



Re: Information on the Data Center projects

From Carolyn Donlin [REDACTED]
Date Mon 6/22/2026 3:16 PM
To District 2 Leadership Council [REDACTED]
Cc The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>; Ortiz, Peter <Peter.Ortiz@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; [REDACTED] Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Tordillos, Anthony <Anthony.Tordillos@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Mulcahy, Michael <Michael.Mulcahy@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Casey, George <George.Casey@sanjoseca.gov>; Ramirez, Lucas <lucas.ramirez@sanjoseca.gov>

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Hello David, Major Mahan, Council members, and San Jose Spotlight,

How is the city of San Jose justifying building data centers based on 10- and 11-year old studies?? Not one of these studies addresses the water requirements for data centers. It should be no surprise to **any** of you that California is a semi-arid climate. Every year, residents of California (as well as those in other Western States) are asked to conserve water, as well we should be. But to ask ordinary people to conserve water while you basically put NO restrictions on data centers is not acceptable. You're putting California in a precarious position.

Marine Biologist, Rachel Carson, in her 1962 book, Silent Spring, reminded us that we humans are part of nature; therefore, a war against nature is, in fact, a war against ourselves.

I am urging all of you to start thinking about California's (and the world's) environmental future and less about money and budgets and short-term personal gains. Think about your children and grandchildren.

Your old studies about data centers also do not address the fact that they form heat sinks in an already warming climate.

When were the public hearings on the San Jose data centers held? I don't recall a single hearing! Please give the people of San Jose a chance to voice our concerns about data centers that are fueling the AI, mass surveillance future that NO ONE voted for.

Stop this nonsense, already. No one deserves to live next to a data center.

Schedule the hearings! Stop trying to fast track these data centers.

I will again share the credible reports and resources that you all need to read and absorb.

DATA CENTERS

California, along with most other Western States (or parts thereof) have a semi-arid climate. Our water is scarce, NOT plentiful. This should be on the mind of every politician, business person, and citizen of California, but we all choose to ignore the fact that we frequently experience drought years and that groundwater does not magically recharge. As I am sure you are aware, El Niño is supposed to produce widespread drought in 2026, as reported by the World Meteorological Organization (<https://wmo.int/media/news/wmo-likelihood-increases-of-el-nino>).

For some context, please take some time to watch the documentary titled "Beyond the Mirage: the Future of Water in the West" that I've linked to below:

<https://www.pbs.org/video/beyond-the-mirage-the-future-of-water-in-the-west-3x6JD1/>

This documentary is available on PBS.

During the budget presentation for the District 2 residents, you (Mayor Mahan) stated that you think the water usage/demand for data centers is overstated. The following reports that have been compiled by non-profit entities with NO stake in rush to build data centers.

<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-centers-and-water-consumption>

<https://www.ceres.org/resources/reports/drained-by-data-the-cumulative-impact-of-data-centers-on-regional-water-stress>

In addition to the fact that we do not have enough water for all these data centers, I am certain that you have all seen photos or videos of how data centers affect the quality of the water near data centers. It has been widely reported by news outlets. Representative AOC held up a mason jar full of brown cloudy water that was taken from a home tap near a data center.

My question to Matt Mahan and each council member is "Would you live near a data center?"

You (Mayor Mahan) also mentioned that you have a deal with PG&E to rebuild San Jose's power grid. That may be great, but it will not address the long-term stress of all that energy usage on the local climate (they create heat sinks locally) and on a broader scale. See the following article:

<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-center-energy-needs-are-upending-power-grids-and-threatening-the-climate>

Here is a link to entire series of EESI's reports on impacts of data centers.

<https://www.eesi.org/data-center-impacts>

Each one of these reports needs to be REQUIRED READING for each one of you. If you are unwilling to read these objective sources, I would go so far as to state your you are not doing your job.

Do you really trust the tech. oligarchs? Do you trust PG&E? Promises are so easy to make, and they are even easier to break. I, for one, am very skeptical of all the sweet deals you made with industry and PG&E as you and the council shove these unwanted data centers down our throats. I am sure that I am not alone in my skepticism.

FLOCK CAMERAS

Secondly, I want to push back on some of the use of Flock cameras in San Jose.

You stated that they have helped solved crimes, and that sounds good on the face of it. I do not recall that you (Mayor Mahan) provided any specific statistics. I could be mistaken.

You did state that they are not pointed at houses of worship or schools, and I certainly appreciate that consideration. You also mentioned that the data is only retained for 30 days. That is somewhat of a safety measure, but some creepy person with access to the camera data can still stalk another person.

I simply do not understand the need for these ghastly surveillance machines that are attached to a vast network. I understand that you and the council may think you have an iron-clad safe agreement with the Flock camera company, but these billionaires have proven time and time again that they cannot be trusted. Why would you trust them?

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2026/apr/06/flock-cameras-privacy-concerns>

I have lived in San Jose for the past 30 years, and I am not in favor of these drastic changes. Let's stop installing Flock cameras in San José. And let's not build any more data centers. Enough is Enough.

Finally, ask yourselves if the average citizen in San Jose or in the United States is asking for AI to take over our economy? I heard you state at the budget meeting that AI is coming whether we want it or not. But why must the majority of citizens accept what the billionaire oligarchs are telling us what the future holds?! They are in the minority, but they have all the power. It's ridiculous. They can all run and hide (their bunkers) when the consequences of their irresponsible treatment of the planet and our privacy come to pass.

You are all on social media. Do you really trust Alex Karp, Peter Thiel, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, and the rest of the nitwits trying to ruin our democracy?

I want to see numerous hearings scheduled for the residents of San Jose.

Thank you,

Carolyn Donlin

On Sun, Jun 21, 2026 at 1:15 PM District 2 Leadership Council [REDACTED] wrote:
D2 Residents,

I've had numerous residents voice concerns regarding the numerous data centers being built in D2-- noise, electricity requirements, water, etc. If you're interested, paste this link into your browser to see the applicable San Jose Planning, Building & Code Enforcement webpage.

<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/planning-building-code-enforcement/planning-division/environmental-planning/environmental-review/active-eirs/equinix-data-centers>

Documents available:

- Energy Efficiency Report
- Air QQuality Assessment
- Environmental Noise Assessment
- Acoustical Study

David Wilkins
Secretary D2NLC

***Be happy. Be kind. Be grateful.
It's all in your hands.***

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Outlook

Fw: SV5 Equinix Data Center and Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association

From Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Fri 7/10/2026 11:15 AM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (71 KB)

SV5 Equinix Data Center Letter.pdf;

From: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2026 10:57 AM**To:** Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** FW: SV5 Equinix Data Center and Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association

Public record?

From: SLNA Board [REDACTED]**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2026 10:31 AM**To:** [REDACTED]**Cc:** The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; John Leipelt [REDACTED]**Subject:** SV5 Equinix Data Center and Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association

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Ms DeRussy,

Please see the attached letter from the Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association expressing concerns regarding the SV5 Equinix Data Center.

David Wilkins

SLNA Co-President and Secretary

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DATE: 10 July 2026

FROM: Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association

SUBJECT: SV5 Equinix Data Center, 9 Great Oaks Blvd, San Jose, CA

Madison DeRussy:

The Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association represents the neighborhood of approximately 965 homes adjacent to Monterey Road, across from the SV5 Equinix Data Center. Unfortunately, it impacts the quality of our life by releasing contaminated exhaust, sending noxious fumes into our homes and emitting loud alarms at all hours. We have measured the air quality and logged alarms, providing actual data evidence to support our claims of violation. In addition, data centers are known to be ferocious consumers of water and electricity, both are fragile resources to south San Jose. The SV5 data center is a potential hazard to our Great Oaks Water supply, if not adequately mitigated.

