Monitoring Update: Week of Nov 16, 2026 (Sample)

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Written for a sample client watching battery storage and data center siting in six counties: Imperial, Kern, San Benito, San Diego, San Joaquin and Solano. A monitoring client gets an update like this each week, and an email the day something in a watched county moves.

1. Bottom line

Two data center moratoriums in the watch list, Imperial and San Joaquin, run out about Nov 20 unless their Boards extend them. Solano's Measure E, which would tax battery storage, trailed 37.6% to 62.3% in the Nov 13 count. Kern is preparing an EIR for a 275 MW data center, and scoping comments close Dec 4. In San Diego, the Starlight Solar suit has its first hard deadline on Jan 13, 2027.

2. County by county

County	What is live	Next date	Source
Imperial: data centers	The Board adopted a new urgency moratorium 5-0 on Oct 6, 2026, after a court threw out the June moratorium. Its length is not confirmed; a 45-day urgency ordinance ends about Nov 20 unless extended. On Sept 9 the Superior Court set aside the county's November 2025 grading approval for the Imperial Data Center; the developer, Imperial Valley Computer Manufacturing (IVCM), has said it will seek a new trial, then appeal.	About Nov 20	KPBS, Oct 8; KPBS, Sept 9
Imperial: federal case	A federal judge dismissed IVCM's suit against the City of Imperial on Nov 2, with leave to amend.	About Dec 2: amended complaint due	Order, Nov 2; Courthouse News
Imperial: battery storage	The one-year cap on solar and battery projects on farmland, adopted Dec 9, 2025, runs out about Dec 9, 2026 unless the Board renews it. Border BESS (75 MW), NorthStar 2 and Titan II are still in review.	About Dec 9	Beyond Borders News, Dec 11, 2025; Border BESS hearing package
Kern: data centers	The county is preparing an EIR for California Resources Corp.'s Golden Valley Technology Hub, a 275 MW data center at Elk Hills near Taft; comments on the EIR's scope close Dec 4. RB Inyokern (99 MW of backup generation) is in CEC exemption review, 26-SPPE-01.	Dec 4	Notice of preparation; CEC project page
San Benito: battery storage	The moratorium on battery applications runs to about late April 2027. The Planning Commission continued the draft ordinance to Dec 16; the draft would exclude prime farmland, high fire hazard zones and half-mile buffers around city spheres of influence, and ban NMC chemistry.	Dec 16	BenitoLink, Oct 26

County	What is live	Next date	Source
San Diego: battery storage	The CEQA suit over Starlight Solar (868 MWh), filed Oct 15, is pending; petitioners must request a hearing by Jan 13, 2027 or face dismissal. The draft battery storage zoning amendment closed comment Sept 27, and no Planning Commission date is posted.	Jan 13, 2027	KPBS, Oct 22; County BESS page
San Joaquin: data centers	The 45-day moratorium adopted 5-0 on Oct 6 ends about Nov 20 unless the Board extends it, for up to 10 months 15 days. No extension item was found.	About Nov 20	mgrid, Oct 7; FOX40
Solano: battery storage	Measure E, which would tax battery storage at $1.50 per MWh along with solar, wind, gas and data centers, trailed 37.6% yes to 62.3% no in KQED's Nov 13 count. The CEC is recirculating its revised staff assessment for NextEra's Corby project (300 MW, 1,200 MWh) for 60 days, and no decision date is set.	Count certified by Dec 3	KQED results; Local News Matters, Nov 10; CEC docket 24-OPT-05

3. Statewide

Most of the seven data center laws signed Sept 21, 2026 take effect Jan 1, 2027. For sites in the watch list, the ones that change the permit path first are SB 887 (no categorical CEQA exemptions for data centers), AB 1577 (energy, generation and noise disclosures with a local permit for 10 MW and up) and AB 2469 (no local approval without a water supply assessment). Foley, Sept 2026

4. Dates ahead

Date	County	What happens
About Nov 20	San Joaquin	Data center moratorium ends unless extended
About Nov 20	Imperial	Data center moratorium ends unless extended, if it runs the standard 45 days
About Dec 2	Imperial	IVCM's amended federal complaint due
By Dec 3	Solano	Measure E count certified
Dec 4	Kern	Golden Valley EIR scoping comments close
About Dec 9	Imperial	One-year farmland cap on solar and storage runs out
Dec 16	San Benito	Planning Commission takes up the draft battery ordinance
Jan 1, 2027	Statewide	Data center laws take effect
Jan 13, 2027	San Diego	Starlight petitioners' deadline to request a hearing
January 2027	Imperial	Data Center Advisory Committee reports
About late April 2027	San Benito	Battery moratorium ends unless replaced

5. How the watch list is checked

Each week: Board and Planning Commission agendas for each watched county, CEQAnet filings, CEC dockets for opt-in and exemption projects in those counties, and rulings or filings reported in the tracked lawsuits. Dates marked "about" are computed from statutory limits, such as the 45-day life of an urgency ordinance under Gov. Code 65858, and should be confirmed with the county.

This sample is research from public records, not legal advice. Confirm each item with the county or agency, and with counsel, before relying on it.