SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
Board of Supervisors

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Board Extends Artificial Intelligence Data Center Moratorium Nearly a Year to Evaluate Environmental and Community Impact

Stockton, CA – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors has extended its moratorium on the development of hyperscale data centers in the unincorporated County for an additional 10 months and 15 days, allowing time for a comprehensive review of potential environmental and economic consequences and opportunities for community input.

“We owe our residents answers before allowing development that could have negative consequences for our environment and economy,” said Chair and Third District Supervisor Sonny Dhaliwal. “This extension gives us the time needed to thoroughly evaluate the potential effects of these large-scale facilities and ensure that any future decisions reflect the best interests of our communities.”

Traditional data centers store, manage, and process digital information, while artificial intelligence (AI) data centers are designed to support the intensive computing demands of developing and operating AI systems. These facilities can require substantial electricity, water, and infrastructure resources, raising important questions about their long-term effects on surrounding communities.

Last month, the Board adopted an interim urgency ordinance establishing a temporary moratorium and directed the Community Development Department (CDD) to conduct an initial 10-day review of AI data centers. Following that review, CDD presented its preliminary findings and recommended extending the moratorium to allow for a more comprehensive evaluation.

During the extension, CDD will examine the experiences of other jurisdictions, conduct community outreach with stakeholders, assess potential demands on local resources, and explore regulatory options. The department will also work with a consultant to prepare a more detailed analysis to help guide future policy decisions.

“We simply don’t have enough information to make an informed decision on something that could have lasting consequences for our community,” said CDD Director Jennifer Jolley.

CDD is expected to present its comprehensive report to the Board in June 2027.

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The Board of Supervisors is the governing body of San Joaquin County and serves more than 816,000 residents. The Board establishes County policies, passes local ordinances, approves the budget, sets local tax rates, supports community programs and provides many other essential services.