THE CONTROVERSY

Imperial DataCenter

Special Edition No. 1 - September 2026 - Free, take one

A public-record newspaper. Every claim carries its source.

THE LEAD

NINE MONTHS, 282 SPEAKERS, ONE OVERTURNED APPROVAL

How Imperial County approved a 330-megawatt data center with a ministerial stamp, how the public found out, and what the record shows now that a court has read it.

On December 18, 2025, fifty-nine people signed up to speak at the Imperial County Planning Commission about a lot merger on Aten Road, outside the City of Imperial. The commission tabled it and asked for more workshops. It was the last time the process moved slower than the public's questions.

On April 7, 2026, the Board of Supervisors approved that merger, plus a road vacation, by a 4-1 vote. The approvals were handled as ministerial acts - routine paperwork that, in the County's reading at the time, did not require environmental review of the project they enabled: a hyperscale data center campus whose own published infrastructure page describes 132 natural-gas generators, 220 Tesla Megapack batteries and 330 megawatts of backup capacity. The outside-counsel analysis supporting that reading is dated April 2 and first appeared in the April 7 packet. Neighbors within roughly 200 feet of the site had learned of the project from a door flyer distributed by the City of Imperial, not from the County.

What happened next is the subject of this newspaper. The public did not leave. It built a record. Between December 18, 2025 and September 15, 2026, residents, unions, cities, environmental groups and landowners delivered 282 spoken comments across 13 public sessions of the Planning Commission, the Board of Supervisors, a county CEQA workshop and the Imperial Irrigation District, plus written submissions the County is still assembling. About 150 different people spoke. Roughly 110 of them spoke against the project or the process; about 35 spoke for it.

I live right across Aten Road where the data center is proposed to be built.

Reyna Adame, Dec 18 - the first big room

The ten most frequent speakers account for a quarter of everything said. The other three-quarters came from people who mostly spoke once, about the meeting they came for. The record they built now has a verdict attached. On August 26, the Superior Court set aside the County's moratorium for insufficient findings. On September 9, the same court overturned the April 7 approval itself, finding the County "prejudicially abused its discretion by approving the lot merger without first completing the CEQA review required for the whole project." The County did not oppose the tentative ruling.

Nine months and two lawsuits after the first hearing, the court ordered the full environmental review the audience asked for on day one. *Continued on Face 2.*

THE NUMBERS ON THE RECORD

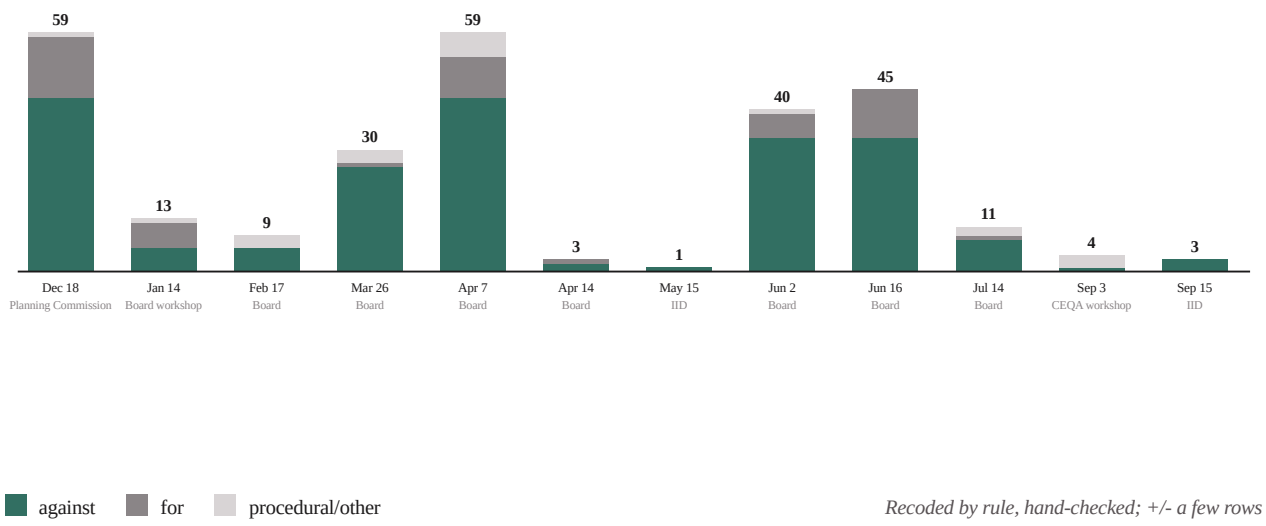
- **282** spoken comments, **13** sessions, Dec 18 - Sep 15
- **~150** speakers; 112 of 161 named spoke once
- Stance: **~205 against / 52 for / 20 procedural**
- **10** speakers = **25%** of the record
- **59** speakers each on Dec 18 and Apr 7
- **4-1** the Apr 7 vote; **5-0** the Jun 16 pause
- **2** court losses in four weeks (Aug 26, Sep 9)
- **243** IID tariff letters + **~130** Jun 16 form letters still entering the record

