

Todo el equipo es propiedad de la ciudad de Brownsville, por lo tanto, asegúrese de registrar la salida del aparato prestado antes de tomar su lugar.

¡TRADUCCION EN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE!

La ciudad de Brownsville ofrece servicios de interpretación al español, tenemos audífonos a disposición del público presente afuera de las cámaras de la comisión municipal.

Todo el equipo le pertenece a la ciudad de Brownsville, por lo tanto, asegúrese de firmar el formulario de salida antes de tomar su lugar.





NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

Pursuant to Chapter 551, Title 5 of the Texas Government Code, the Texas Open Meetings Act, notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Brownsville, Texas, in accordance with Article V, Section 12, of the Charter of said City, will convene a **Special Meeting on October 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**, at the **City Commission Chambers**, located on the **Second Floor** of the **Brownsville City Hall-Old Federal Building**, located at **1001 East Elizabeth Street**, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, 78520.

Pursuant to Section 551.127, Texas Government Code, one or more Commissioners or employees may attend this meeting remotely using videoconferencing technology. The video and audio feed of the videoconferencing equipment can be viewed and heard by the public at the address posted above as the location of the meeting. Members of the Public, Employees, and the City Commission may join via the Webex Teleconference Meeting by logging on at:

<https://brownsvilletx.webex.com/brownsvilletx/j.php?MTID=m772bed533ca4fa7d2dab5aa51ee15a82>

Meeting number: 2530 273 9548

Password: commission (26664774 when dialing from a video system)

CALL TO ORDER

A. ROLL CALL

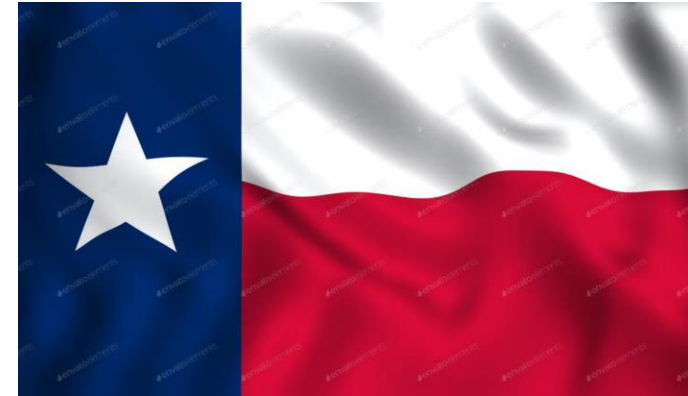
**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAGS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND
THE STATE OF TEXAS**

Pledge of Allegiance to United States



I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of
America and to the Republic
for which it stands, one Nation
under God, indivisible, with
liberty and justice for all.

Texas Pledge



Honor the Texas flag, I pledge
allegiance to thee, Texas, one
state under God, one and
indivisible.

PROCLAMATION(S)

1) Recognizing "The Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc"

Mayor John Cowen; Commissioner Tino Villareal



PROCLAMATION

*A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY COMMISSION
OF BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS,
RECOGNIZING BROWNSVILLE CRIME STOPPER, INC.*

WHEREAS In October 1981, the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce formally established a committee comprised of dedicated residents of the City of Brownsville who came together with a shared commitment to safeguard their community and reduce the incidence of crime and thus now celebrates 45 years of crime fighting; and

WHEREAS on August 25, 1986, this committee's mission and impact had grown to such an extent that it was officially chartered as Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc., a nonprofit agency organized under the laws of the State of Texas and now celebrates 40 years of incorporation; and

WHEREAS for over four decades, Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc. has served as a vital partner in public safety by offering complete anonymity to individuals who come forward with information leading to the arrest of those who commit crimes within our community, and by offering monetary rewards to individuals whose tips lead to arrests, thereby encouraging greater civic participation in the pursuit of justice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brownsville takes great pride in the enduring partnership between its residents and Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc., and recognizes the organization's steadfast dedication to protecting the safety, security, and well-being of our city;

NOW, THEREFORE WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION of the City of Brownsville, Texas, by virtue of the authority vested by the Charter of said City, do hereby proclaim Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc. as "Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc.". Now, therefore, I, John Cowen Jr, Mayor of the City of Brownsville, Texas, on behalf of the City Commission, do hereby proclaim recognition of Brownsville Crime Stoppers, Inc. and extend our deepest gratitude for its dedicated service to our community since 1981, and encourage all citizens to support its mission during October, National Crime Prevention Month, and throughout the year. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Brownsville, Texas, to be affixed this 7th day of October, 2026.

