FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 12, 2016

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LA County Launches Cutting-Edge Data Center

Saving hundreds of millions of dollars while streamlining Los Angeles County's Information Technology systems, the Board of Supervisors moved to activate a Countywide Enterprise Data Center in El Segundo.

"This is an exciting day for the County," said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, lead author of the motion that led to Tuesday's action. "We are on the path to modernizing our I.T. systems in the most cutting-edge, energy efficient and cost effective way."

Under the plan, all of the County's existing 48 data centers would be merged into a single 4,000 to 10,000-square foot facility in El Segundo. This would reduce the cost of hardware, software and operations; shift to more efficient computing platforms; use less energy and real estate; and boost security.

The cost of leasing the facility is $2 million a year – far less expensive than the 58,000-square foot data center that the County's previous CEO originally recommended building for $208 million. That price tag did not yet factor in power, cooling and operational expenses.

Concerned that the original proposal was too expensive, oversized, and likely to become obsolete, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas asked the Board to consult an independent expert. Gartner Inc.'s analysis concluded that leasing no more than 10,000 square feet of space would be more efficient, both operationally and fiscally.

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