WHO CARRIES THE RECORD

25%
of all comments from just 10 speakers

112
people spoke exactly once

THE ROOM, SESSION BY SESSION - spoken comments, stance on data-center development



Recoded by rule, hand-checked; +/- a few rows

FACE 2 - THE ARC

Site fight, process fight, rules fight, ban ask. What the support side argues, labor's actual position, the committee in its members' words, and the record in order.

FACE 3 - THE FEATURE

Sunlight: the complete Jake Tison record. Seventeen spoken turns, twenty written objections, one ballot measure, and what the money filings show.

FACE 4 - SAID / SHOWN

Statements from the dais and the campaign trail, side by side with the court record and the filings.

FACE 4 - THE WAY FORWARD

Ten standards from twenty counties, and two proposed resolutions: autonomous-vehicle testing, and an SMR invite-and-assist.

THE RECORD, CONTINUED FROM FACE 1

THE ARC: SITE FIGHT, PROCESS FIGHT, RULES FIGHT, BAN ASK

Into the court's opening stepped the body this edition is ultimately about: the Imperial County Data Center Advisory Committee, created June 16, seated in September, charged with telling the Board by January 1, 2027 where - if anywhere - data centers belong in this county, and under what rules. Its nineteen seats hold eighteen appointees. Seven of them appear anywhere in the public-comment record.

Read the record straight through and a pattern emerges that neither side's slogans capture. The fight started over a site. It became a fight over process. It ended, for now, as a demand for a ban. Each phase has a signature quote, and the quotes come from different people - this was not one activist's escalation. It was the room's.

Phase one, the site fight (Dec-Jan). "I live right across Aten Road." Homes within about 200 feet. Generators. The lot merger. The Planning Commission tabled it.

Phase two, the process fight (Feb-Apr). "Why was the project of this intensity and scale granted an exemption for environmental review?" (Adame, Feb 17). The ministerial CEQA call, the road vacation, the NDA rumors, the April 7 vote. The asks shifted from "study it" to "stop it" within weeks.