See the following samples of violations we have recorded:

- a) PM 2.5- 113 ug/m3 -Very High-Considered dangerous to your health
 - b) PM10-358 mg/m3 - Extremely high-Hazardous category "Very Unhealthy" AQI
- Both can cause severe airway inflammation, mechanical irritation (eyes, nose, throat), asthma/COPD flare requiring hospitalization, reduced lung function. Long term (Chronic) health problems can result including cardiovascular stress (heart attack, high BP, stroke, blood stickiness, etc.), chronic bronchitis, increase chance of lung cancer, and accelerated lung aging.
- c) CO2-1844 ppm -High- Significant lack of fresh air exchange.
- Studies show decision making, critical thinking and cognitive abilities drop noticeably above 1000 ppm. People can experience headaches, lethargy, and sluggishness. It is also an indicator of other airborne pollutants.

We are requesting the following actions:

- 1) Monitor and control business noise levels between 8pm and 6am with real time monitoring.
- 2) Monitor the air quality of any exhaust to verify you are meeting the BAAQMD acceptable standards and require notification to the surrounding community when breached.
- 3) Explain the plan to minimize water usage and the estimated impact on the power grid.

We recognize that data centers play a valuable role in maintaining Silicon Valley's technological lead, as well as providing well-needed business tax to the city of San Jose. We are not asking for closure; we are requesting improvements so that you can be "a good neighbor." **Can you work with Matthew Quevedo, the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff, to schedule a town hall** at the D2 Police Substation or Southside Community Center with appropriate Equinix personnel, District 2 Council Office, and personnel from the appropriate department of City Hall?

On behalf of the Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association,



Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association
Silverleafna95138@gmail.com

David R Wilkins, Co-President and Secretary



cc: Matt Mahan, San Jose Mayor

Pamela Campos, Councilmember, District 2

Jennifer Maguire, San Jose City Manager

Christopher Burton, Director of the Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement

Toni J. Taber, San Jose City Clerk



Re: Silver Leaf Neighborhood Association/SV5 Equinix Data Center

From SLNA Board [REDACTED]
Date Fri 7/17/2026 4:39 PM
To Rey Banks [REDACTED]
Cc Garaffo, Erica <Erica.Garaffo@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; Burton, Chris <Christopher.Burton@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; John Leipelt [REDACTED]
Madison DeRussy [REDACTED]

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Ray,

I do understand the complexity and needing time for an analysis. Thank you very much for responding, though. I can tell my board that our email was acknowledged.

On Fri, Jul 17, 2026 at 5:30 AM Rey Banks <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Mr. Wilkins,

Thank you for your letter outlining the Silver Leaf HOA's concerns regarding Equinix's nearby operations.

Equinix values its relationship with the community and takes concerns regarding noise, air quality, water usage, and energy impacts seriously. Our engineering and operations teams are currently reviewing the issues raised in your letter and gathering the relevant technical information.

Because these matters require technical evaluation and verification, we respectfully request sufficient time to complete our review. Doing so will allow us to provide a thorough and substantive response and determine any appropriate next steps.

Thank you for bringing these matters to our attention. We appreciate your patience while we complete our review.

Best,

Rey Cheatham Banks

State & Local External Affairs Director

pronouns: she/her | time zone: US Eastern

E [REDACTED] | **M** [REDACTED]



Fw: SJ General Plan 2040 Mtg Aug 18th - Submission to Public Record

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Wed 8/5/2026 11:52 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

 1 attachment (3 MB)

Data Center Environmental Known Impacts 2026 Trella M Davis 1TG.pdf;

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Trella Davis [REDACTED] >

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:10 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: SJ General Plan 2040 Mtg Aug 18th - Submission to Public Record

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Hi

I would like to submit the attached report on Data Center Local Impacts for the Aug 18th mgt.

Please advise as to what other information is needed to put this into public records and submit for review by council.

Thanks,

Trella Davis

[REDACTED]

DATA CENTER IMPACTS

2026 CURRENT KNOWN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Trella M Davis, ITG Research –
trelladavis@gmail.com



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***“Nothing is for free.
Everything has come at a cost.
Protect the home, the sanctuary,
the ship of life that
Nature, Earth and God provide.”
– Trella M Davis***

OVERVIEW

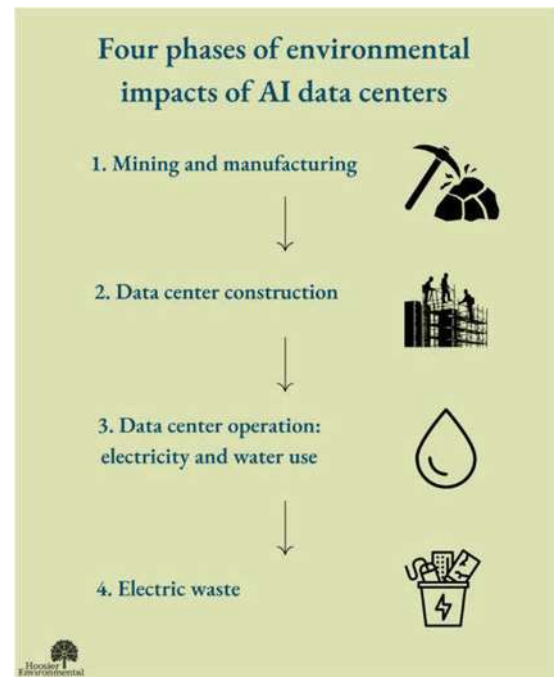
Quick primer of Data Center currently known environmental resources uses and harms (at site location impacts only). Data Center = DC

What are Data Centers: Data Centers (DCs) are super-large dense financial value facilities containing computer servers and GPUs or TPUs used for cloud computing, data storage, data analytics, generative AI, and streaming services. While technically DCs have been around for 80 years – starting with Mainframes – conventional modern DCs have been around since the 1990s for Cloud and Hyperscale starting in 2006 with Google in Oregon.

DC Resources Use Quick Overview: Writing a single 100-word email with ChatGPT consumes approximately the volume of a standard bottle of water, uses 0.34 watt of electricity (the amount to use an LED bulb for 2 minutes) and produces about 4.32 grams of CO₂ and other Green House Gases. This is just the start.¹ Materials mining, electronics manufacturing, construction of physical site, resources use and various wastes – there is a mind-bogglingly array of negative environmental impacts. It is difficult for most people to relate to the amount of resources DCs and especially AI and Hyperscale DCs use so understanding personal application and relatable examples is critical for those looking to evaluate them or understand what is really behind the tool.

Image Source:

<https://www.hecweb.org/2025/06/28/measuring-the-environmental-cost-of-artificial-intelligence-and-their-data-centers/>



¹ <https://www.hecweb.org/2025/06/28/measuring-the-environmental-cost-of-artificial-intelligence-and-their-data-centers/>

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Most DC Developers, Commercial Real Estate Brokers/Agents, and pro-Data Center municipalities, may not understand or not want to know the negative resource impacts and their various immediate, as well as short and long-term harms of unsustainable DCs development. In the US, DCs now consume nearly 5-6%+ of national electricity use and that could rise to as much as 12% by 2028.² Perspective: 2026 20% of US Winter Wheat crop failed in part due to reduced adequate water access. Current US corn production is down by 3% in part due to due to climate drought and water access availability problems. Corn, wheat, rice, soybeans and other major commodities are all shrinking (in North America, South America, Europe, and throughout Asia) to due increasing drought, extremes in weather, rising temperatures, increasing demand and now more expensive input costs of fuel, electricity, water, and fertilizer. DCs are a growing and major industry to heavily worsen these types of climate and water scarcity problems.

