



PROJECT JUPITER

INDIVISIBLE LAS CRUCES – WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO FROM HERE?

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ILC's CURRENT POSITION ON PROJECT JUPITER

(issued on 9/15/2025)

“Indivisible Las Cruces is requesting the Dona Ana County Commissioners to table their vote on the Industrial Revenue Bond on September 19, 2025 until an oversight procedure can be established. We feel there has been a lack of transparency to the public regarding Project Jupiter.”

PURPOSE OF TODAY'S DISCUSSION

TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON HOW INDIVISIBLE LAS CRUCES, AS A GROUP, WANTS TO MOVE FORWARD IN REGARDS TO PROJECT JUPITER.

IF THE DECISION IS REACHED THAT WE WANT TO TRY AND STOP THE BUILDING OF THIS DATA CENTER IT IS NOT TOO LATE!

THERE IS HISTORICAL PRECEDENCE FOR BEING SUCCESSFUL

- ❑ At Least 48 data center projects were blocked or stalled in 2025, totaling over \$156 billion, necessitating potential changes to developers' original plans, according to the NY Times
- ❑ **\$130 Billion Worth of Data Center Projects Blocked in Q1 2026** - Data Center Watch chalked up the increase to a higher number of active opposition groups, legislation creating regulatory uncertainty, and communities now having a 'playbook' for opposition.

TIMELINE OVERVIEW

- ❑ **February 25, 2025**
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Project Jupiter developer, committing the state to back the tech campus project and ease the permitting process, raising concerns about oversight and accountability
- ❑ **March 22, 2025**
During the last minutes of the 2025 New Mexico Legislative session, Senator Michael Padilla got Senator Ordonez to add a "microgrid" amendment to the Advanced Microgrid Technology senate bill. This amendment created an expectation for microgrids to operate outside the New Mexico Energy Transition Act of 2019
- ❑ **May - August 2025**
Project Jupiter developers give presentations to New Mexico interim legislative committees asking for public funding to support infrastructure around the project site
 - ❑ **July 2025**
Doña Ana County Manager Scott Andrews signs non-disclosure agreements with Project Jupiter developers
 - ❑ **August 21, 2025**
Doña Ana County (DAC) Board of County Commission (BOCC) release agenda for August 26th regular meeting that includes an inducement resolution for a \$165 billion dollar industrial revenue bond ordinance for Project Jupiter
 - ❑ **August 22, 2025**
Representative Nathan Small received a \$ 10,000 campaign donation from Project Jupiter developers
 - ❑ **August 26, 2025**
During DAC BOCC regular meeting commission passes the resolution to hold a public hearing and vote on Project Jupiter IRB ordinances on Friday, Sept 19th at 9:00am
- ❑ **September 1, 2025**
Project developers purchase a table at the Democratic Party Labor Breakfast at Farm and Ranch Museum. Developer gives speech thanking legislators for their support during the legislative session and for their support of the data center project.
- ❑ **September 9, 2025**
Out of state contracted engineering company submit grading permit to DAC Community Development Department.
- ❑ **September 19, 2025 (part 1)**
The Doña Ana County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) opened its rescheduled regular meeting with the proposed \$165 billion Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs) as the central focus. Project developers allotted ten minutes to present the proposed tech campus and data center project. His presentation was followed by remarks from the County's Economic Development Department and an overview from the IRB bond counsel. The Commission then moved into a closed session — **a decision whose legality has since been called into question.**
- ❑ **September 19, 2025 (part 2)**
Upon returning, the public comment period was opened. Both proponents and opponents were given two hours each to speak. Despite this extended timeframe, several community members were ultimately denied the opportunity to provide comment. Following public input, each Commissioner offered their remarks before proceeding to a vote. **The Commission approved the IRBs in a 4–1 decision, with Commissioner Susana Chaparro casting the sole dissenting vote.**
- ❑ **September 22, 2025**
Out of state contracted construction companies begin to scope out project site, take measurements and begin initial construction steps.
- ❑ **September 23, 2025**
OpenAI and Oracle publicly committed to be the AI tenant and data center operator for Project Jupiter in a joint announcement.

