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January 14, 2026

Hon. Chair Terra Lawson-Remer  
San Diego County Board of Supervisors  
1600 Pacific Highway  
Room 310  
San Diego, CA 92101

Subject: San Diego County Board of Supervisors Wednesday, January 14 Meeting – Agenda Item 4: Protecting San Diegans from the Impacts Associated with Large Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Centers

Dear Chair Lawson-Remer and San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) appreciates the Board of Supervisor’s attention to the opportunities and community impacts associated with artificial intelligence and the data center ecosystem.

While we understand the importance of learning more about data centers, it’s equally important for the public to recognize the potential benefits they bring. When electricity costs are spread across greater usage, rates typically go down. Ratepayer costs tied to data centers only increase when new grid infrastructure must be built. By locating data centers in areas with existing excess transmission capacity—such as parts of San Diego—there may not be a need for additional or significant infrastructure. This means ratepayers may not bear extra costs, and because expenses are distributed over more sales, overall rates could decrease.

Before deciding whether—and how—to commission an AI/data center study, we respectfully recommend the County convenes a technical working group and scoping session with regional subject matter experts to define the study’s purpose, scope, and methods. This collaborative step will help ensure the County’s effort is targeted, fact-based, and tailored to local conditions. It will be important to include regional land-use,

energy and water utility experts, economic development and industry voices, and academic and workforce partners.

If the Board proceeds with a study, SDG&E respectfully requests to participate in the discussion and evaluation phases, sharing our local grid expertise, planning data, and reliability considerations to support a balanced, accurate assessment tailored to San Diego County's needs. Any study should assess potential benefits from locating data centers in the region, including indirectly helping to lower electric rates through increased energy demand, while also serving a demand response and load shifting role for grid reliability. We stand ready to contribute in a constructive, solutions-oriented manner.

We appreciate your leadership on this topic and would welcome the opportunity to collaborate on a briefing agenda and participant list. Please have your staff contact me at (619) 997-9722 or bsyz@sdge.com to coordinate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brittany Applestein Syz', written in a cursive style.

Brittany Applestein Syz  
Vice President, External Affairs & Communications