Basic Operations Overview: All DCs strive to full operation of "five nines" or 99.999% at 24/7/365. Most DCs can function with 10-50 staff (this includes security and other exterior personnel – contracted, human employees and AI agent "employees"). Many DCs use AI and AI agents to monitor, troubleshoot and do other DC non-physical jobs like cyber

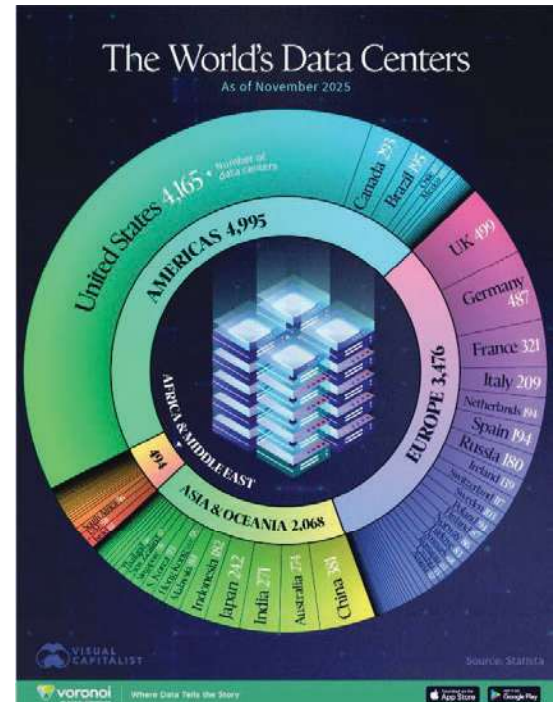


Image Source:

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/visualizing-all-of-the-worlds-data-centers-in-2025/>

² <https://earthjustice.org/article/what-you-need-to-know-about-ai-data-centers> & <https://earthjustice.org/press/2026/naacp-asks-court-for-emergency-action-to-stop-illegal-air-pollution-from-xais-data-center-power-plant>

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security. Also, DCs use non-location/fully remote staff either US or foreign based. Many share "local physical human" employees or contractors across multiple sites. Many US DCs use 2-5 million gallons of water per month for cooling, generate massive amount of e-waste monthly (servers are swapped every 1-3 years) and DCs have 30,000 to 200,000+ to millions depending on site or campus size), issue highly contaminated wastewater, and use electricity anywhere from small 5 MW, medium 20 MW, large 100 MW to campuses 500+ MW. Perspective, a single 50 MW facility uses the equivalent amount of electricity as about 40,000 U.S. households.³

DC Harm Health Quick Overview: DCs create health risks and harm to their builders, workers, visitors, neighbors, and communities (both immediate and potentially far away). Air, water and electricity impacts can cause harm many miles to hundreds of miles away. The most commonly measured risks to neighbors and communities (people, animals, plants, farms, ranches, waterways, air quality, etc.) who are not at least 10 miles away, are many. 7000 feet (1.4 miles) is the minimum "safe" distance from EMFs, noise, and LF – Low Frequency vibration. It is 5 to 10+ miles but up to several hundred, especially if living downwind, for gas particulate matter / toxic emissions, and 10-100 miles for water pollution/direct discharge/"Grey Watering". DCs can and routinely have polluted ground/well/river/stream/aquifer water so a safe distance could actually be 50-100 miles or more. Approximately 6 miles is needed for

Potential Contribution of Data Centers to 2035 NDC-Aligned Power Sector Emissions

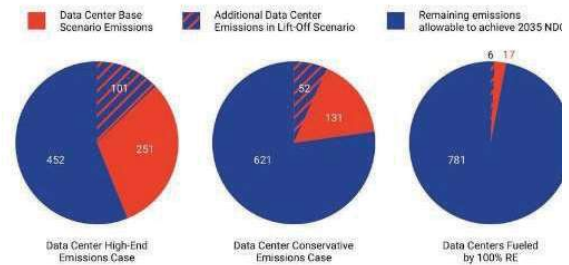


Image Source:

<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/report-ai-data-center-boom-threatens-us-climate-goals-2025-10-29/>

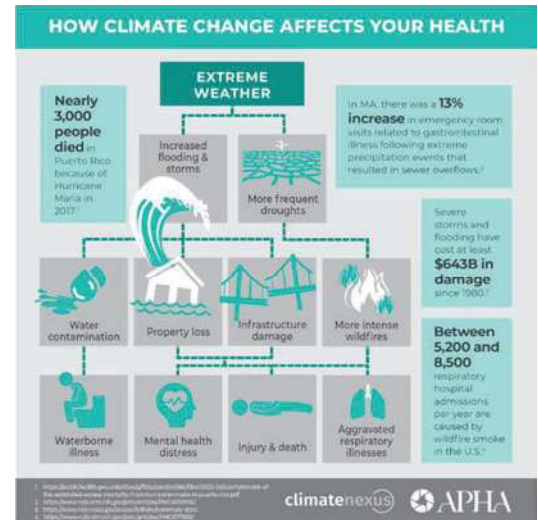
³ <https://www.wri.org/insights/us-data-center-growth-impacts>

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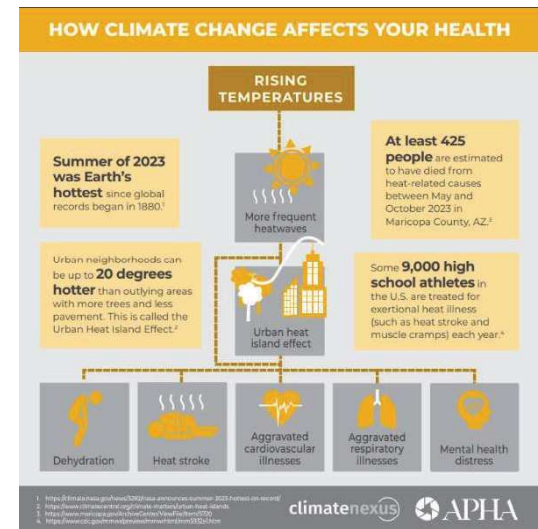
'Heat Islanding' or 'Heat Domes' as DCs raise area temperatures laterally by 4-16 degrees Fahrenheit hotter and as much as 67 degrees vertically hotter. At least 5 miles for a "safe" distance is needed for threat of fire, explosions, attacks, etc. Actual true "safe" distances for some risks have not been determined because this is a newish industry and that would create unsurmountable problems for getting approval for DC hyperscale and campus installations next or imbedded in urban or suburban areas. Nearby farms, livestock, crops, wildlife, pollinators, and humans also have various problems from inability to sleep, still-births, asthma, reduced growth rates, and more.⁴

Risks from Extreme Weather Threats &

Earthquakes: Droughts, heat, high heat, hailstorms, extreme ice/snow, floods, fires, and tornadoes are all increasing. Expanding and shifting F5 level tornadoes have become increasing common in states where never before common (the entire Tornado Alley in the US has actually expanded and shifted significantly towards the East moving into the Mississippi River valley and the Southeast, including Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee). Tornado Alley's eastward shift increases the risk to human life because the new areas have a higher population density, more people living in manufactured homes, limited road networks, and decreased visibility caused by more and denser trees and hilly terrain. These states all have an extremely



Images Source: <https://www.apha.org/news-and-media/multimedia/infographics/how-climate-change-affects-your-health>



⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-26185-y> & <https://www.wsj.com/business/energy-oil/a-new-foe-has-emerged-for-data-centers-farmers-4a3eda8f>

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large density of DCs.⁵ Google, AWS, and other tech companies have literally built or are currently building all along the intersection of 3 earthquake fault lines including the San Andreas Fault line in California's Bay Area.⁶

Low/No Buffer Zone: DCs are dangerously close to or imbedded within towns, cities and major metropolitan areas. Let's reference a similar high value-high risk site: Military Bases. Bases for various security and safety reasons, prevent future civilian encroachment like high-density housing creeping too close to a base. The military partners with local governments and land trusts to establish multi-mile conservation buffers around installations. This insulates the base from complaints about noise, dust, contaminants, security needs, attack, and training maneuvers. DCs don't seem to care about 'civilian' safety buffers because it vastly increases their infrastructure connection costs and lowers their conveniences to pre-built and city-maintained resources. Infrastructure costs elimination is one of the most pressing drivers for DC development as electricity access and operations profitability will take much longer to recover or make what is already extremely risky financially, impossible.

