

THE MEETING WILL START SOON

- Para acceder a la interpretación, haga clic en el ícono del globo  en la parte inferior de la ventana de Zoom y seleccione su idioma.
- 要使用口譯功能，請點擊 Zoom 視窗底部的地球圖示， 然後選擇您的語言。
- 要使用口译功能，请点击 Zoom 窗口底部的地球图标， 然后选择您的语言。

* This meeting is being recorded and will be shared online.





LA County Data Centers Meeting

June 2026



LA County Chief Sustainability Office
Environment • Economy • Equity



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health



<https://www.datacentermap.com/usa/california/los-angeles/600-west-7th-street/gallery/>

<https://la.urbanize.city/post/dtla-data-center-727-s-grand-ave-track-start-work-2025>

<https://downtownla.com/building/one-wilshire-624-s-grand>

<https://www.dcm-designs.com/postannex-data-center>





<https://www.costar.com/article/1562331028/heres-where-southern-california-data-center-players-are-gravitating>



<https://labusinessjournal.com/real-estate/serverfarm-strikes-71m-el-segundo-hq/>





<https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/analysis/what-is-a-hyperscale-data-center/>

<https://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2025/0320/data-center-alley-power-lines-farmland>

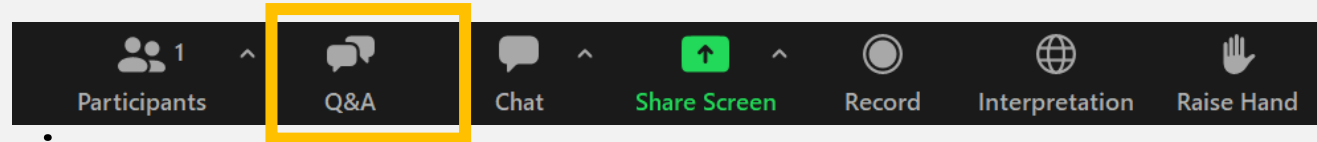
<https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2022/11/08/stack-infrastructure-new-phoenix-data-center.html>



MEETING ATTENDANCE GUIDE

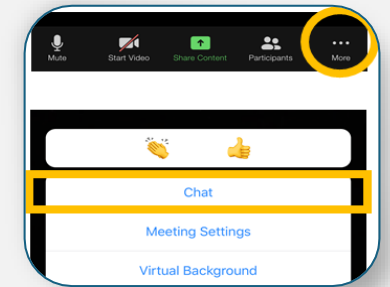
- **On a Computer:**

- To submit a written comment, at the bottom of your screen, choose Q&A to ask the moderator a written question or select the Chat icon to type a comment.



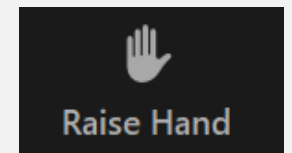
- **On a Mobile Device:**

- At the bottom of your screen, select the More (...) icon, and the Chat option will appear.



- **All meeting attendees will be muted**

- To submit speak, click “Raise Hand.” The host will unmute you.
- If joining on the telephone, you can submit a verbal comment by dialing *9 to Raise Hand, then dial *6 to Unmute.



Overview

- Background
- Summary of Stakeholder Feedback
- Panel
- Survey
- Q&A
- Next Steps