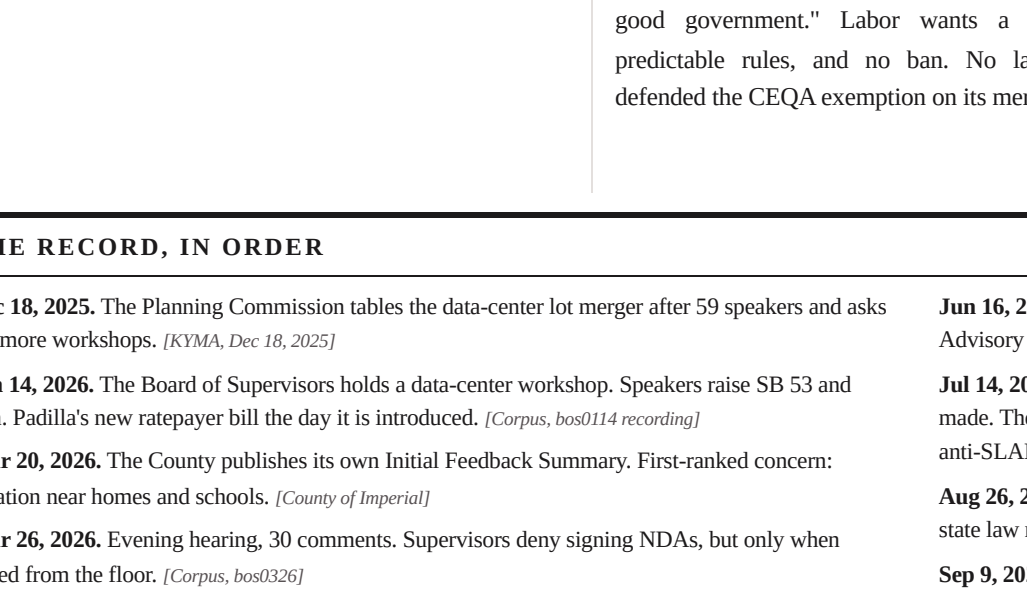
Phase three, the rules fight (Jun 2). "It does not slow anything down. It does not create a moratorium" (Brister-Snow). The County's guidelines resolution landed as too weak; the room had watched cities adopt actual moratoriums.

Phase four, the ban ask (Jun 16 on). "Define what a hyperscale data center is - and then ban hyperscalers" (Adame). The moratorium passed 5-0 that day, and the loudest part of the room treats it as a first step, not a destination.

December: "I live right across Aten Road." March: "I'm not anti-development." June: define hyperscalers, "and then ban hyperscalers." The site did not change. Her experience of the process did.

One person, six months

WHAT THE OPPOSITION TALKS ABOUT - comments hitting each theme (194 coded)



Every theme except the site itself draws a majority of its comments from people who never mention the site

IN THEIR WORDS

"Why was the project of this intensity and scale granted an exemption for environmental review?" - *Reyna Adame, Feb 17*

"Large banks of generators still produce nitrogen oxidized carbon monoxides." - *Dianne Leal, Jan 14*

"Our communities should not shoulder their demands for electricity and water." - *Jake Tison, IID, Sep 15*

"Industrial scale computing serves the world, not the neighborhood." - *Jordan, Jan 14*

"Whispering promises of revenue, of recycled water for the Salton Sea." - *Reyna Adame, Mar 26*

"Billionaires can place their money mines while pricing up our energy and water bills." - *Arvizu, Dec 18*

"A lot of this information is being done in secrecy." - *Cooper, Dec 18*

What the support side argues. About 35 people spoke for development, clustering in December, April and June: economic diversification (49 comments), construction jobs (40), follow existing law (26), no moratorium (25), union labor and local hire (22), tax revenue - a county analysis put it near $12 million a year (20). "They had to go to other places in Los Angeles and San Diego to go to work" (Velador, Dec 18). The two sides mostly answered different questions - the support case was economic and legal, the opposition case impacts and process. No forum ever made them answer the same one. That is itself a process failure.

Labor's actual position. Labor was never one voice, and never against review. LIUNA backed the project once a PLA existed. IBEW 569 urged a no vote in December until local hire was guaranteed, then in June asked the County's own questions: "How will we ensure that there is local hire provisions? How will rate payers be protected?" In July, IBEW's Hector Meza - 3,800 members - opposed extending the moratorium while supporting a requirement that data centers "bring their own clean generation and energy storage." The Building Trades backed the committee and the pause June 16: "Establishing clear guidelines, reasonable standards and a transparent process for future projects is good government." Labor wants a PLA, local hire, predictable rules, and no ban. No labor speaker ever defended the CEQA exemption on its merits.

