

Teresa Seamster

I recommend that Dona Ana County follow the lead of counties such as Socorro and Santa Fe, that have more organized community members, more communication resources and higher requirements for county-wide impact projects such as the Jupiter AI data center.

I am attaching the June announcement from Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners that would be a good idea for Dona Ana to consider or for NMED to request at ALL NM counties adopt for better planning, guidance and RESTRICTIONS on ALL FUTURE data center proposals coming into NM.

These data centers are being proposed with trillions of dollars of debt and shaky bank credit which the stock market is finally starting to acknowledge as "betting" on fast infrastructure construction and high user fees for AI which will "commit" the public to being forced to "buy in" to essential services.

It is time to stop - look - and listen to the warning signs and especially to put a PREMIUM dollar cost to ANY water extraction and energy development and contamination costs BEFORE any data center permits are issued. Time is running out to put guardrails on this runaway pipe dream. Yes - some small targeted science and tech centers are appropriate. No - thousands of massive centers that could invade every protected area of communication, financial information, healthcare and prescriptions, purchasing and education are not "needed" nor desirable.

Moratorium on Data Centers

Commissioners Hank Hughes and Lisa Cacari-Stone have requested authorization to publish the title and general summary of a proposed ordinance that would establish a temporary 12-month moratorium on new large-scale data center developments in Santa Fe County. The moratorium would apply to data center of 100 megawatts or greater and is intended to give the County time to evaluate and develop appropriate regulations before such facilities are approved.

During the moratorium period, County staff would be directed to develop potential amendments to the Sustainable Land Development Code (SLDC), Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP), and related regulations, while coordinating with utility providers, water authorities, state agencies, and the public. A public hearing and potential adoption are anticipated on June 30, 2026.