DONE, on this, the 7st day of October, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public Comment Period

Section 2-26. Meetings and agendas.

(f) Public *input during meetings.*

(1) *Conduct.*

- a. Conversations between or among audience members should be conducted outside the meeting room. Attendees should refrain from conversations while commission is in session.
- b. Cell phones. Attendees must refrain from the operation and use of cellular telephones, pagers, etc., or any mechanical devices that may disrupt city commission proceedings.
- c. Placards, banners, or signs are not be permitted in the commission chambers or in any other room in which the city commission conducts a meeting. Included in this prohibition are various hats, caps, visors, and t-shirts, which may represent sentiments as alluded to, regarding placards, banners and/or signs.
- d. Exhibits, displays, and visual aids used in connection with presentations to the city commission, are permitted.
- e. Only city commission members and city staff may approach the dais. If report, letter, etc., is to be presented to the commission, it should be given to the city secretary, (or staff) who will make the distribution. It is preferable that the item to be distributed be given to the city secretary prior to meeting time. A copy of the item should be made available for the city secretary's official record.
- f. All comments shall be made to the mayor and city commission as a whole, and not to individual commission members.

Comments are limited to 3 minutes.
Please abide by the allotted time.

03:00

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM(S):

The following are considered to be routine by the City Commission and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a City Commissioner so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

Consent Agenda Items

- 1) Consideration and **APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING on Ordinance No. 2026-1824** amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 102 “Utilities,” to add Article XII “Municipal Drainage Utility System,” Division 1 “Creation and Administration” to establish a municipal drainage utility system; providing for drainage service, billing, exemptions, drainage charges, and an appeal process. (Engineering and Public Works Dept.)
- 2) Consideration and **APPROVAL on SECOND and FINAL READING on Ordinance No. 2026-1825** amending Chapter 102 “Utilities” of the Code of Ordinances by amending Article III, “Rates and Charges,” by adding Division 5 “Drainage Utility Fees”; establishing a municipal drainage utility system fee; providing for exemptions and credits. (Engineering and Public Works Dept.)

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

PUBLIC HEARING #1

THIRD and **FINAL PUBLIC HEARING** on imposing a temporary moratorium on the acceptance, processing, and approval of applications for High-Intensity Data Processing Facilities within the City of Brownsville and its extraterritorial jurisdiction, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code §§ 212.131–212.139; and **ACTION on FIRST READING on Ordinance Number 2026-1826** enacting a 90-day moratorium on and prohibiting the acceptance, processing, and approval of applications for High-Intensity Data Processing Facilities within the City of Brownsville and its extraterritorial jurisdiction, and adopting findings and making a determination pursuant to Texas Local Government Code §§ 212.131–212.139, to allow the City time to review its regulations and environmental conservation efforts of such land uses in relation to the public health, safety and welfare of Brownsville residents.

CITY OF BROWNSVILLE

Moratorium on Data Centers

Public Hearing

Moratorium Timeline

July 1, 2026: Data Center zoning application for the former Wal-Mart building filed

July 29, 2026: Public Hearings Published (*not less than 30 days before the 1st hearing - Sec. 212.134(b) LGC*)

September 1, 2026: First Public Hearing & Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-121 (*Sec. 212.134(b) LGC*)

September 5, 2026: Public Hearings Published (*not less than 30 days before the 1st hearing - Sec. 212.134(b) LGC*)

October 6, 2026: Second Public Hearing (*at least 30 days between the Public Hearings - Sec. 212.134(c) LGC*)

October 7, 2026: Third Public Hearing; Final Determination/1st Reading and Approval of Moratorium Ordinance (*within 12 days of the 2nd hearing - Sec. 212.134(f) LGC*)

November 4, 2026: 2nd Reading and Final Approval of Ordinance at least 28 days apart, with $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the City Commission voting Yes (*Two readings at least 28 days apart - Sec. 212.134(f) LGC*)