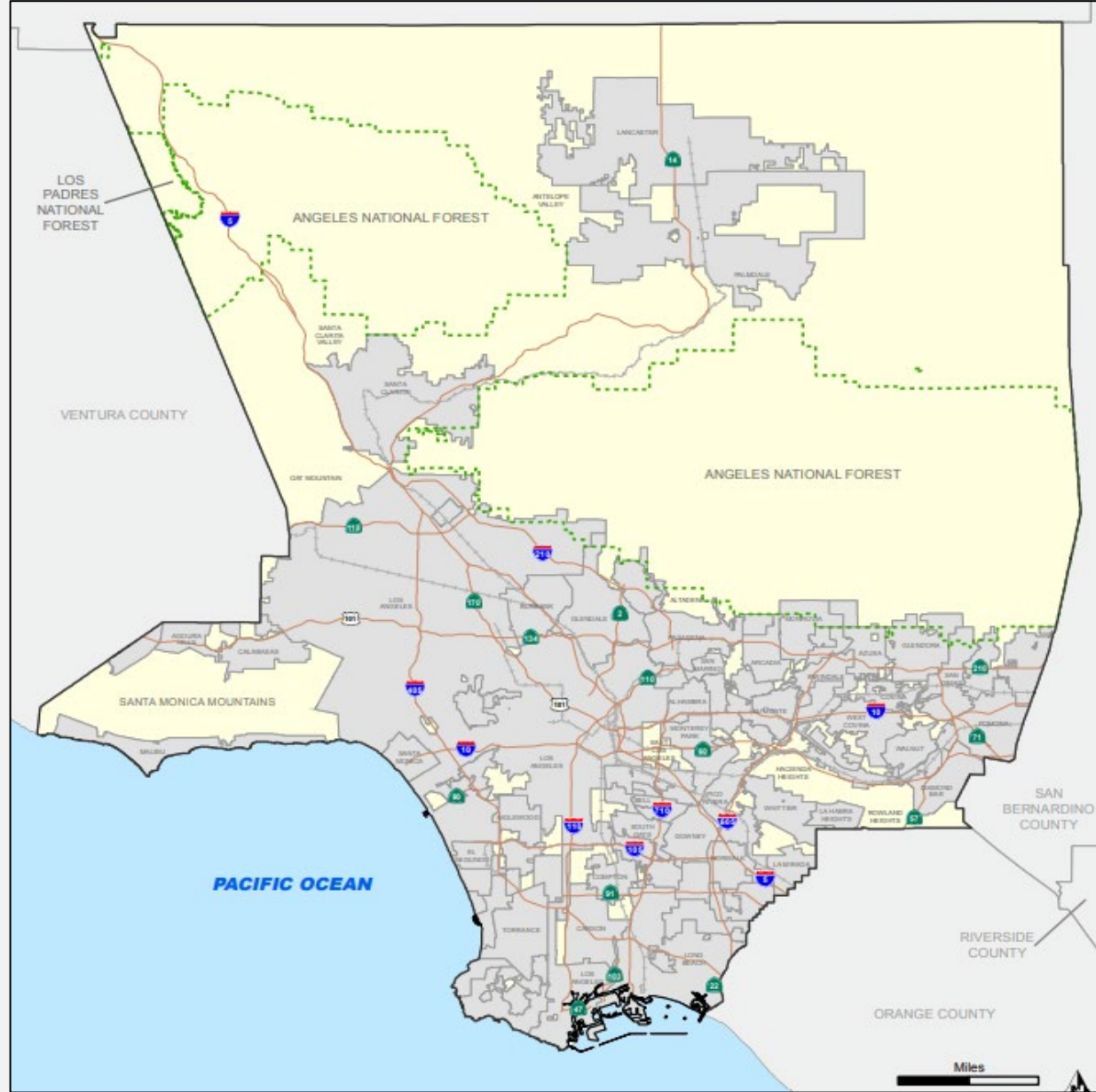
Background

- On April 14, 2026, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion directing Public Health and LA County Planning to report back on:
 - Findings on the impacts of data centers
 - How they are regulated by other jurisdictions
 - Policy recommendations
- Education and outreach campaign--stakeholder feedback will be incorporated into the report.
- Recommend robust community benefits infrastructure
- Report is due: August 12, 2026



Background

- County regulations, particularly land use and zoning, apply to the **unincorporated** areas of LA County.
- 88 cities within LA County are generally governed by their own municipal codes.



Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

Accountability and Transparency

- Unregulated development of AI
- Lack of transparency/communications
- No accountability of impacts

Impacts

- Noise
- Air quality
- Water quality
- Temperature/heat
- Health
- Safety
- Quality of life

Resources

- High energy and water consumption
- Increased energy and water bills
- Strain on existing infrastructure
- Grid instability, particularly in peak times
- Further strain on water restrictions

Land Use

- Out of scale/neighborhood character
- Missed opportunities for neighborhood oriented uses, such as community centers, retail, mixed use housing, etc.
- Increased traffic
- Environmental justice: impacts to communities already burdened by impacts of industrial uses.
- Siting in populated areas, near schools, residential areas, etc.

Jobs/Economic Development

- Significant tax revenue
- Long-term economic development
- High-quality union jobs, high wages, and career opportunities in a booming industry
- Not an employment-rich use



Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

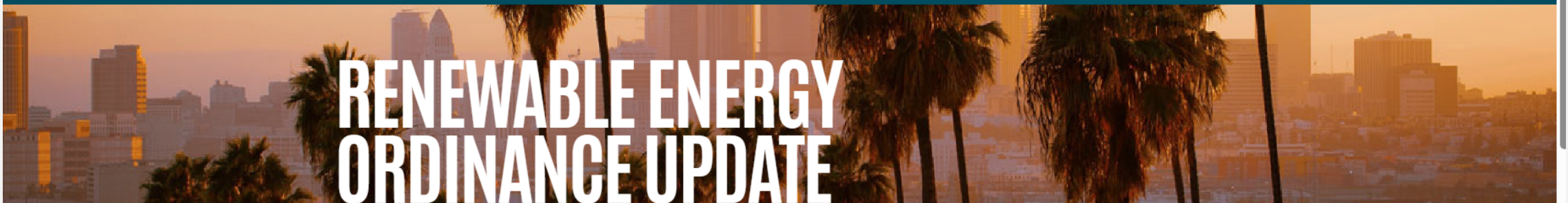
Suggestions

- Study cumulative and regional impacts of data centers
- Conduct health studies to understand impacts
- Ensure meaningful community input
- Require CEQA Environmental Impact Reports for proposed data centers
- Require residential setbacks/buffers
- Require safety protocols and emergency response plans
- Prohibit data centers
- Allow data centers, but with guardrails
- Regulate data centers in other local jurisdictions*
- Prohibit Battery Energy Storage Systems*
- Enact a moratorium on data centers*



FRAUD ALERT: Regional Planning is aware of phishing emails targeting LA County residents. [Read more](#)

If you were impacted by the **recent fires** and need assistance, please visit the [Disaster Recovery](#) page.



[Home](#) > [Long Range Planning](#) > [Renewable Energy Ordinance Update](#)

[Documents](#) [Events](#) [Survey](#)

The Renewable Energy Ordinance (REO), originally adopted in 2016, updated planning and zoning codes for permitting small-scale and utility-scale solar projects. It aims to protect public health, safety, and welfare and to minimize environmental impacts.

On December 19, 2023, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) directed LA County Planning, in collaboration with various partners, to add regulations for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to the Zoning Code.

On April 29, 2024, the Board further directed LA County Planning to update the REO. The REO update will address both directives and include regulations for BESS.



Hearing Notices and Cases Filed

→ ↻ 📄 planning.lacounty.gov/hearing-notices-and-cases-filed/ 🔍 ☆ 📁 ⓘ ⋮

 Begin browsing instantly: Chrome can now launch when Windows starts.

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PLANNING

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HEARING NOTICES
AND APPLICATIONS FILED

[Home](#) > [Hearing Notices and Cases Filed](#)

Choose a Planning Area below to see hearing notices and reports of applications filed for development projects with LA County Planning in the past week. Older hearing notices and applications filed reports are also archived below. Visit [How Do I Check Status of an Application](#) for more information about pending applications. Visit [Join our Mailing List](#) to find your Planning Area and sign up for email updates.

Countywide

All Planning Areas

Oak Tree Permits

Planning Areas - Hearing Notices and Applications Filed

Antelope Valley

The seal of the County of Los Angeles, California, is a circular emblem. It features a central figure, likely a personification of Justice or Liberty, holding a scale and a torch. The figure is surrounded by a wreath. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES" at the top and "CALIFORNIA" at the bottom, separated by small stars.

Public Works offices are open to the public. All in-person customers will be served on a first-come, first-served basis.
You may also schedule [virtual appointments](#) with our plan checkers.

Welcome to EPIC-LA



Login or Register
Login or register for a new account.



Map
Explore the map to see the activity occurring in your neighborhood.



County Disaster Recovery Permit – Rebuild Project
Los Angeles County unified rebuild permit associated with the 2025 Palisades and Eaton fires.



Pay Invoice
Pay for an invoice. An invoice number is required.

Panel

- **Land Uses**
Ed Rojas, Regional Planning
- **Energy and Water**
Victoria Simon, Chief Sustainability Office
- **Health and Safety**
Azar Kattan, Public Health



Panel: Land Use Issues

- Conflicting land uses (proximity to residential uses)
- Large building footprints
- Competition with other land uses (loss of agricultural land or employment generating uses)
- Impacts on natural resources and sensitive habitat
- Strain on infrastructure



Panel: Land Use Issues

Examples of regulations in other jurisdictions:

- Monterey Park, CA – Banned via city proposition
- Santa Clara, CA – Must be carbon neutral
- Loudoun County, VA – Require discretionary permit
- Fairfax, VA – Development and performance standards
- Phoenix, AZ – Design guidelines and require discretionary permit
- Maricopa County, AZ – Allowed by-right in designated zones



Panel: Energy Issues

- Rise in energy demand
- Electricity rate impacts

Examples of State-level Action

- CA Senate Bill 57 CPUC rate study
- CPUC Rulemaking 26-02-002 and Rule 30
- SB 886 (Padilla) and AB 2383 (Zbur)
- Oregon HB 3546 POWER Act



Panel: Energy Issues (cont'd)

- Greenhouse gas reduction and clean energy goals
- Electric grid reliability

Examples of state and local action

- Clean Energy Requirements - Minnesota H.F. 2928, New York S.6394, Santa Clara, CA Climate Action Plan
- Grid Reliability - Texas SB 6
- CA's Little Hoover Commission *Data Centers and California Energy Policy* recommendation on backup generators



Panel: Water Issues

- Strain on limited water supply
- Challenge local water resource goals
- Increase water rates

Examples of state and local action

- Disclosure - CA Assembly Bill 93 (Papan – vetoed) and Assembly Bill 2619 (Papan)
- Water use requirements - Marana, AZ and Saline Township, MI
- Voluntary water commitments





Health Impacts of AI Data Centers

June 24, 2026

Azar Kattan

Health Protection Bureau

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



Why Is This a Public Health Issue?