The committee, in its members' own words. Salgado (chair): "An advisory committee alone cannot prevent this from happening. That's all we're asking for is CEQA." Hollinger: "I am pro-development, but it has to be responsible development." Edwards: "If one must be brought here, at least place it in a location away from residences." Grijalva: "Moratorium is not a rejection of economic development. It is a responsible pause." Manzanares: developers should pay for the grid they require, "not the ratepayers." Morita: "That petition isn't about whether the development can happen. It's really about the process." Schwartz (labor): "We do support this agenda item." Eleven members - including Hamby, Marquez, Bachie, Finnell, Nemeth, Grass, Luellen, Hernandez, Goodsell - have no attributable comment in the sessions transcribed so far. Supervisors Price and Hawk speak in Board deliberations, a separate record.

THE RECORD, IN ORDER

Dec 18, 2025. The Planning Commission tables the data-center lot merger after 59 speakers and asks for more workshops. *[KYMA, Dec 18, 2025]*

Jan 14, 2026. The Board of Supervisors holds a data-center workshop. Speakers raise SB 53 and Sen. Padilla's new ratepayer bill the day it is introduced. *[Corpus, bos0114 recording]*

Mar 20, 2026. The County publishes its own Initial Feedback Summary. First-ranked concern: location near homes and schools. *[County of Imperial]*

Mar 26, 2026. Evening hearing, 30 comments. Supervisors deny signing NDAs, but only when asked from the floor. *[Corpus, bos0326]*

Apr 7, 2026. The Board approves the lot merger and road vacation 4-1 under a ministerial reading of CEQA. The outside-counsel analysis in the packet is dated April 2. *[Calexico Chronicle, Apr 8, 2026]*

Apr 8, 2026. A CEQAnet exemption notice names Imperial Valley Computer Manufacturing (IVCM) as applicant. inewsource publishes its investigation. *[CEQAnet; inewsource]*

Apr 14, 2026. Jake Tison files a Brown Act cure-and-correct demand over the April 7 vote. *[Corpus, bos0414]*

Jun 2, 2026. Hearing on data-center guidelines and by-right treatment. The room calls the guidelines unenforceable. *[Corpus, bos0602]*

Jun 16, 2026. The Board votes 5-0 for a 45-day urgency moratorium and creates the Data Center Advisory Committee. *[inewsource, Jun 16, 2026]*

Jul 14, 2026. The moratorium is extended 10 months and 15 days; committee appointments are made. The same day, a judge strikes the developer's defamation suit against a KPBS reporter under anti-SLAPP. *[Corpus; KPBS, Jul 14, 2026]*

Aug 26, 2026. The Superior Court sets aside the moratorium: the County had not made the findings state law requires. *[Desert Review; County update]*

Sep 9, 2026. The same court overturns the April 7 approval, finding the County "prejudicially abused its discretion by approving the lot merger without first completing the CEQA review required for the whole project." *[KPBS, Sep 9, 2026]*

Sep 15, 2026. IID adopts its Large Load Tariff after a public comment period that drew 243 written comments. *[Corpus, iid0915]*

Sep 17, 2026. The Advisory Committee holds its first meeting: chairmanship, the Brown Act, procedure. *[County release, Sep 18]*

Sep 28, 2026. Next committee meeting. Its recommendations to the Board are due January 1, 2027. *[Desert Review committee coverage]*

THE FEATURE

SUNLIGHT: THE COMPLETE JAKE TISON RECORD

Seventeen spoken turns across twelve sessions, twenty written objections, one ballot measure. The most prolific voice in the Imperial County record, aired in full: his grievances, in his words, with every date and recording attached.

Every public fight has one person who shows up every time. In this record, that person is Jake Tison. He says so himself, in the way he opens: "I'm not here by anybody's paycheck or anything like that. I have free will." (Official minutes and recordings render the name "Tyson"; planning commission minutes spell it Tison, and this newspaper uses the minutes.)

What the record shows is not a heckler. It is a resident who learned the Government Code citations, filed the cure-and-correct demand, submitted twenty numbered written objections to the County's CEQA rule changes, launched a ballot measure, and - when IID put an actual tariff document in front of him - responded with four page-numbered strengthening amendments, which IID's board heard September 15 before adopting the tariff.