November 5, 2026: 1st Day of Moratorium Runs for 90 days till **Wednesday, February 3, 2027** (Sec. 212.1362(a) LGC)

Note: LGC = Texas Local Government Code

Moratorium Timeline

December 30, 2026: Publish Notice of Moratorium Extension (*at least 15 days before the extension hearing - Sec. 212.1361 LGC*)

January 19, 2027: 1st Public Hearing and Reading for Moratorium Extension Ordinance (*Sec. 212.1361 LGC*)

February 2, 2027: 2nd and Final Reading and Approval for Moratorium Extension Ordinance (*90 extension to **May 17, 2027***)

May 18, 2027: Extension of Moratorium expires

Note: LGC = Texas Local Government Code

Note: Moratorium may not exceed **180 days total**, and cannot be enacted again for two years for same harm/area/type (*Sec. 212.1362(b) LGC*)

Moratorium

- **Requirements:**

- Specific notice and public hearings
- Specific written findings to justify moratorium
- Initial duration of 90 days
- One extension allowed up to an additional 90 days with certain steps and written findings
- City must adopt development regulations at conclusion of moratorium

- **Limits:**

- Cannot regulate issues outside the City's authority
- Cannot prohibit a lawful land use
- Does not apply to vested projects, approved projects, or those with zoning applications already submitted
- For 2 years, cannot impose another moratorium on the uses listed within the moratorium ordinance
- Must include an appeal process

Current State of Data Center Uses

- Data Center UDC Definition: None

4.2.10 - Interpretations of Zoning Code and Map.

2. Words and Terms not Expressly Defined. Words and terms not expressly defined in the UDC are to be construed according to the normally accepted meaning of such words or terms or, where no definition appears, then according to their customary usage in the practice of municipal planning and engineering, as determined by the Planning Director (see Subitem c below).
4. Interpretation of Zoning Code Meaning.
 - a. When a question arises as to the interpretation or application of any requirement, regulation, provision, or clause within this [Article 4](#) as it applies to an approved Planned Development, Site Plan, Building Permit, Certificate of Occupancy, or other zoning matter, and the question cannot be resolved by the application of 1 above, the Planning Director is the administrator responsible for interpreting the meaning and application of the requirement, regulation, provision, or clause.
 - b. Appeals of an administrative interpretation may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment, as outlined in 4.2.11B.1.
5. Classification of Similar Uses. The Planning Director is responsible for determining how a similar use is classified under the use charts.
6. Classification of New and Unlisted Uses.
 - a. If the Planning Director is unable to classify the use under an existing use, the Director will initiate an amendment to the Zoning Code (see [4.2.2](#). Zoning Text and Map Amendments).
 - b. The use is not authorized unless and until the City Commission votes to approve the amendment adding the use to the use charts.

Current State of Data Center Uses

- **Interpretation:**

- All Other Utility Related Uses (Other Than Listed): A facility or area for a utility installation not specifically listed in this UDC