- The Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health (OEJCH)
 - The OEJCH mission is to protect communities that bear an unfair burden of environmental risks.
- Connecting the Dots
 - AI doesn't just exist on our phones; it requires physical infrastructure that uses immense amounts of local resources.
- Equity at the Center
 - The OEJCH examines how high levels of energy and water use can contribute to health inequities in our communities.

Extreme Energy & Water Use Is a Public Health Issue

- Resource Demand
 - Extreme electricity and water use can increase local health risks.
- Energy Intensity
 - AI queries can require more power than standard computing tasks.
- The Health Link
 - When resources are strained, the community's health environment can be affected.

OEJCH Approach: Identifying Potential Health Impacts

- The Pathway Approach
 - Tracking how energy and water use affect the environment and, in turn, public health.
- Areas of Focus
 - Investigating potential impacts on local air quality, water discharge, and heat exposure.
- Precautionary Approach
 - Prioritizing community protection while studying this emerging technology.

Air Pollution: Generator Emissions & Grid Pollution

- Local Impact
 - Diesel particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) from backup generators can enter the body through inhalation.
- Regional Air Pollution
 - Extreme energy demand can strain electrical grid, contributing to increased regional ozone and smog.
- Health Outcomes
 - Increased risk of asthma attacks, cardiovascular stress, and respiratory problems.

Water Treatment & Chemical Safety: The Wastewater Pathway

- System Efficiency
 - Biocides and anti-corrosives are used to keep cooling systems working properly and without interruption.
- Concentrated Waste
 - ‘Blowdown’ wastewater is a concentrated mixture of chemicals that is often recycled on-site or treated before entering municipal sewers.
- Potential Risk
 - Potential risks include the safe storage of industrial chemicals and the impacts of wastewater discharge on water systems.

Noise Pollution: Noise and Health

- Logistics
 - Truck traffic related to the delivery of cooling chemicals and industrial equipment for operations.
- Acoustic Stress
 - A 24/7 low-frequency hum from cooling and exhaust fans.
 - Diesel generator combustion emits extreme volumes noise pollution.
- Health Link
 - Chronic stress (cortisol) has been shown to be related hypertension and sleep deprivation, which can further worsen underlying health conditions.

Thermal Pathway: Waste Heat & Neighborhood Temperature Spikes

- Heat Release
 - 100% of the energy used is released as “waste heat” into the local air.
 - “Waste heat” refers to the heat generated by high-power AI workloads that must be removed from the facility to prevent system failures.
- Compounding Risks
 - Industrial heat can prevent nighttime cooling, a critical period for body recovery.
- Health Outcomes
 - Increased risk of heatstroke, heat stress, and heat-related emergency room visits.

Health Equity: Cumulative Burden on Communities

- Cumulative Impact
 - Excessive heat, poor air quality, and constant noise add to existing local health burdens.
- Exacerbation
 - New AI data centers can increase health risks in already polluted areas.
- Environmental Justice Priority
 - Preventing the clustering of environmental hazards in disadvantaged communities.

Fire Risks and Other Hazards

- Fire Risks
 - Battery storage is “cleaner” but poses unique, difficult-to-extinguish fire risks.
- Cascading Hazards
 - A fire or other incident can trigger chemical leaks that can result in prolonged impacts on the community.

Examples of Policies to Protect Health

- Air Quality
 - Some jurisdictions require zero-emission backup power (such as batteries or fuel cells) instead of diesel.
- Noise
 - Requiring soundproof walls and setting minimum distance requirements from residential areas.
- Water Safety
 - Limiting the use of drinking water and requiring water recycling.
- Increased Monitoring
 - Requiring air and noise sensors at the property boundary to monitor conditions and share data with the public.

Data Gaps: The Need for Ongoing Research

- Emerging Field
 - This is a relatively new technology, and there is a limited number of existing studies.
- Unmonitored Risks
 - There is a need for real-world data on generator runtimes and wastewater chemistry.
- Precautionary Principle
 - Protecting health while the science catches up.

Survey

Instructions

Go to
www.menti.com

Enter the code

4401 7266



Or use QR code



Questions?



Thank you!



Project page:

planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/data-centers/

Contact Us:

ap@planning.lacounty.gov



LA County Chief Sustainability Office
Environment • Economy • Equity

