no tax incentives, recommends that developers pay full cost.
- Unexpected costs and runaway costs: loss of revenue through tax breaks/ subsidies
- Economic incentives are not needed
- Layers of subsidies, state and federal
- Time: getting data centers built quickly is more valuable than the incentives to the developer. Data Centers are not included in Prop 45.
- Impact on schools: loss of revenue with tax abatement
- Subsidy reforms
- Leverage new taxes and fees
- Economic Development

Committee Q&A and discussion

- Data center developers look for cheap land and little resistance
- Data centers try to get up and running quickly
- The planning process should be slow and deliberative
- No clear answers on the economic impact of data centers without tax abatements and subsidies.
- Ask what value does it bring to the community
- Structure deals to get the most benefit to the community
- There are no incentives being offered by the County.
- Data centers are permitted by right in Lithium Valley. There are no tax abatements
- Jobs, temporary jobs can reach several hundred while permanent jobs range from 50-100 for 3 shifts
- What are the effects from data centers for ancillary business development? No great spillover
- Request was made for a copy of the County's Economic Development Impact Report on Data Centers, to be made available to the committee.
- Economic analysis should be done by a third party

- Recommendation to be prudent and get the most of any agreement and structure it well. Must address stranded assets. Tax payer should not be responsible for changing market conditions
- Small data center impacts: unknown.
- Air quality impacts, alternative energy sources. All projects require permits from the air pollution control district
- Closed Loop systems: unknown

Public Comment:

I. Idell burden
II. Joseph Guilen
III. Jake Tison

V. Closing Business

A. **Member Reports**,

- Marlene Marquez: request that the presentation be placed on the DCAC website
- John Hawk: requested a list of topics for the committee to address along with a schedule of presentation. IID should be present to make presentations. New Data Center system that requires 1/10th the power other centers require without any water for cooling. Suggests presentation by this company.
- John Grass: Tina Shields, IID Water Department Director has been made aware of the need for a presentation regarding available water.
- Michelle Hollinger: requested information from Michael Minnic, IC Planning regarding Urban Overlay.
- Gilberto Manzanares: request that we contact the presenter Arlene Martinez regarding the expert at UC Riverside regarding air quality. He also requests that the county representatives present on the Lithium Valley Specific Plan and EIR since they are allowing data centers.
- Sandy Finnell: It is a priority to have IID present on water and power issues.
- Peggy Price: Addresses misinformation and affirms that CEQA is a priority and there is no approval without it. Additionally, no laws have been broken by supervisors or millions of dollars spent in litigation. Reviewed the Data Center guidelines which addresses many of the issues in current discussion.
- Mike Goodsell: We need to work on draft report using the guidelines
- Angel Hernandez:

- Mark Hamby: IID is a public untility with rules.

VI. Meeting Adjournment

Motion by Margerie Marquez, Seconded by Sandy Finnell, Yes Votes-14, No Votes-0, motion passes