- **By Right:**

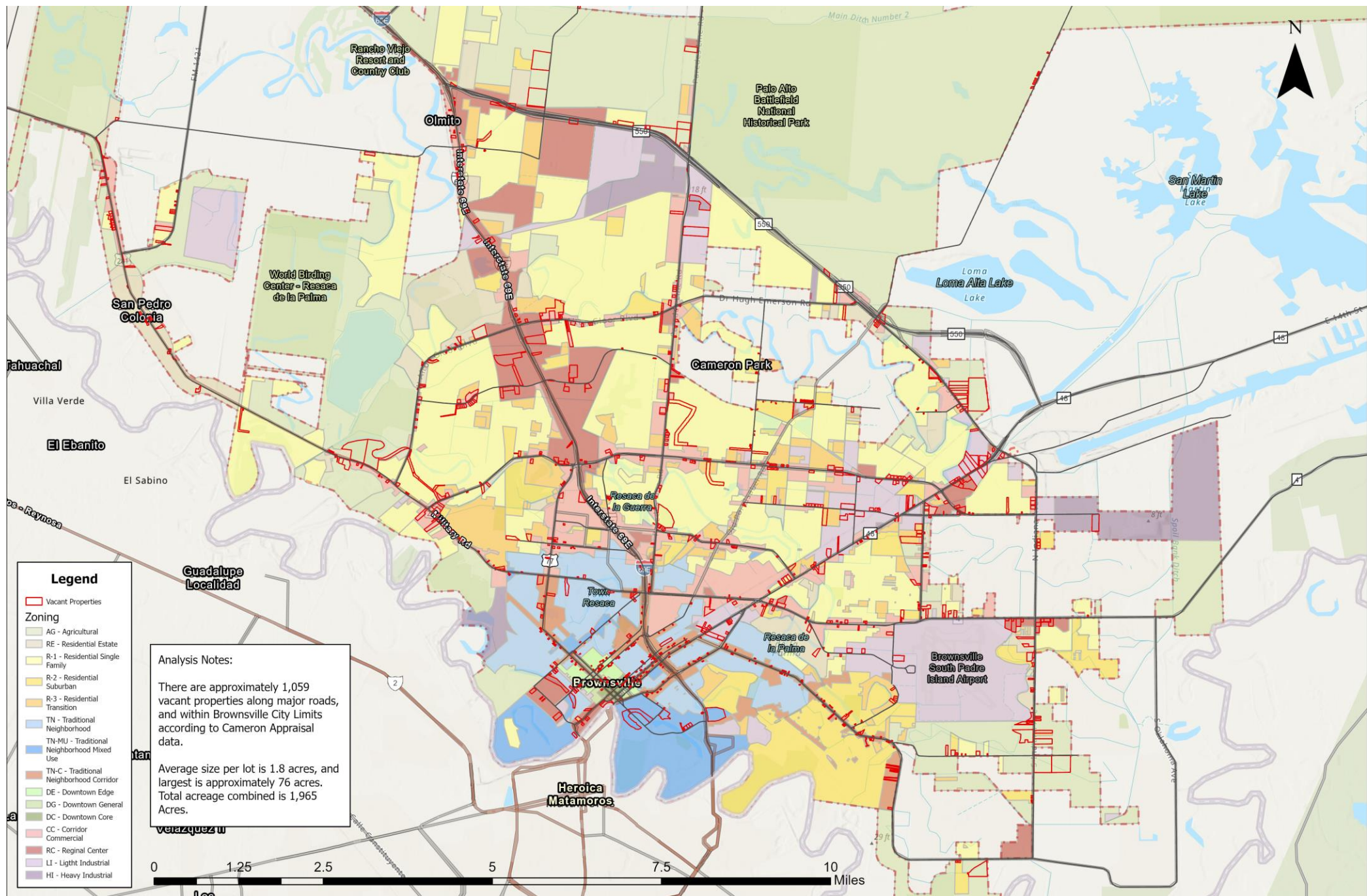
- HI – Heavy Industrial
- LI – Light Industrial