DC Litigation Boom⁷: Lawsuits due to public and private nuisance, environmental harm, property devaluation, disenfranchisement, medical harm, workers comp, and more may not be factored into the Developer's costs, but are quickly becoming the new Gold Rush



Image Source:

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2025/04/09/san-jose-data-center-housing-project-economic-benefits/> Proposed Data Center with adjacent housing concept art City of San Jose, CA

⁵ <https://www.usnews.com/insurance/homeowners-insurance/new-tornado-alley-2026-shifting-risks>

⁶ <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/gilroy-amazon-data-center/4091984/>

⁷ https://www.quinnemanuel.com/the-firm/publications/client-alert-emerging-litigation-risks-in-financing-ai-data-centers-boom/#_ftn53

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litigation industry with many firms focusing just on DCs. Suits (at the municipal level) for reasonable cause, measurable harm and agreement violations are quite easy to document.⁸

Tax abatements, permit reductions, and grants have consistently not proven productive.⁹ A Tax Revenue per Acre calculation (Value Per Acre) shows DCs realized revenues (before subtracting municipal and community costs and harms) does not out-perform mixed use low-rise development (business on ground floor and next 3 floors are housing). **For DC projects without grants or sales and property tax abatements, tax revenues might generate \$40,000 to \$80,000+ per acre annually vs Low-rise mixed use \$300,000 to \$700,000+ per acre annually (without unique resources costs and harms).**¹⁰ A Georgia state audit estimated that in FY 2025, DCs brought in \$41 million in local tax revenue while receiving \$474 million in state sales tax exemptions. The environmentally safer path many times is also the financially sound or best path that is old but proven.

Economic Development Orgs (EDOs) and elected municipal officials may unwittingly subsidize DCs with massive tax abatements and more. Many times, this is through legally

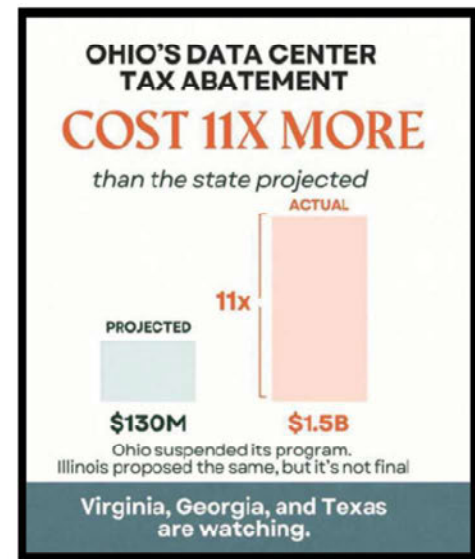


Image Sources: <https://signalohio.org/ohio-approves-last-data-center-exemption-before-moratorium/>

⁸ <https://www.quinnemanuel.com/the-firm/publications/client-alert-emerging-litigation-risks-in-financing-ai-data-centers-boom/>

⁹ <https://stateline.org/2026/04/15/many-states-dont-report-losses-from-data-center-tax-breaks-study-says/>

¹⁰ <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Planning/Docs/June2014-eNews-printerfriendly.pdf> & <https://www.nahb.org/blog/2026/01/value-of-land-efficiency> & <https://goodjobsfirst.org/georgia-data-center-tax-breaks/>

OVERVIEW

grey to illegal Non-Disclosure Agreements and with little to no Due Process for review.

Misleading to Fraudulent Information on

Immediate & Long-term Operations: Due to the never before levels of tech and investment money being spent, an extensive amount of real estate brokers and speculators, electricity/water use agreements and "Behind-the-Meter Benefits" flippers, prominent as well as low scruples DC developers, private equity investors turning more utilities into for profit organizations, and doomsday preaching "tech bro" cash-laden 'leaders' have made several renown experts and designers in the DC industry and well as financial institutions all label this extremely heavy speculation as **"Fake Data Centers"** or **"Phantom Data Centers"**.¹¹ There are around 5000 DCs across all 50 states.¹² Quoting a DC expert, "All the good locations have long been gone". Meaning doing whatever to secure a location with as much free resources and financial supports as fast as possible (by any means necessary sometimes) has been a key driver and a substantial strategy to improve DC development margins and to attract compute clients.

Current AI Policy and Infrastructures are Not Aligned for Safety, Sustainability or Quality of

Control: AI safety has now become a mainstream global concern across genders, ideologies, religions and cultural groups. Experts and the wider public are united in their alarm to hatred at emerging risks and the pressing need to manage AI and the

Image Source:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Ahi5lPmLL>
w Johnathan Ross Groq CEO



¹¹ <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/age-fake-datacenters-daniel-golding-dw0je/>,
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/age-fake-data-centers-part-2-faster-faker-daniel-golding-ngxae/>
& <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/age-fake-datacenters-part-3-customers-speak-up-daniel-golding-7i2re/>

¹² <https://www.datacentermap.com/>

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infrastructures and resources behind it. AI regulation has moved the last 10 years from open-letters of dire warning¹³, to financial maneuvers based on doomsday math, to the beginnings of enforcement.¹⁴

Privacy and compliance teams are increasingly responsible for translating these requirements or lax grey area laws into operational controls, documentation, and ongoing oversight. **Controlling AI development and how it is used would require effective and punitive consequences** driven oversight by cooperating governments over AI development (e.g. limiting and slowing growth of releasing new models/only operating with ChatGPT 4.0 level power), charging token rates that include real cost plus Green House Gas/Carbon Credits charges, and reigning in risky to unmanageable financial debts (that have massive legal/litigation exposure), global usage standards (e.g. requiring all AI images to be labeled as such), private sector (e.g. disclosing AI content controls, labeling and age restricted access), or rogue actors (e.g. from developers to nation-states to vigilantes, having rules around use and access), and mutual oversight by governments over each other (e.g. United Nations, etc.).

Image Source:

<https://www.byfounders.vc/insights/what-is-the-existential-risk-of-ai>



¹³ <https://futureoflife.org/open-letter/pause-giant-ai-experiments/>

¹⁴ <https://tinyurl.com/bk8f95u7> - The Economist, Business of Evils and Evils, 'The world wants to regulate AI, but does not quite know how', Oct 2023 BLECHLEY PARK & <https://www.cntr-aisle.org/> & <https://ainowinstitute.org/publications/data-center-policy-guide>

OVERVIEW

There is no single, binding human-lead global AI governance agency as of July 2026.¹⁵

Instead, an international evolving ecosystem of transparent to opaque nation-states, corporations, organizations, councils, alliances, and grass-roots initiatives influences AI policy today.¹⁶ AI development is overwhelmingly concentrated and dominated primarily in the United States Silicon Valley by for profit companies – both private and public. These various and conflicting groups have wildly differing motivations to guide development and usage standards, responding to responsible and criminal AI developments, and working toward legally binding international frameworks regarding AI (e.g. halting all AIs with compute more powerful than ChatGPT 4.0) and the infrastructures behind it (Developers, Data Centers Placement & Construction, Electricity Generation & Delivery, Natural Resource Usage & Mitigation, Waste & Heat Management).

In 2026, binding AI laws apply across Europe and with full force by 2027. Germany's Energy Efficiency Act (EnEfG), in effect since late 2023, mandates binding energy savings across public bodies, private companies, and data centers. It requires firms consuming over 2.5 GWh to implement energy-saving measures, and enforces strict waste heat recovery, strict power usage effectiveness



Image Source:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/making-sense-ai-regulations-frameworks-part-1-who-aiand-steenbeek-tyu7e/>

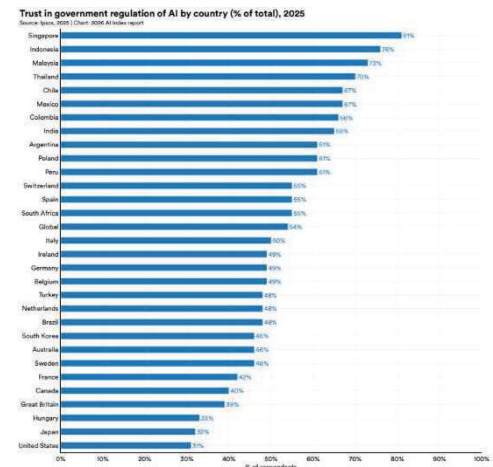


Image Source:

https://hai.stanford.edu/assets/files/ai_index_report_2026_chapter_9_public_opinion.pdf

