AGN. NO._____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS OCTOBER 6, 2026

Safeguarding Public and Environmental Health from Data Centers

Data centers servicing artificial intelligence (AI) consume high rates of energy, over-utilize water resources, contribute to environmental pollution, and impact public health in ways that are still being understood. Since computers and the internet became an integral component of daily life across all industries in the United States, beneficial use data centers have been needed to service computer networks for companies and store data. However, the rise of artificial intelligence has led to the evolvement of a type of data center that can be more expansive in physical size and consumes more natural and infrastructure resources, otherwise known as hyperscale or large-scale data centers. A race to maintain an international lead in AI modeling and a renaissance era for AI technology has spurred the flurry of hyperscale data center development. Although the United States (US) ranks 24th in the world in population adoption of artificial intelligence at 28.3%, in contrast to countries such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with a 64% adoption rate, the US still leads in the development of large-scale data centers - building more than 10 times that of any other country.[1]

Residents across the San Gabriel Valley, and across other areas of the country,

[1] https://hai.stanford.edu/ai-index/2026-ai-index-report

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have raised significant concerns and sought government involvement for the regulation of data centers through moratoriums, bans, and management. In a study by Stanford University's Center for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence, only 23% of the public at large in the United States expected positive impacts from AI. The same study also revealed that globally, the United States ranked the lowest in trust level from residents in governments' ability to regulate AI.

Locally in Los Angeles County, opposition to data centers has been strong. There were 101 pages of public comment received by the Board of Supervisors in reference to the motion which primarily called for a moratorium on data centers. This has had immense impact on the outcome of responses by local jurisdictions, such as Monterey Park, where, in response to a permit application, the City took action to prohibit data centers and support a ballot measure as a means of banning data centers in their community. In November 2026, residents of the City of Alhambra will consider a ballot measure similar to the City of Monterey Park's. Other surrounding cities in the San Gabriel Valley such as Montebello, Baldwin Park, and El Monte have enacted moratoriums on data centers.

Recently, top leaders in the development of AI have vocalized concern regarding the rapid pace at which AI is evolving and expressed a need for stronger safeguards due to the immense risk potential for broad impact on communities across the nation

should the technology continue at its current trajectory.[2] Data centers and AI are interconnected and without stronger safeguards and more active intervention leaning on caution, a powerful tool can grossly impact our physical world.

On April 14, 2026, a motion was filed to begin a study to understand potential local impacts of data center development in Los Angeles County and to seek recommendations by County departments, with a focus on unincorporated areas due to the County's jurisdictional boundaries when creating and enforcing ordinances. The motion also directed the County's Chief Executive Office of Legislative Affairs to track and support bills that are intended to regulate data centers. The motion's report-back also included information highlighting the actions of other jurisdictions that range from moratoriums (a temporary pause on permit approvals for data centers) to bans (permanent pause on permit approvals for data centers) and zoning ordinances.[3] At the state level, several bills have been submitted and are at varying stages of review. The bills include various elements tied to data centers, including protecting residents from higher electrical rates, requiring data centers to go through an environmental impact review prior to receiving permitting approval, reporting water usage, and more. Across jurisdictions, posture towards data centers is leaning towards more restrictions, oversight, and involvement by local municipalities. The motion's report-back additionally

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[2] https://www.politico.com/news/2026/09/12/anthropic-ceo-dario-amodei-seeks-immediate-slowdown-artificial-intelligence-01073519

[3] https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/215369.pdf

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included recommendations from LA County Departments of Regional Planning and Public Health regarding next steps. The primary recommendation was for an amendment to Title 22: Zoning Code to define data centers, and to prohibit hyperscale data centers in all zones.

Given the pressing concerns to immediately prevent the environmental and health effects of data centers powering AI from impacting unincorporated County residents, it is imperative that the Board of Supervisors act on the recommendations to prohibit these facilities expediently. Additionally, on September 17, 2026, the Director of the Department of Regional Planning utilized the authority granted to her in Title 22 to rely on the absence of a similarly defined land use to prohibit large scale data centers, until any comprehensive amendments to Title 22 of the Zoning Code are completed.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning to initiate, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Chief Sustainability Office, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Internal Services Department, and Department of Public Works, work on a comprehensive amendment to Title 22 of the Zoning Code and prepare a corresponding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis that:
    a. Establishes clear definitions for data centers based on acreage, square footage, energy use (megawatts), and water consumption, and distinguishes data centers by primary use, ensuring hyperscale and

artificial intelligence data centers are made clearly distinct from beneficial use data centers, such as enterprise data centers, accessory data centers, or sole-source data centers that are meant for daily computational use; and

b. Prohibits all large-scale data centers (as defined by the ordinance) in all zones.

2. Direct the Director of the Department of Regional Planning to engage with residents of unincorporated areas to inform them of their action taken to utilize authority granted to her in Title 22 to rely on the absence of a similarly defined land use to prohibit large scale data centers as described in this motion until such time as Directive 1 is completed.
3. Direct the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, in coordination with County Counsel, to evaluate the need for amendments to Title 12, Chapter 12.08, to address low frequency and continuous noise associated with large-scale data centers.
4. Instruct the Chief Executive Office, in collaboration with the Department of Regional Planning, to identify the necessary funding to prepare and implement the amendment to Title 22 and associated environmental analysis under the CEQA described in Directive 1, and, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, to identify the necessary funding to prepare and implement any necessary amendments to Title 12, Chapter 12.08.

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I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Regional Planning, in consultation with County Counsel, to be prepared to introduce a moratorium prohibiting data centers that pose a serious risk and nuisance to health, safety and environmental resources, particularly water and energy resources, when a data center is proposed in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County that presents a current and immediate threat to public health, safety, and welfare.

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