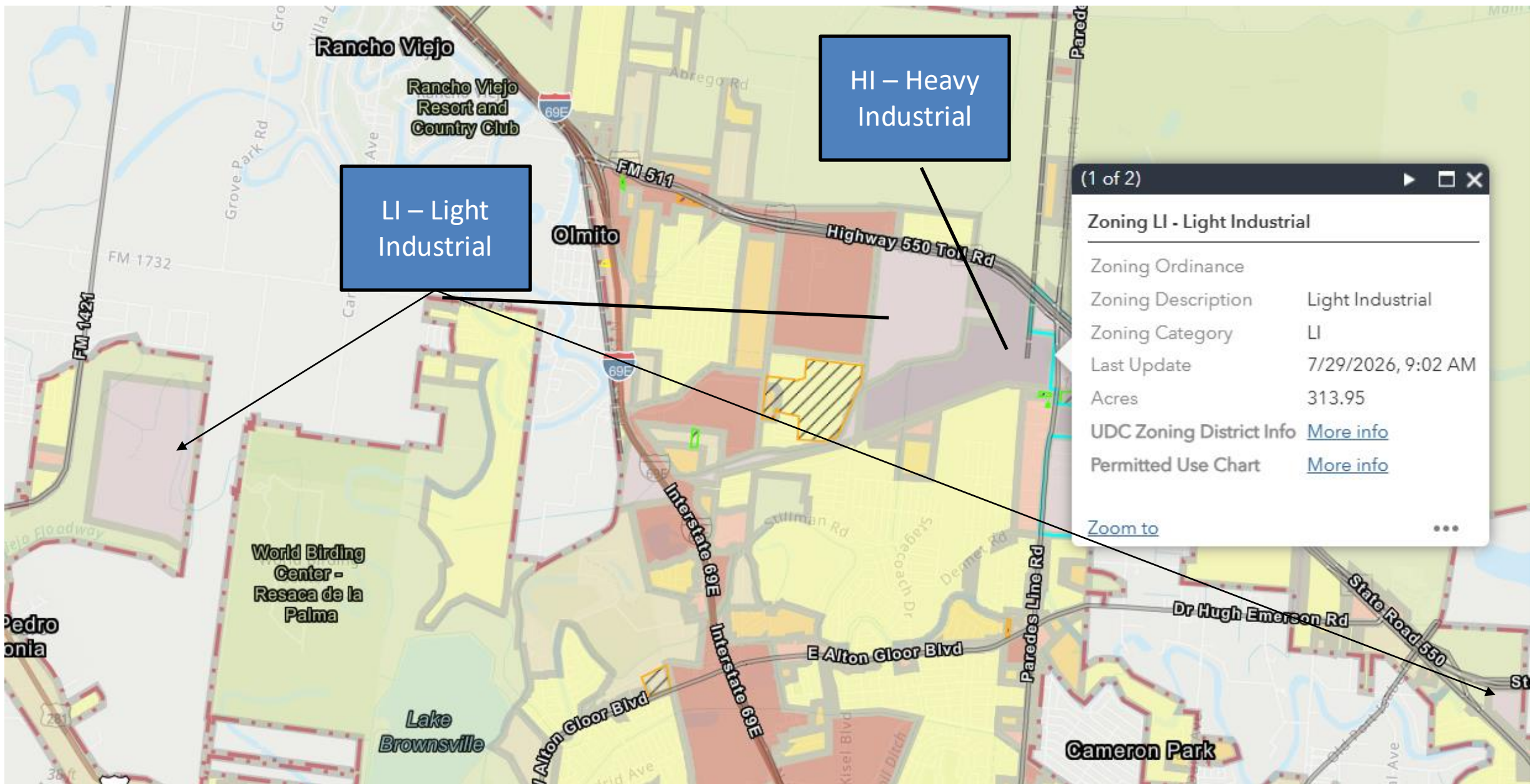
- **Specific Use Permit:**

- RC – Regional Center
- CC – Corridor Commercial

- **Governor's Directive:**

- Governor Greg Abbott's August 3, 2026, letter and directive effectively paused approvals for new data centers seeking to connect to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) power grid pending a comprehensive audit and verification process





LI - Light Industrial

HI - Heavy Industrial

(1 of 2)