TIMELINE OVERVIEW (CON'T)

❑ **October 9, 2025**

Doña Ana County Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on the zone change needed to advance this project and ultimately voted unanimously to rezone the land from commercial to light industrial.

❑ **October 17, 2025**

Lawsuit filed - NMELC on behalf of two residents and a community organization file a lawsuit calling into question the validity of the IRB application and process.

A private citizen filed a lawsuit pro se calling into question the validity of the IRB application and process

❑ **October 2025**

Industrial Revenue Bond Agreements and Community Benefits Agreement are finalized by DAC BOCC chair Chris Shaljo-Hernandez who makes unilateral decisions on the final and official IRB ordinances without taking changes back to the board for approval. County staff and Chair Shaljo-Hernandez state the county commission agreed to allow Chair Shaljo-Hernandez to make decisions independently.

❑ **November 1, 2025**

Project Jupiter construction begins. Final IRBs are issued for sale

❑ **November 11, 2025**

Acoma, LLC submitted air quality permit applications for two "microgrid" facilities (East and West) to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

❑ **December 17, 2025**

NMED deemed the Acoma, LLC air quality permit applications for two natural gas-powered "microgrids" to be incomplete. The department gave developers until Jan. 19 to provide more information that will help them make a final decision.

❑ **January 26, 2026**

NMED accepts, Acoma, LLC updated air quality permit applications for Microgrid East and Microgrid West. NMED has until April 22, 2026 to make a decision on the applications. Official public comment period opens.

❑ **March 2, 2026**

Acoma, LLC air quality permit applications public comment periods close. NMED received 7,700 public comments. Awaiting the NMED Secretary Kenney to announce of a public hearing Also noteworthy, the President of Acoma Pueblo demanded they change the name so as to not imply any association or approval with the pueblo peoples

Recent Developments:

❑ Commissioner Susana Chaparro requested public meeting on Project Jupiter

❑ Meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6/18

❑ 6/4 – 6/5 timeframe word spread that the 6/18 meeting was not going to happen and in lieu of that Oracle & other corporations involved in the building of the data center held an event on 6/17 to sway people to be pro Jupiter (free food & games at Sunland Park Sports Complex)

❑ **BOCC Meeting** 6/9 at 9:00 AM at government building 845 North Motel Blvd – protest and

❑ **6/13** – Community Meeting in Sunland Park (open to all) – 6:00 – 8:00 PM

❑ **6/17** – FCDX held a peaceful protest against the job fair/food and games event being held by the corporations sponsoring Project Jupiter. This was done in lieu of a good-faith, town hall meeting with our community

❑ **6/23** – Protest at 7:30 AM, followed by BOCC Meeting at 9:00 AM, 845 North Motel blvd, Las Cruces, NM – show up and make your voices heard.

FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

(COMPARISON OF JUPITER TO AVERAGE & HYPERSCALE DATA CENTERS – APPROX 4,400 DC IN US)
PROJECT JUPITER WILL BE THE LARGEST DC IN THE US TO DATE – THEY ARE EXPERIMENTING ON US!

Regular Data Center

- Cost: 10 – 25 million
- Size/Capacity: 20,000 to 100,000 sq. ft. – houses 2,000 to 5,000 servers
- Water Consumption (for cooling): ~100 million gallons annually
- Electricity/Power (MW vs GW): 1 to 100 MW
- Job Creation: 50 to 100 FTE's
- Pollution Levels:
 - Air: Minimal
 - Noise: low localized hum from HVAC
 - Heat: expelled upward and locally dissipated via traditional chillers
 - Vibration: Negligible
 - Light: Standard security and office lighting

Hyperscale Data Center

- Cost: Upwards of 1 billion dollars
- Size/Capacity: 500,000 to well over 1 million sq. feet; houses tens to hundreds of thousands of servers
- Water Consumption: 365 million to 1.8 billion gallons annually
- Electricity (MW vs GW): 100 to 300 MW
- Job Creation: 100 – 300 FTE's
- Pollution Levels
 - Air: Substantial greenhouse gas emissions
 - Noise: Generates continuous high & low frequency noise that carry for up to half a mile
 - Heat: Releases monumental volumes of waste heat; can create localized "heat islands" raising regional temperatures and affecting microclimates up to 6 miles away
 - Vibration: Problematic infrasound, low-frequency vibrations that rattle structures that can cause vertigo or insomnia in nearby populations
 - Light: Functions like a stadium – 24/7 security lighting, industrial warning beacons & perimeter illumination disrupt local circadian rhythms and migratory wildlife