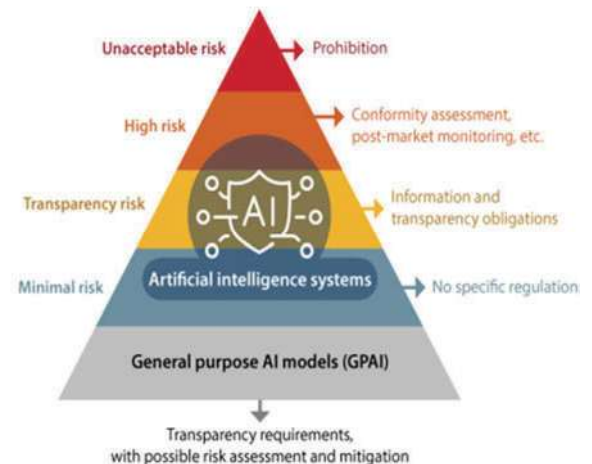
¹⁵ <https://www.un.org/global-dialogue-ai-governance/en>

¹⁶ <https://globalaigov.org/> & <https://www.akingump.com/en/insights/ai-law-and-regulation-tracker> & <https://ai-policy-tracker-tracker.vercel.app/> & <https://www.loeb.com/en/general/ai> & <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/resources/ai-laws-of-the-world>

OVERVIEW

(PUE) limits, and renewable electricity usage for data centers.¹⁷ As for the United States, many cities, some states and even a bill in US Federal government are creating DC moratoriums. Multiple APAC and Latin American jurisdictions are working towards binding laws. China specifically has placed many controls on development and working towards sustainable infrastructures (Data centers offshore ocean cooled, renewables electricity powered, limits on land displacement/usage, and China only has based integrated supply chain from raw materials to chips to GPUs). India seems to be following a similar path that let the British East Indian Company gradually take extractive control starting in 1608 by simply gifting to those in charge. State level utilities subsidies, no public oversight, no environmental hold-backs, zero-tax until 2047 for foreign data center companies, construction in drought and resource strapped areas, land and low-income communities' displacements, and more.¹⁸ India does not have AI laws in place but instead uses existing law and data controls. Middle East data centers are primarily in Israel/Palestine, Saudi Arabia and UAE (with substantial investments from Saudi Arabia and UAE) making nearly 200 sites. A combination of oil-rich Gulf sovereign wealth funds plus Hyperscale Tech companies putting in billions have created this

Image Source: <https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R48555>



¹⁷ <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/insights/publications/2024/02/sustainable-data-centers-the-german-energy-efficiency-act-what-data-center-operators-need-to-consider-now-and-in-the-future> & https://energypartnership.cn/fileadmin/china/media_elements/publications/Energy_Efficiency_Policy_in_Germany_EN.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.barrons.com/articles/ai-data-centers-india-75425e19>

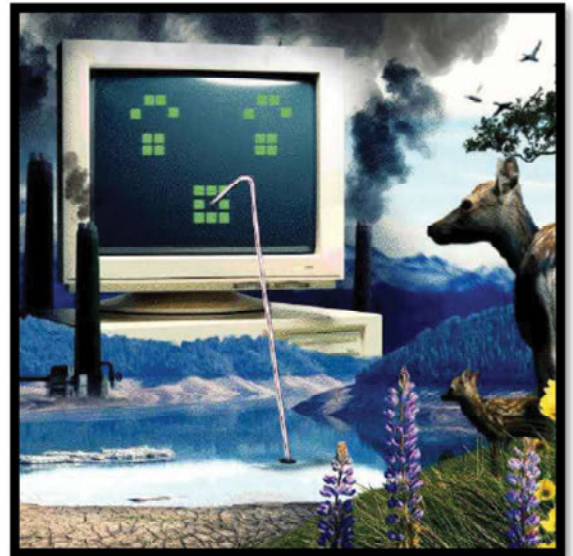
OVERVIEW

infrastructure. A mix of many American and foreign companies have invested in building Israel's data center boom. All Middle East sites use a variety of water dependent cooling methods. Many sites were "impacted" by the Israel-Iran War – officially only five were bombed (it is illegal to report any war damage in these countries). Israel does not currently have AI laws and uses existing privacy laws for governance. Saudi Arabia also does not have AI laws yet, so compliance relies heavily on the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL), the SDAIA AI Ethics Principles, and the drafted Global AI Hub Law.¹⁹ The UAE has a combination of AI Guidance, Cyber Crime, Ethics Framework and the Regulatory Intelligence Office among other laws that are being used with AI.

Image Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2026/jan/03/just-an-unbelievable-amount-of-pollution-how-big-a-threat-is-ai-to-the-climate>

Composite: Alex Mellon for the Guardian :
Getty Images



¹⁹ <https://www.twobirds.com/en/capabilities/artificial-intelligence/ai-legal-services/ai-regulatory-horizon-tracker/saudi-arabia>

COMMON HARMS

DATA CENTER MEASURABLE HAZARDS

E-Waste

DCs need to be totally transparent, have a complete verified process and trustworthy partners for E-Waste management. An empty standard 42U data center rack typically weighs between 150 and 400 lbs (68 to 180 kg). Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) are extremely heavy. A single battery unit can add 50 to 100+ lbs. An individual enterprise data center server typically weighs between 30 to 80 lbs (14 to 36 kg), depending on whether it is a standard 1U/2U unit or a high-density system.²⁰ All these components which most are changed every 18-36 months is a massive amount of e-waste that while toxic also has value to the right recyclers. All e-waste management and recycling expenses should be covered by the DC Developer/Operator. The following categories is a partial list only.



Image source: <https://www.human-impact.org/how-to-evaluate-data-center-itad-vendor-2026/>

E-waste Poor Certification & Lack of Auditing - Many e-waste providers do not have full / up-to-date certification, resell to 3rd parties (who may or may not be certified), ship overseas or otherwise do not fully and legally process e-waste correctly. Auditing of e-waste providers by DCs and municipalities is necessary. 100MW facility will have 200,000+ servers resulting in thousands of pounds of dangerous but potentially valuable e-waste weekly.

²⁰ <https://www.amcoenclosures.com/how-are-server-rack-load-ratings-calculated/>

COMMON HARMS

Industrial Recycling & Diversion Initiatives

- IT Asset Disposition (ITAD) programs.

These Hardware Circularity programs resale/donate, repair and recirculate used equipment, or recycle it to keep materials out of landfills. A DC Operator could have these programs in use, identified, and audited. This should be part of any DC project proposal.²¹



Waste

Waste Scale: Data centers are a major contributor to the millions of tons of e-waste generated globally every year.²²

Image Source:

<https://www.dumpsters.com/blog/data-center-construction>

AI Waste Surge – Estimates show Generative AI hardware could lead to 1.2 to 5 million metric tons of discarded server equipment annually by 2030.^{23 24}

Disposal Practices - Many data center operators still fail to properly track or recycle retired hardware, resulting in toxic components being shredded or dumped.²⁵

Daily Refuse - A typical mid-sized data center facility (10-50MW) generates thousands of pounds of operational waste (which is not including construction waste) per year (e.g., office waste and packing materials, connection cables, cable wipes, etc.). Estimates on operations waste amounts, types, and management processes must be a part of proposal.

Packaging Materials - Wood pallets, plastic shrink film, and cardboard consistently rank as the top three physical

²¹ <https://www.celestica.com/blog/article/circular-economy-solutions-for-hyperscalers-a-game-changer>

²² [Data Center Recycling Alone Can't Solve the E-Waste Crisis | Human-I-T](#)

²³ [AI will add to the e-waste problem. Here's what we can do about it. | MIT Technology Review](#)

²⁴ [AI-driven data centers risk massive e-waste surge by 2030 - EHN](#)

²⁵ [Data Centers Can Achieve +97% Waste Diversion — All About Waste](#)

COMMON HARMS

waste streams. Collection and recycling processes for these materials must be a part of proposal. During construction, especially for campuses and hyperscale data centers 1000s of wood pallets will be collected in 18-24 months. Special process recyclers/dedicated process recyclers for wood pallets must be identified, audited and included in the proposal. A waste of 3000 pallets in 18 months is an unmanageable burden on local municipal waste management, a strain on local landfills, and environmentally irresponsible to not reuse.