Zoning LI - Light Industrial

Zoning Ordinance

Zoning Description Light Industrial

Zoning Category LI

Last Update 7/29/2026, 9:02 AM

Acres 313.95

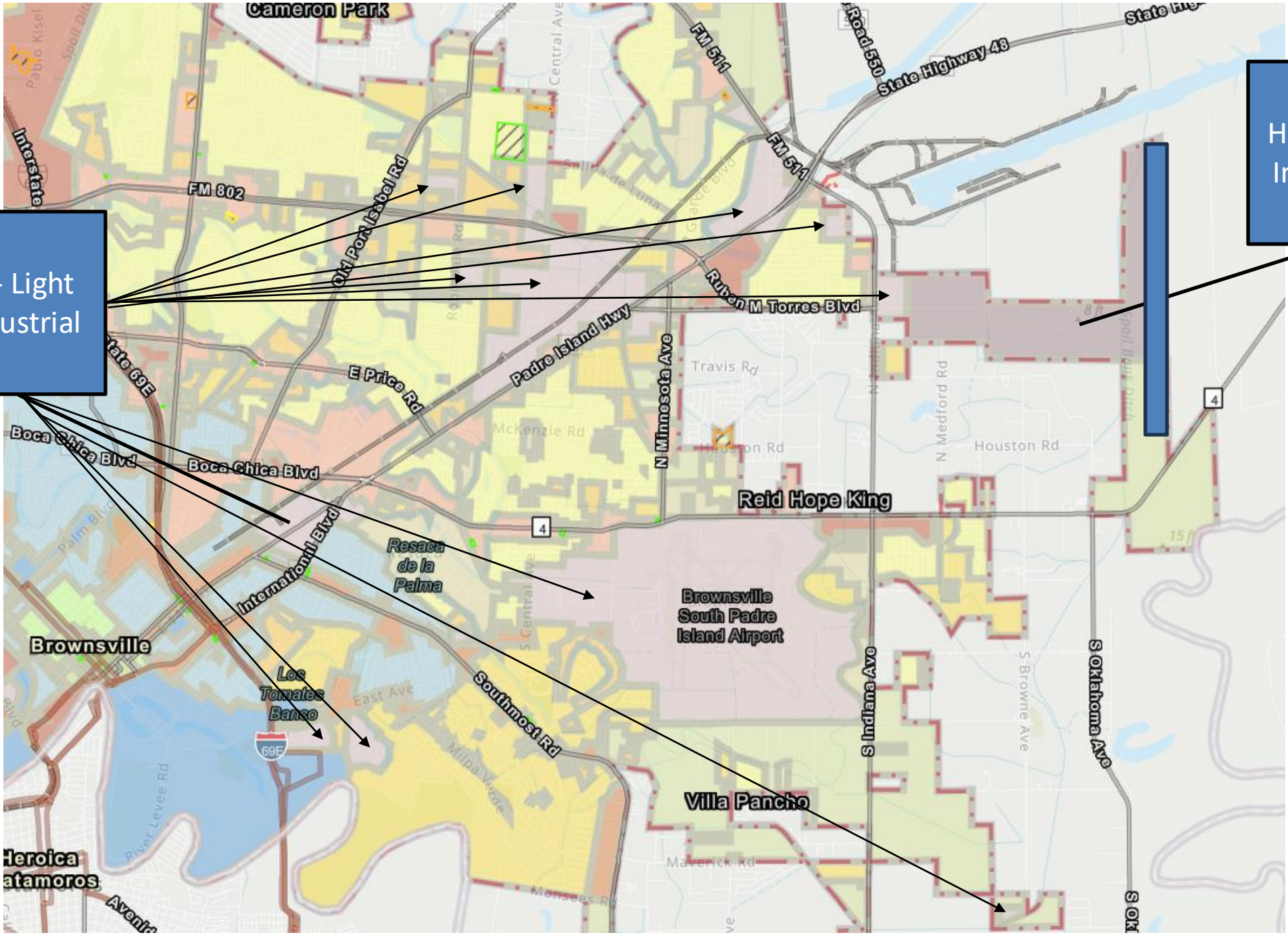
UDC Zoning District Info [More info](#)