Project Jupiter

- Cost: 165 Billion
- Size/Capacity: 3 million sq. feet (1,400-acre site) or 4 massive hyperscale data centers
- Water Consumption: 22 million gallons per year if they use a non-evaporative closed loop system
- Electricity (MW vs GW): 2,210 – 2,697 MW
- Job Creation: 750 to 1,500 FTE's (according to Oracle TV commercial)
- Pollution Levels
 - Air: 14 million tons of greenhouse gases annually & 500 tons of nitrogen oxides per year
 - Noise: at 10 times or more the size of a hyperscale DC one can only imagine; specific decibel thresholds have not been made public
 - Heat: 10 times the hyperscale amount of released heat
 - Vibration: (same as noise)
 - Light: 24/7 security lighting, industrial warning beacons & perimeter illumination disrupt local circadian rhythms and migratory wildlife and cause skyglow

PROJECT JUPITER OPTIONS

1. Support of Project Jupiter, continue building as contracted.
2. Understand Project Jupiter contract and IRB have been signed, but want to make sure all contractual obligations are met by all parties. If the contracts are not upheld in any form, we will fight to stop the project.
3. Opposed to Project Jupiter, stop the project now!

WE WILL COME BACK TO THIS SLIDE LATER FOR A VOTE!

POTENTIAL STRATEGIC APPROACHES: POLITICAL AND PROJECT

Political:

1. Get Daisy Maldonado elected in November for Commissioner District 1.
2. Find out which commissioners are up for reelection in 2027 and/or 2028 and start a plan to oppose them.
3. Develop a plan to recall county commissioners who voted in favor of Project Jupiter
4. Support a legislative statewide moratorium on data centers

Project:

1. Depending on which of the above options the membership wants, ILC will fully support .
2. Develop plans to support the updated ILC position on Project Jupiter.

Discussion Draft

The ideas presented on this slide are examples of possible strategies for discussion only. They do not represent an official position or approved plan of Indivisible Las Cruces. Any future actions will be determined by the membership and/or any committee authorized by the organization and, where appropriate, will be reviewed with legal counsel before implementation.

The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on this are several white geometric elements: concentric circles of varying sizes, some with dashed outlines, and a large circular scale on the left side. The scale has tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Arrows indicate a clockwise direction of movement for the scale and some of the circles.

OPEN DISCUSSION

- ☐ WE UNDERSTAND PASSIONS RUN HIGH ON THIS TOPIC BUT ANYONE WHO WANTS WILL GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK AND BE HEARD
- ☐ PLEASE LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO NO MORE THAN 2 MINUTES
- ☐ PLEASE REMAIN CIVIL AND RESPECTFUL AT ALL TIMES!

NEXT STEPS

- ❑ Need a Few Volunteers (form a committee) to plan the implementation of the chosen approach
- ❑ Work in coalition with other groups – let's not re-invent the wheel

REFERENCES

(THIS LIST IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND NOT NECESSARILY SOURCES USED TO CREATE THIS PRESENTATION)

- ❑ <https://fcdx.live/>
- ❑ <https://tulanewater.org/blog-post/the-thirstiest-of-us-all-data-centers-and-the-impact-of-their-unsustainable-water-use/>
Focuses on Mississippi River Basin and potential problems
- ❑ <https://www.nasuca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-06-10-NASUCA-Data-Centers-Final-Schneider.pdf>
Info regarding ways water is used in data centers
- ❑ <https://www.gwpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Eric-Olsen.pdf>
Educational. “Indirect use often dwarfs on-site consumption.”
- ❑ <https://progressnownm.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Report-The-Hidden-Cost-of-AI-What-Data-Centers-Mean-For-New-Mexico-June-2026.pdf>
- ❑ <https://goodjobsfirst.org/will-data-center-job-creation-live-up-to-hype-i-have-some-concerns/>
- ❑ <https://workinsiders.com/data-center-statistics/>