Plastic shrink film and Mixed Material Soft Plastics Recycling - These materials are not processable at almost all US waste management or recycling centers. Specialized dedicated recyclers must be identified, contracted, and used with disclosure to provider, and auditing as part of proposal. 100% of shrink film and multi-layer soft plastics are to be recycled.

Landfill Avoidance - On-site waste segregation of waste is frequently inconsistent at many businesses including data centers, causing many of recyclable and reusable materials to be sent straight to landfills. Waste segregation and management will be a part of project proposal.

Zero-Waste Goals - Some hyperscale facilities have achieved "Zero-Waste-to-Landfill" certifications by diverting over 90% of their waste through comprehensive reuse and recovery networks. DC Developer will have this as part of their operations with audits and include in project proposal.



Image Source:

<https://www.ecohome.net/en/guides/3593/is-it-safe-to-build-beds-or-furniture-with-shipping-pallets/>

COMMON HARMS

EIR Environmental Impact Report
Discrepancies, Few Data Points Used &
No Indirect Impacts Studied:

For example, some states have EIR laws like the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which requires state and local agencies to identify, disclose, and mitigate the significant environmental impacts of discretionary projects like data centers. Enacted in 1970, the law applies to public and private projects requiring government approval, ensuring government decision-makers and the public understand a project's environmental consequences.

Discrepancies: Facility-specific data—such as how much water or electricity a single local data center uses—must be broken-out to see entire impact. Partial data provided, as in a focus on Phase 1 data only, when a site may have several Phases each with additional impacts. Total full completion site data (with direct and indirect resource impacts) must be used in all proposals, communications or marketing to community and other relevant information sharing. Construction, Fully Operational and Indirect impacts must be presented in proposal.

Overly “optimistic” EIR assumptions – EIR Consulting Firms are paid by DC Developers who may want to hear certain outcomes that tend to look at noise, impact on local birds, farmland displacement, small mammals and so forth with optimistic biases because they maybe rewarded with more requests for EIRs (each Final EIR – FEIR costing as much as \$100,000 or more). Municipalities should decide which EIR firm to use and DC developer will pay.

Image Source: City of Gilroy, CA AWS Final Environmental Impact Report Snapshot
<https://tinyurl.com/4y5xjuen>

comment letter) is numbered to correspond to the alpha-numeric indicator (i.e., A-1.1, A-1.2, A-1.3, etc.). Accordingly, each response within this section corresponds to the comment letter's alpha-numeric indicator. For example, Letter A-1, Comment A-1.1 is addressed in Response A-1.1.

Table 2-1 Index of Comment Letters

Number	Date of Letter	Commenter
Regional Agencies		
A-1	September 25, 2024	California Department of Transportation ("Caltrans"), District 4
A-2	September 26, 2024	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
A-3	September 26, 2024	Santa Clara Valley Water District ("Valley Water")
Local Organizations		
B-1	September 23, 2024	Gilroy Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee
B-2	September 26, 2024	Teamsters Joint Council No. 7
B-3	September 26, 2024	Mitchel M. Tsai Law Firm on behalf of the Carpenters Union Local 405
Individuals		
N/A	N/A	N/A

Gilroy Data Center
City of Gilroy

4

Final EIR
May 2025

COMMON HARMS

Exemptions and Loopholes: Projects can sometimes “slip through” local review processes which will result in political and legal backlash. Project will follow due process for community input.²⁶

FEIRs – Final Environmental Impact Reports – often are missing Comment Letters from local individuals, and local businesses. They also lack a local citizen special purpose advisory committee – which is commonly created for all sorts of county, city or town priorities or concerns. Local organizations like Teamsters Unions, Carpenters Union and other construction and transportation trades that are included in “Index of Local Organizations” that have direct financial benefits from data center proposals and do not adequately cover the various groups that make up a community being impacted by a data center.

FEIRS should include Required Inputs from Local and state agencies, local organizations, local businesses and local legal individuals who live within 5 to 10-mile range of data center epicenter.

Based on utilities requirements, local municipalities (another city within 10-20 miles) that may be impacted must be included in the Required Inputs Letters of Comment.

For projects (over 50MW or 95-99MW) which are nearly 100MW or have the possibility of meeting or developing into 100MW (due to later advances in GPUs/TPUs, Racking, etc.) – those regulations should be included for reference.

Image Sources:

<https://encinoenviron.com/epa-closes-permitting-loop-hole-used-by-ai-data-centers/>



<https://www.epa.gov/stationary-sources-air-pollution/stationary-gas-and-combustion-turbines-new-source-performance>

²⁶ <https://stpp.fordschool.umich.edu/sites/stpp/files/2025-07/stpp-data-centers-2025.pdf>

COMMON HARMS

Local Stakeholders, Agencies & Utilities:

transportation, utilities (electric and water), waste, waste water, emergency services - fire, EMS, police, and sheriff, local primary healthcare provider, agricultural agency, local or state fish and wildlife agency, environmental and conservation agency, transportation and traffic agency, parks and recreation agency, housing authority, business association, impacted schools and community areas, and local construction and transportation trade unions.

Indirect Impacts:

Ranges from not including water and electricity needed to produce GPUs/TPUs (and the Green House Gas emissions or CO2 costs). Actual electricity used or higher utility bills or contaminated water for neighboring towns are measurable indirect impacts. Indirect impacts should be studied at the cost of the developer and be submitted with proposal.

The "AI" Disconnect: Environmental disclosures do not necessarily differentiate between general cloud computing and highly resource-intensive artificial intelligence workloads. DC Developers and Operators must disclose type of computing at proposal and any material change to that will nullify agreements and be subject to remediations and fines.

Omitted Byproducts: Proposals and EIR statements regularly fail to accurately quantify the total environmental footprint of a DC by omitting factors like the life-cycle of waste, pollution and resource use/reduction. Scope of EIR should be determined by municipality to include all direct and indirect environmental impacts.



Image Source:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DY4ozVTfQED/>

COMMON HARMS

Over and Undersized Baseline

Assumptions: Energy estimates are based on historical hardware standards instead of the version of AI equipment that will be in operation in 3-7 years from time of proposal. Estimations on resource usage projections need to account for local and state laws (example data center at 100MW+ in state of California requires a lot more regulations and reviews as classified as a power station). As GPUs are getting denser and using more electricity every day, a DC site rated at 99MW with N+1 redundancies built in can already operate at 100MW or more and in a few years after starting operations, potentially operate substantially over the 100MW maximum electricity threshold. Twenty-seven states have advanced state data center legislation that requires developers to cover DC energy costs and accurately report usage, with California, Ohio, and Utah already enacting laws that go beyond the federal government's voluntary Ratepayer Protection Pledge.²⁷

DC's potential for exceeding MW backup electricity generation: This must be provided in proposal (as they already have the technical and physical capability to exceed 100MW), as this serious material and energy change impacts the municipality along state and federal laws and regulations (Title 24 Efficiency requirements, Residential Rate Payer Protections, Stringent Air Quality & Environmental Impact Reviews, etc.). Example in California a municipality will consider any data center project larger than 90MW to be evaluated with the



Image Source:

<https://www.newsweek.com/elon-musks-new-ai-data-center-raises-energy-water-concerns-memphis-1937109>

Photo-illustration by Newsweek/Getty

²⁷ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/releases/2026/03/ratepayer-protection-pledge/>

COMMON HARMS

same or better safety criteria of a 100MW site.

General Lack of Transparency/Fraud:

DCs but especially AI DCs have on-going lack of Transparency, Due Process and Resource Estimates that are misleading to fraudulent. A municipality must include punitive fines to banning operations for such faulty data or mis-representation as part of any agreements.