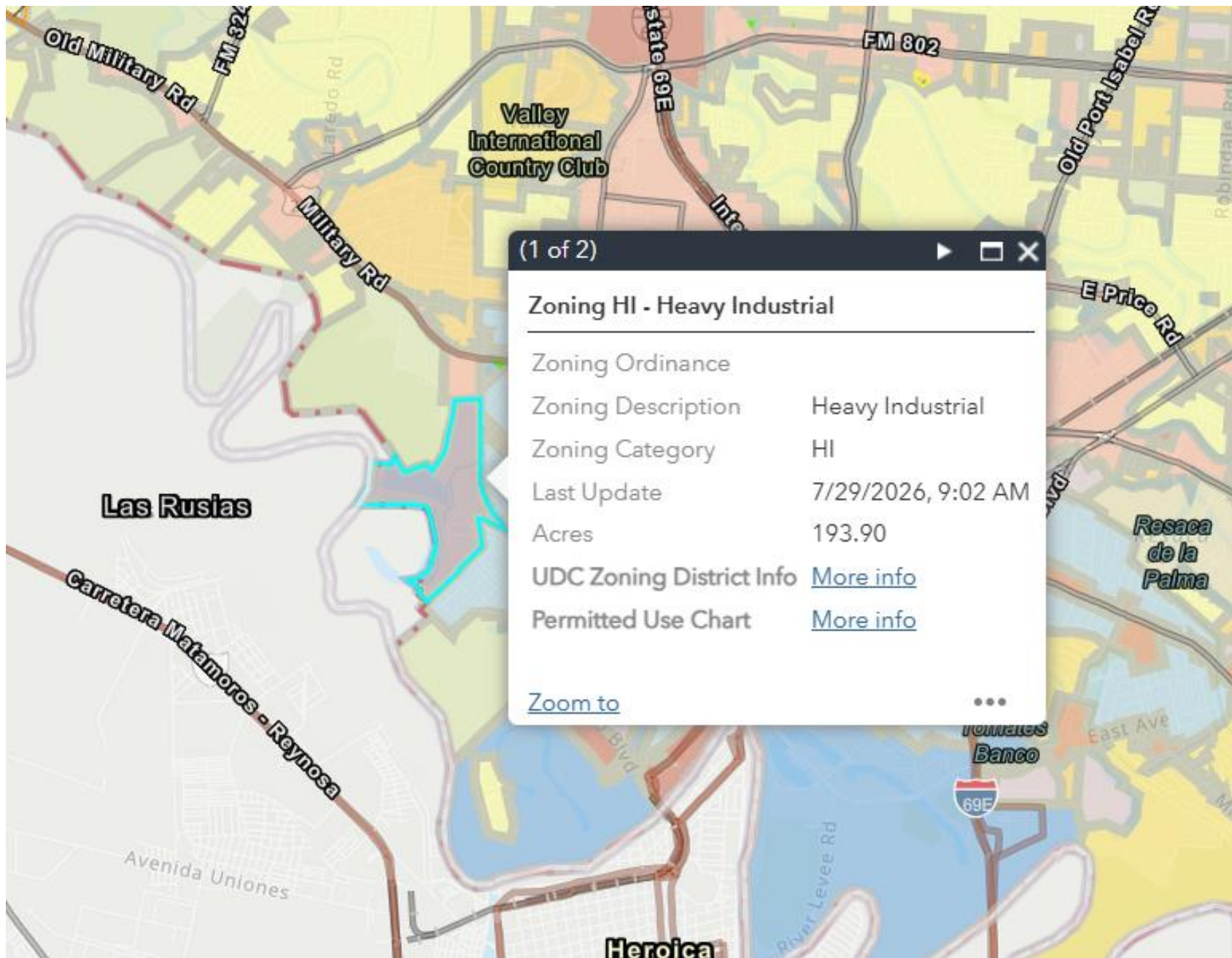
Permitted Use Chart [More info](#)

[Zoom to](#) ...

LI - Light Industrial

HI - Heavy Industrial





Environmental and Conservation Task Force

- **Areas of Study:**

- Evaluation of noise impacts of such facilities;
- Evaluation of municipal water supply impacts and long-term water availability;
- Evaluation of land-use compatibility, building scale, and mechanical and electrical systems associated with such facilities; and
- Development of zoning ordinance amendments, City Code amendments, and amendments to the water manual governing such facilities.

- **Members with representation from:**

- 7 community representatives with voting rights, each nominated by a member of the City Commission and appointed by a majority vote of the City Commission
- 4 Ex officio members without voting privileges, consisting of:
 - 1 representative from Brownsville Public Utilities Board with knowledge of electricity capacity;
 - 1 industry expert in data center operations or technology infrastructure from UTRGV;
 - 1 health expert (Dr. Arturo Rodriguez, DNP); and
 - 1 infrastructure expert (Doroteo Garcia, P.E.)

Environmental and Conservation Task Force

- **Community Engagement**
 - Hold public meetings, town halls, and forums.
 - Present findings and gather public input on environmental issues.
 - Strengthen trust and collaboration with residents.
- **Environmental Equity & Sustainability Metrics**
 - Recommend how to integrate equity and sustainability metrics into development project evaluations.
 - Consult with regional environmental organizations to ensure comprehensive guidance.
- **Ongoing Evaluation, Mitigation Costs & Enforcement**
 - Recommend procedures for continuous monitoring of development projects.
 - Provide guidance on identifying and updating environmental mitigation costs.
 - Suggest enforcement mechanisms to ensure proper follow-up on findings and mitigation measures.
- **Reporting Requirements**
 - Initial report on data center development due to the City Commission by **December 15, 2026**, unless extended by the City Manager.
 - Final report due at the **March 16, 2026**, City Commission meeting (or a rescheduled March meeting).
 - Reports must include recommendations on policies and regulations related to data center development within the City's authority.

Questions

Public Comment Period

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ADJOURNMENT