His position hardened as the process failed. In January he told the Board the county could lead "in responsible development - planning AI data centers that comply fully with the law." By June 2, after the April 7 vote: "The public is not asking the county to manage data centers better. But we are asking the county to ban them." On June 16 he demanded the resignation of four supervisors, the CEO, an assistant CEO and both planning directors. On July 14 he supported the moratorium extension "but I do not trust this process unless it ends with a permanent ban on industrial scale data centers."

The lot merger, that grading permit - those are all separate pieces. And the state of California calls it piecemeal. And it's against the law. And they're going to come in and shut this down.

Tison, Apr 7 - five months before a judge agreed with the point

His grievances, stated plainly: that the County decided first and asked later; that a project of this scale was moved through a lot merger, a road vacation and a ministerial exemption; that records requests go unanswered ("Your silence does not erase the Brown Act violation"); and that the burdens - water, air, generators, rates - land on families while the profits leave the valley. On the ballot measure he is direct: "When this passes, it will ban all data centers in the Imperial Valley." (The Prohibition Act is now itself in court, challenged over voter overreach.)

Some of what he says is accusation against named officials and candidates. This newspaper prints his words because they are part of the public record, attributes them to him, and separately checks what filings exist (below). Where filings contradict a claim, the filing wins. Where no filing answers it, the claim stands as his, dated and sourced, for the agencies he named to answer in the same sunlight.

The reason to give him a full page is not that he is always right. It is that he is the record's stress test. When a body handed him a finished decision, he worked the people on the dais. When IID handed him a draft tariff with page numbers, he worked the document. The County's process produced the first Jake Tison. A visible process gets the second one.

THE MONEY ON THE RECORD - WHAT THE FILINGS SHOW

IVCM to the Duran IID campaign: the Registrar's copy of IVCM's Form 461, filed May 22, records four contributions to Carlos Duran's IID campaign: $10,000 on March 12, $10,000 April 9, $10,000 April 28, $5,000 May 21 - $35,000 through that filing. KPBS documented Duran's role as IVCM's media contact; inewsource reported an economic-interests statement showing $10,000-$100,000 in IVCM income, while the Registrar's March 6 Form 700 checks "None - No reportable interests." The two documents conflict; the underlying filing has not been recovered. Campaign contributions are not personal income, and a donation is not a conflict of interest. The filings are printed so residents can read them, not so a conclusion can be assigned.

The developer's counsel: a viral video claimed developer Sebastian Rucci "sits as the lawyer for the county." The County's June 16 agenda identifies Geoffrey P. Holbrook as County Counsel; a court document identifies Rucci as counsel for the real parties in interest - the developer's side. The claim is not supported by those records.

The design on the developer's own page: IVCM's published infrastructure page lists 132 Caterpillar G3520 gas generators, 330 MW of backup capacity and 220 Tesla Megapacks. That is the company's published description, not approved equipment; subsequent reporting says a reduction in backup generation was announced, and the live application has not been reconciled.

HIS WORDS, BY DATE - from the official recordings (automated transcripts, lightly cleaned; errors remain possible)

"I'm not here by anybody's paycheck or anything like that. I have free will... If Imperial County intends to be a leader in lithium or renewable energy and advanced technology, then it must also be a leader in responsible development. That means planning AI data centers that comply fully with the law and do not drain the resources of farmers, the health and wellness of our families, and the future of this valley." *- Jan 14, 2026 - Board workshop*

"The IVDCPA, the Imperial Valley Data Center Prohibition Act, this was submitted last Thursday. It will be on the November ballot. And when this passes, it will ban all data centers in the Imperial Valley... Oddly enough, the next day, I was sued for protecting this community by the developer of the same dumb data center project in Imperial." *- Apr 7, 2026 - Board, general comment*

"The lot merger, for instance, later on this road. Okay. That grading permit that was already given. Those are all separate pieces. And the state of California calls it piecemeal. And it's against the law. And they're going to come in and shut this down." *- Apr 7, 2026 - Board, street vacation item*