Substations, Transformers, & Lines:²⁸

High & Extreme Heat Days Explosion/Fire

Risks: If degraded insulation or high ambient heat causes a fault, an electrical arc-flash can occur. These events produce localized temperatures ranging from 5,000°F to 35,000°F, which can instantaneously ignite the dielectric cooling fluids, which flash-point at roughly 300°F to 350°F.

Safety Setbacks: Frequency Noise, EMF and Electrical Safety, along with flash-point fire risks cumulatively means 2.5 - 3 miles setback. Warnings must be posted about sulfur hexafluoride potential leaks (insulating and arc-quenching gas, SF₆ is odorless, colorless, and is recognized as the world's most potent greenhouse gas—possessing a global warming potential roughly 23,500 times that of CO₂). SF₆ is denser than air and can quickly displace oxygen in low-lying areas outside or inside in poorly ventilated substation rooms, creating a suffocation risk. Risks for Explosion must be posted as Substation equipment (such as circuit breakers and transformers) relies heavily on thousands of gallons of mineral oil for cooling and insulation.

Image Source:

<https://www.pecva.org/region/culpeper/culpeper-town-poised-to-allow-more-data-center-noise-county-considers-a-substation-for-yet-another-data-center/>



DC Substation Photo by Hugh Kenny/PEC

²⁸ <https://blog.ucs.org/aquest-commentary/the-electricity-distribution-system-can-stay-resilient-in-extreme-weather/>

COMMON HARMS

Unique Toxic Firefighting Requirements:

Once on fire, substations are connected to large battery storage facilities typically. These lithium-ion batteries can experience "thermal runaway," burning off electrolytes and venting harmful gases. Substation fires' smoke contains toxic volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and particulate matter and the cooling oil may contain toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), creating highly hazardous smoke and requiring specialized environmental cleanup. Firefighter staff must be properly warned and trained to deal with these extremely toxic fire environments.

Image Sources:

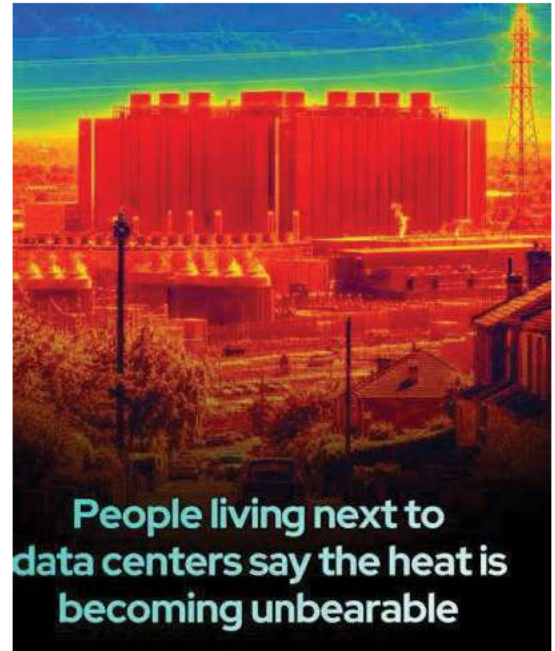
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1062868021724371/posts/1741577563853410/>

<https://futurism.com/artificial-intelligence/data-center-cooks-nearby-residents-heatwave>

Heat Island, Heat Column & Heat Feedback Loop:

Heat Island: Data Centers depending on size, produce more waste heat than 40,000 households; this plus particulate matter accumulates and forms self-sustaining "heat islands" rather than rapidly dissipating. Studies show a minimum 4-16 degrees temperature raise in up to a 6-mile range creates "Data Center Heat Islands". Thermal Plumes above data centers further strengthen the Heat Island impact.²⁹

Concentrated Thermal Plumes: "Heat Columns" (air above data center) can rise to 67 degrees hotter than ambient temperatures impacting localized weather in immediate area so less rain and snow or none for those less than 1-2 miles from facilities center. Having a 6-10 mile setback might address this significant impact somewhat, but as of



²⁹ <https://weather.com/news/climate/news/2026-04-14-artificial-intelligence-heat-island-warming>

COMMON HARMS

2026 it is not a topic with much published formal studies only incident reports by sites.³⁰ Impacts of precipitation / rainfall elimination around and over data centers may account for lack of rainwater harvesting – none-the-less, rainwater harvesting must be incorporated into site design and on-going operations.

Heat Energy Feedback Loops: The elevated temperatures require nearby residential and commercial properties to use more air conditioning, which in turn vents more heat into the atmosphere, creating an escalating thermal feedback loop creating a strong Heat Dome.

Land Cover Conversion Required: The replacement of natural, vegetated landscapes (which absorb less heat) with concrete, metal buildings, and parking lots (which absorb and trap heat) plus Thermal Exhaust (The active release of warm air from mechanical chillers and server fans) creates 3.4 degrees raise but in some cases up to 16 degrees Fahrenheit increases about 6 miles in radius.³¹ Land and plant designs to mitigate heat retention is required. Setbacks of 6 miles from center of facility may not be adequate.

Image Sources:

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DP2NR0jCbl/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jun/09/worlds-first-wind-powered-underwater-datacentre-starts-operating-in-china>



³⁰ <https://asmedigitalcollection.asme.org/sustainablebuildings/article/7/2/024501/1233035/Data-Center-Waste-Heat-as-an-Emerging-Urban>

³¹ <https://www.cnn.com/2026/03/30/climate/data-centers-are-having-an-underreported>

COMMON HARMS

Light Pollution:

DCs generate large high intensity unnatural light pollution. Regular and Hyperscale DC facilities require extensive all-night full coverage high Intensity "security prison lighting" across the entire compound, adjoining complexes and buffer areas due to extreme risk security requirements.

This harms the natural (circadian) rhythms of the body, including melatonin production (the hormone that regulates sleep), insomnia, fatigue, anxiety, cardiovascular stress, low testosterone, chronic diseases complication or instigation, and sleep-wake cycles disorders. Excessive Light pollution also harms migration patterns, habitat development, fertility, predator-prey relationships, population size/health, and mating³² among various species and animals like birds, insects, bats, cats, farm animals and reptiles as well as many plants to name only a few. It creates systemic ecosystem imbalance. This type of unnatural light obviously also negatively impacts site workers. Glare from unnaturally bright lighting creates potential visibility and safety problems for those even driving by DCs.

Setbacks for commercial flood lights should be 1000+ feet.

Image Source:

<https://x.com/Newsforce/status/2051021474358587779>



³² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0169534722003329>

COMMON HARMS

Water Use & Wastewater - Scarcity.

Contamination & Pollution:

40% of a United States based DC electricity usage can be for cooling. Newer DCs use liquid cooling (Closed or Open Loop). Liquid cooling is more expensive up front but cheaper in operations and requires water to cool computer servers so they do not become too hot to function. A large DC will use up to 5+ million gallons of water daily. Drawing from local water supplies, these facilities are slurping up resources that should be available to residents, agriculture and general water table health in water-scarce regions. **No DC needs water.** Water in some form of cooling use is typically the cheapest and easiest means to cool a data center due to the fact that municipalities and water utilities are allowing water access and at rates that are at or below residential rate tiers. The drilling of wells for water use is problematic as even substantial historic ground water levels or aquifers do not replenish at data center or hyperscale usage rates.³³

Water & Closed-loop systems - These still require 'Blow-down' or changing of liquid cooling mixture on a regular basis. This is wastewater which includes various bacterium, metals, and toxic chemicals that many wastewater treatment facilities are not capable to treat. "Hauling

Image Sources:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/science/articles/epa-writing-permits-could-let-182418731.html>



³³ <https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-centers-and-water-consumption> & <https://www.wri.org/insights/us-data-center-growth-impacts>

