**Supervisor Allen on Project Blue**

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| Supervisor Jennifer AllenOn June 18, I sent an email to more than 170 constituents who had reached out to our office to share their concerns about Project Blue. I'm sharing my response here as well, since this is an ongoing issue that will impact our community. For those who don’t know, Project Blue is the code name for a data center to be developed by Beale Infrastructure just east of the City of Tucson. The end user of this facility and their projected energy and water consumption are still unknown to the Board of Supervisors and the public due to the use of NDAs (non-disclosure agreements). Below are some updates on this contentious project, including what has happened over the past two weeks and what’s coming nextDespite the community voicing overwhelming opposition to the proposed data centers project, on June 17 the Board of Supervisors approved the rezoning and land sale with a 3-2 vote (Supervisor Cano and I opposed it. [See my arguments here](https://links-2.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/%3Furl%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Flinks-2.govdelivery.com%252FCL0%252Fhttps%253A%25252F%25252Fyoutu.be%25252FW3ZsRSP791A%252F1%252F01010197fad4c848-6e4c3576-dab0-452c-8077-874b47ae1bfd-000000%252F-ZOiZVpn1O4rlsjfyMfUBPpiymELOxADcC9A3m7VSW4%253D413%26data%3D05%257C02%257CClaudia.Bungard%2540pima.gov%257C8f64e4e6cd0e42656a6808ddc0c3f5a6%257C33b6e2c30b1a4879b74147461a6c1a89%257C0%257C0%257C638878670057456609%257CUnknown%257CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%253D%253D%257C0%257C%257C%257C%26sdata%3DBmd%252FH%252BBItLi69gvE401mE%252FMvh%252Ff0fuMa75S8tEkgMvI%253D%26reserved%3D0/1/01010197fc251418-3e6db4b8-6905-4136-857d-3fe6b7f0e67e-000000/DNghr0PQlg1Gx59nmCC1H12y9-q24XrnUcXI2jTEaLg%3D413)). Unfortunately, that was the only opportunity for the County Board of Supervisors to say no to this project. However, following that vote, we took immediate action and added two items to the agenda for the following Board meeting: |

1. **Requiring environmental impact reviews of economic development projects**: We directed County staff to come back in 60 days with a policy to conduct environmental impact analysis of economic development projects. As many of you know, there was extensive reporting on the **economic** impact of the proposed data centers, but little to no actual information on the impact of data centers on our water, air, energy, and climate. That means that all of the claims that this project would be "water positive" and "sustainable" were not coming from **environmental** experts; but rather, from the private developer who stands to profit from this deal.
2. **Reform the use of NDAs in economic development projects**: We directed County staff to also come back in 60 days with a more refined policy for use of Nondisclosure Agreements. Besides the environmental concerns, our community told us loud and clear that we should not be making a deal where so many of the relevant details were shrouded in secrecy. We want to develop a policy of using NDAs only to protect truly proprietary information, not vital details of a development that are necessary for us to know in order to judge whether it's a good fit for Pima County--details like how much water this project will use, how much energy it will use, and how many data centers are we actually looking at.

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| Supervisor Allen on Project Blue**Good news!**Both of items passed with a 3-1 vote at the July 1st Board meeting! Over the next two months, county staff in the Department of Environmental Quality, Wastewater, Conservation Lands & Resources, the County Attorney, and other departments will work together on improving these policies in hope that the next time a project like this comes before the Board, we will be in a better position to actually know the full picture of what we are voting on, and that information can be shared with the public.The next step for Project Blue is at the **Tucson City Council**. In order for the project to move forward, the area needs to be annexed into Tucson, and there are still several opportunities for public input before a decision is made.* Wednesday, July 23rd, 5-7pm – Community Information Meeting at Mica Mountain High School
* Wednesday, August 6th, Time TBD – Tucson City Council Study Session
* Tuesday, August 19th, 5:30pm – Tucson City Council Meeting

Again, thank you to all folks who took the time to reach out to our office about Project Blue. Please continue to let us and other elected officials know your thoughts and concerns on this and other issues. |

**Jennifer Allen**