"Guidelines are not enough. Imperial County needs enforceable ordinances, not suggestions, checklists, or voluntary promises from developers... You can remove data centers from by-right use everywhere. Require discretionary review for every data center. Require a conditional use permit... Require a full CEQA review on every data center coming into this valley. Every one of them... The public is not asking the county to manage data centers better. But we are asking the county to ban them." *- Jun 2, 2026 - Board, item 18*

"Government Code section 54960.1 requires that legislative body within 30 days of receiving a cure and correct demand to either cure or correct the challenged action or notify me in writing of its decision not to cure and correct. Your silence does not erase the Brown Act violation. It shows the public exactly what we already know." *- Jun 2, 2026 - Board, general comment*

"This is not Data Center Alley. This is the Imperial Valley. Imperial Valley is our home. And we refuse to continue to be an industrialized sacrifice zone... Extend the moratorium. Ban these disgusting data centers in the Imperial Valley. Protect the people. Protect our water. Protect our health." *- Jun 16, 2026 - Board*

"I'm calling for the resignation of Supervisor John Hawk, Supervisor Ryan Kelley, Chair Peggy Price, Supervisor Jesus Escobar, County CEO Dr. Kathleen Lange, Assistant County Executive Officer Barry Beane, and Planning Directors Jim Minnick and Michael Abraham... Step aside so Imperial County can rebuild trust." *- Jun 16, 2026 - Board, general comment*

"I support extending this moratorium, but I do not trust this process unless it ends with a permanent ban on industrial scale data centers... A moratorium without a clear destination is only a delay. The destination must be protection, and protection means banning industrial scale data centers from Imperial County." *- Jul 14, 2026 - Board, moratorium item*

"The public will be watching every appointment, every meeting, every recommendation, and every vote. Anyone placed on this committee must be prepared to defend their position with facts, not slogans, promises, developer talking points, or fantasies about economic development." *- Jul 14, 2026 - Board, committee item*

"I oppose hyperscale AI data centers in Imperial Valley because our communities should not shoulder their demands for electricity and water or the pollution from their generators. This tariff must protect the people who pay the bills, depend on our water, and breathe our air... Page 44: prohibit energization until adequate water supplies are verified and required environmental reviews and permits are completed. Page 46: make these protections binding in every agreement with monitoring, public compliance reports and consequences for violations. Page 52: require security covering potential exit fee exposure. Do not leave that protection discretionary. Residents must not inherit a failed developer's unpaid obligations." *- Sep 15, 2026 - IID, tariff adoption*

The twenty written objections (Planning Commission CEQA item, undated, from the official packet) request continuance, public legal analysis, a side-by-side explanation of changes, clarification of effects on pending projects, stronger notice and appeal protections, anti-piecemealing language, and inclusion in the administrative record. One Dec 18 turn is attributed in the corpus to "James Tison," recorded as a distinct speaker and not merged.

THE RECORD ANSWERS BACK

SAID LATER. SHOWN IN THE RECORD.

Said: May 7, 2026, candidate forum: "In this case of the data center, they followed the rules of the California Subdivision Map Act. They followed everything that was permitted for a data center. Whether I like it or not, I am obligated to follow the law." - Supervisor John Hawk

Shown: September 9, 2026: the Superior Court overturned the April 7 approval, finding the County "prejudicially abused its discretion by approving the lot merger without first completing the CEQA review required for the whole project." The County did not oppose the tentative ruling.

Said: First notice: residents near the site learned about the project from a City of Imperial door flyer, not from the County.

Shown: The standard the record asks for: first notice comes from the deciding agency at intake, mailed to every address within a set radius, with a public project page - before anything is decided.

Said: Water, answered from the dais: a countywide volume comparison - "water is not an issue" - in place of a project-specific supply analysis.

Shown: What residents asked for instead: the project's actual gallons per day, the source, the drought position, and a will-serve letter, posted before the first hearing.

Said: NDAs: rumors ran for months. Supervisors denied signing any on March 26, but only when asked from the floor.

Shown: The standard: a standing, published list of any confidentiality agreement by any county official or staff on a land-use file - or a posted "none" - updated at intake, so no one has to ask.

Said: The pause: the Board's June 16 urgency moratorium still let applications be accepted and processed during the pause.

