

Bastrop's Data Center Boom: Growth vs. Governance?

Massive industrial projects spark local challenges and regulatory debates in Cedar Creek.

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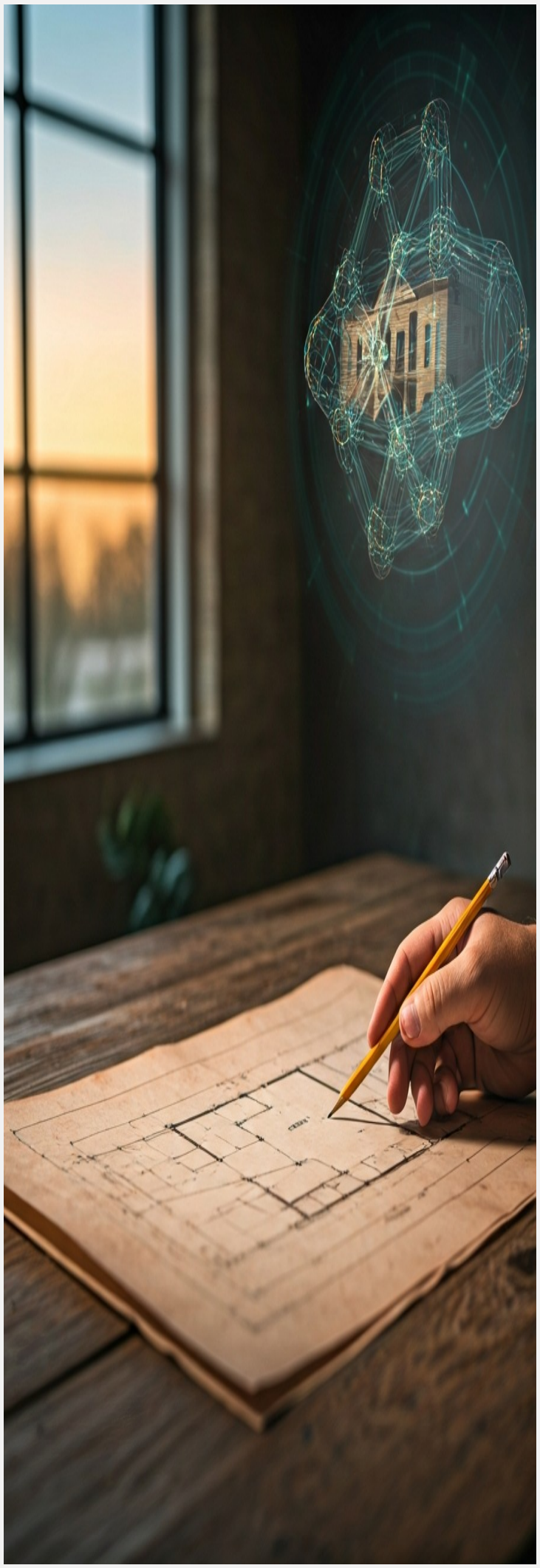
THE DATA

2,842 acres

Planned Data Center Development

A significant data center and energy project in Cedar Creek is at the center of a local permitting dispute.

Plans for a 2,842-acre data center and Pacifico Energy power development in Cedar Creek are facing challenges from Bastrop County residents regarding state construction stormwater permits. Simultaneously, county commissioners have tabled discussions on expanding their authority over such large-scale industrial projects.



Source: Community Impact · Published August 11, 2026

01

Economic Boost Meets Community Scrutiny

The expansion of data centers, a significant driver of economic activity across Texas, is bringing substantial investment and jobs to Bastrop County. The Dallas Fed noted that data center buildouts provide a boost to state economic activity and job growth. However, the scale of these developments also raises critical questions about environmental impact and community input, leading to increased local scrutiny over regulatory processes. This dynamic highlights the complex balance between fostering economic prosperity and preserving local quality of life.



02

Redefining Local Control Amidst Rapid Development

Bastrop County's rapid industrialization, marked by projects like the Cedar Creek data center, is pushing the boundaries of traditional local governance. The decision by county commissioners to table a request for expanded authority over large industrial projects suggests an ongoing struggle to adapt regulatory frameworks to the speed and magnitude of current development. This situation could set precedents for how fast-growing Texas counties manage the influx of major industrial players and protect community interests.

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