Shown: August 26, 2026: the Superior Court set the moratorium aside because the County had not made the findings state law requires. Even the pause was not built to hold.

Said: April 16, 2026, candidate forum: "There have been no permits, for construction or otherwise, issued for a data center in Imperial County." - Supervisor Jesus Escobar

Shown: Literally true and beside the point the room was making: the approving acts were a lot merger and a road vacation handled as ministerial, and an April 8 exemption notice named the applicant. The court later ruled those acts could not substitute for review of the whole project.

THE WAY FORWARD

STANDARDS FIRST, THEN PROJECTS

Twenty counties fought this same fight. The ones that wrote the rules before the application still host data centers on terms their residents helped write. The ones that did it last are in court. Each standard below is stated as what a resident would see, where, and when - visibility, not transparency: the record in front of you without asking, no records request, no rumor, no three minutes at a podium.

1. Notice at intake, from the County, before anything is decided. Within 10 business days of any data-center pre-application or application, mail notice to every address within a set radius (for example 2,000 feet) and post a project page: applicant, end user if known, acreage, megawatts, water source and gallons per day, backup generation type and count, current stage, next decision date, and which body decides. Today, neighbors learned from a city door flyer. Farmington, Minnesota runs exactly this kind of page.

2. Decide the review pathway in public, before entitlement hearings. For any data center over a size threshold, make the CEQA determination (exemption, negative declaration, or EIR) at a noticed public item, with the legal analysis posted at least 30 days before any entitlement hearing. Imperial's ministerial analysis first surfaced in the April 7 packet, dated April 2. Prince William County lost a 2,100-acre approval on a notice defect.

3. End by-right and ministerial approval for large data centers. Require a conditional use permit with Planning Commission and Board hearings, and treat lot mergers, road vacations and grading permits for a data-center site as part of the whole project. Loudoun eliminated by-right approval in 2025; Prince George's is restoring the council review it removed in 2021. This is the single change most often requested in the Imperial record (94 comments).

4. Write siting standards and setbacks before the next site is chosen. Adopt minimum setbacks from homes, schools and parks for buildings, generators, substations and battery systems (Fairfax: 200 feet for buildings, 300 for generators; Imperial's site was within about 200 feet of homes), and publish a map of where data centers may and may not locate so any resident can check their own address.

5. Water and power thresholds with project-specific numbers. Above a threshold, require a supply analysis: source, peak and annual demand, drought-curtailment position, will-serve letter; plus a utility capacity letter and the on-site generation plan (fuel, count, run hours, testing schedule). Coweta's water figure fell from 9 million to about 300,000 gallons a day under pressure; Morrow County, Oregon paid $20.5 million over unmeasured cumulative groundwater impacts.

6. Ratepayer protection set in the tariff, not argued project by project. Ask the serving utility to confirm in writing, on the record, that large loads pay the full cost of the new generation, transmission and distribution they require, and that homes and farms keep priority on existing low-cost supply - then post that confirmation. IID adopted its large-load tariff on September 15; the County's job is to reference those terms in its own approvals and show residents what they say.

7. Standing disclosure instead of request-driven disclosure. A published policy: no elected official signs an NDA for a land-use applicant; any staff confidentiality agreement is listed on the project page with date and scope; a standing log of applicant meetings with officials; staff reports and applicant correspondence posted as received. Supervisors denied NDAs only when asked from the floor on March 26. Doña Ana County is in court over withheld emails.

8. Workshops before entitlement, with a written response. At least two public workshops in the affected community, in English and Spanish, at hours working people can attend - then within 30 days a posted response: what was asked, what changed, what did not, and why. Chandler requires noise-study results to reach residents before the neighborhood meeting. Caledonia's trustees said the lack of early direct engagement sank the project.

9. Use the Advisory Committee as the standards forum, visibly. Draft standards, the evidence behind them, and public comments on each draft posted before each meeting; recommendations go to the Board with a record of what the public said and how the committee answered. That is the opposite of how the IVCM project arrived. The Marion County and Prince George's task-force models held; pauses without that structure were struck down or ran out.

10. Pauses built to survive. If the County re-adopts a pause while standards are written, make the Government Code 65858 urgency findings on a full record and state plainly whether applications are accepted or held. Imperial's first pause was set aside for insufficient findings on August 26.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ONE: AN AUTONOMOUS-VEHICLE TESTING COUNTY

A proposal of this edition. Precedent: Johnson County, Iowa passed the nation's first county resolution encouraging AV testing on county roads in July 2014, explicitly as economic development and public safety; Fayette County, Georgia followed. **WHEREAS** Imperial County holds thousands of miles of rural roads, some of the widest open testing geography in California; and **WHEREAS** the County's own supervisors campaign on the need to "get jobs and industry back in our county"; and **WHEREAS** the California DMV already licenses autonomous-vehicle testing, so the County's role is invitation and assistance, not safety certification; be it **RESOLVED** that Imperial County (1) invites companies holding valid DMV testing permits to test on county roads; (2) directs staff to publish a testing-corridor map, a single point of contact, and a 30-day response commitment; (3) asks each company for a published test plan, insurance documentation, CHP coordination, and a public incident log on a county page, so residents can see what is tested, where, and what has happened; and (4) directs staff to report within 90 days on economic-development commitments, local hiring and facility investment that should accompany any program.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TWO: INVITE AND ASSIST SMR DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

A proposal of this edition, with the honest constraint up front: California Public Resources Code 25524.2 bars new nuclear plants as a permitted land use until federal waste conditions are met, and the Legislature has so far declined to change that (AB 2647's advanced-reactor exemption did not pass in 2026). A county cannot repeal state law - so this does what a county can do, and says what it asks of the State. **WHEREAS** the county's grid cannot serve the loads now proposed - IID's large-load threshold is 20 MW and its adopted tariff puts data centers first in line for power cuts; and **WHEREAS** the NRC issued its first small modular reactor design certification in January 2023 (NuScale's 50-MWe module) and granted standard design approval to NuScale's uprated 77-MWe design in May 2025; and **WHEREAS** Imperial County already brands itself an energy county - geothermal, solar, lithium - and an SMR in the 50-300 MW class is the scale of firm, clean power its economic plans require; be it **RESOLVED** that Imperial County (1) formally invites SMR developers, national laboratories and test programs, and promises assistance: a single county contact, expedited local permitting within County authority, site screening on the same published map the data-center standards produce, and IID coordination; (2) urges the Governor and Legislature to modernize PRC 25524.2 so NRC-licensed advanced reactors can be permitted in California, sending this resolution to the county's state and federal representatives; and (3) commits that any nuclear project runs under the same visibility standards owed every large project: notice at intake, published review analysis before any vote, written response to public workshops - the public at the front, not the end.

What this newspaper does not know. The record in this edition is the largest assembled, and it is incomplete, and the gaps are named rather than smoothed over: the County's June 16 bundle of roughly 130 form letters is not yet cataloged; IID's 243 written tariff comments are requested but not delivered; several session recordings and about three dozen transcript rows await re-listening; some speaker identities rest on automated transcription spelling. A broader records request to the Clerk of the Board is drafted. Where this edition says "about," that word is doing honest work.

Sources. Corpus and transcripts: datacenter.munigraph.ai/corpus.html (self-declared incomplete). Courts: KPBS Sep 9 (approval overturned); County Aug 26 (moratorium set aside); KPBS Jul 14 (anti-SLAPP). Apr 7 vote: Calexico Chronicle; KPBS. Committee: County officers release; Calexico Chronicle roster, Sep 22. Filings: IVCM Form 461 (May 22); Duran Form 700 (Mar 6); imperialdatacenter.com/infrastructure; CEQAnet 2026040352. Forums: Desert Review May 7 and Apr 16. Ballot measure challenge: IV Press. Nuclear: PRC 25524.2; NRC/NuScale 2023 and 2025 actions. AV precedent: Press-Citizen (Johnson County, 2014); NACo. Compiled September 25, 2026.