COMMON HARMS

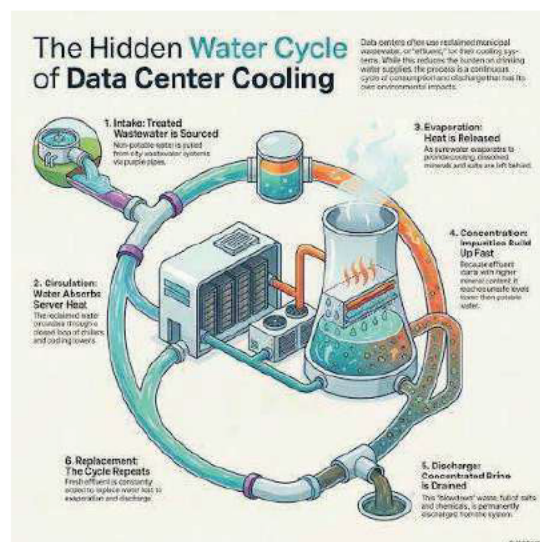
cooling waste liquid offsite" is not a clear option. Who, what and how this waste will be fully treated or burned must be identified with the name of treatment provider, audit cycle and clarity what blow-down schedule is required to be in compliance and following Insurance Coverage agreements. Direct and indirect water use by DCs is adding to various water resource problems. Even Nvidia's newest AI servers which can operate at 45°C³⁴ are connected to a Closed-Loop system would still require regular maintenance with a parallel example being getting an oil change for a conventional Internal Combustion Engine car; it is closed-loop but still gets "dirty".

Water scarcity is increasing while drought is also increasing. Nearly 98% of the water consumed by major DC operators is drawn from municipal drinking water systems—many of which are already operating near or at capacity.³⁵ A hyperscale facility can use 1-5+ million gallons of direct water daily—equaling the daily consumption of a city with up to 50,000 residents. Additionally landscaping at large hyperscale facilities can use 20,000 gallons per day; and due to the DC environmental conditions requires substantially more water. Globally, DCs rank among the top 10 water-consuming commercial industries, with collective usage straining local

Image Sources:

<https://www.facebook.com/100069223329155/posts/understanding-closed-loop-cooling-at-the-gts-data-center-in-york-countyintroduc/1231593165824783/>

<https://www.change.org/p/stop-mega-data-centers-in-the-rgv-protect-our-water-grid-and-public-health/u/34247184>



³⁴ <https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/liquid-cooling-ai-factories/>

³⁵ <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2025AV002140>

COMMON HARMS

supplies and environments. Example: Tech giants like Google report using 6.4 billion gallons across their data centers in the US and offices in a single year. Basic industry metrics, such as Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE), a measure of water use efficiency for data centers, are disclosed by fewer than one-third of operators.³⁶

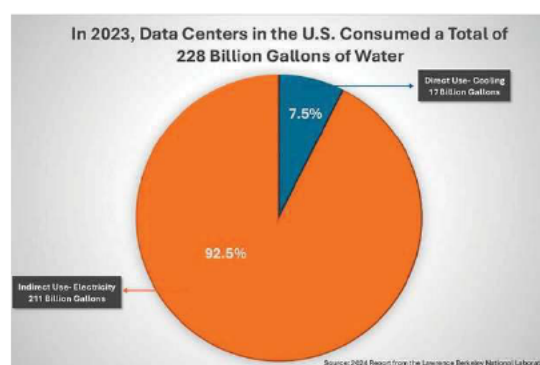
Indirect water footprint can be as large or even larger, as power generation for DCs requires additional water. Electricity generation in the US requires on average 0.075 gallons per watt. GPUs are extremely water intensive with chip makers needing to distill municipal water before using. It takes approximately 8 to 10 gallons of water to manufacture a single computer chip, including a GPU. This volume goes toward the ultra-pure water required to wash silicon wafers and prevent microscopic contamination during fabrication. A “99” megawatts MW (approximately 99 million watts data center is using 7.5M gallons of electricity generation indirect water per day, with approximately 60K GPUs (600,000 gallons of water replaced every 24 months). Additionally, more water is needed to treat and manage wastewater. As all hyperscale DCs are built on N+1 or 2N standards for redundancy in operations it is easy to assume operators could and would

Image Sources:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0921344925001892?via%3Dihub>

<https://eta.lbl.gov/publications/water-use-data-center-workloads>

<https://uwm.edu/freshwater/data-centers-consuming-water-the-conversati/>



³⁶ <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1029/2025AV002140>

COMMON HARMS

increase total capacity of compute by simultaneously drawing electricity from grid connections while running at full original or greater capacity on-site electricity generation (on-site fuel generators mobile or stationary).³⁷ Exceeding permitted backup MW usage has legal, regulatory, permitting and other oversights in many countries, regions and cities.³⁸ Exceeding backup or grid drawn electricity usage creates a material change in data center agreements with municipalities.

Known Wastewater Contaminant

Types: There may be other contaminants currently unknown which must be disclosed and will be included once detected. Closed loop evaporative cooling loses 70-80% of second loop water for a typical AI DC using 5M gallons a day in a Closed Loop Cooling system produces at least 1M gallons a day of grey sludge "blowdown" must be filtered, treated and recycled at the DC and not pushed off to local wastewater treatment facility or dumping (river), sent to a dump site (local or not), or pumped into ground water/aquifers. EPA has testified to congressional oversight subcommittee that it as well as municipal wastewater treatment facilities in the US and otherwise are not capable to handle the various types of contaminates the volume of



Image Sources:

<https://www.instagram.com/reels/DYSMGNtiG4n/>

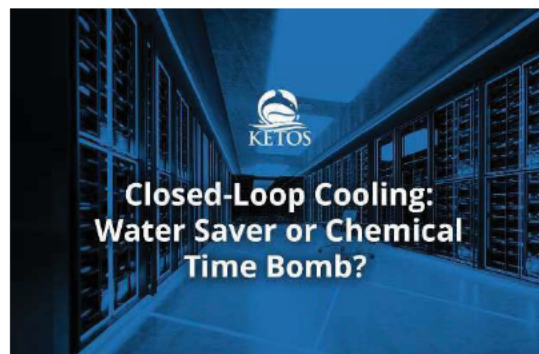
³⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/14/climate/elon-musk-xai-data-center-doj.html>

³⁸ <https://www.wsmv.com/2026/07/08/nashville-data-center-restrictions-advance-after-record-setting-council-meeting-heres-what-you-should-know/> & <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/data-centers>

COMMON HARMS

wastewater contamination or continuous rate of flow of contamination. Closed loop cooling: A two "loop" process system. Loop one stays within the system, floods the servers to remove heat through a heat exchange chiller to then continue on and back through the loop to be recycled through an ongoing heat, cool heat cool process. Servers get up to 200 degrees F but must be kept below 170 to avoid damage. Loop two is part of the heat exchange process as well but water and contamination travels to the roof where it goes through evaporative coolers with water (instead of air conditioning cooling which is more expensive). Potable water is cheap and usually has been negotiated to residential or even below residential rates. When that water evaporates as part of the cooling process, there is no recapture process. Most municipalities cannot provide Recycled Water for DC use because it is not clean enough. DCs do not build water recycling into their processes due to added incremental cost.

Image Source: <https://ketos.co/closed-loop-cooling-water-saver-or-chemical-time-bomb>



Wastewater Pollutants from "Closed Loop" cooling systems "Blowdown":

- Total dissolved solids (TDS): The most common effluent from data center cooling systems is a high concentration of dissolved minerals and salts, like chlorides. This can put stress on local wastewater treatment plants, which are often not designed to handle a large volume of these concentrated pollutants.

COMMON HARMS

- Corrosion inhibitors: These chemical additives protect cooling equipment but can pollute waterways. Examples include phosphates and molybdates, which contribute to the nutrient overgrowth of algae (eutrophication) and negatively affect aquatic life.
- Untreatable bio-hazards like new, rare (e.g. *Cupriavidus gilardii*), common bacteria, or other single-cell organisms that municipal wastewater treatment facilities are not currently capable to treat³⁹
- Biocides: These chemicals, such as isothiazolinones and glutaraldehyde, are used to prevent the growth of bacteria and other microorganisms in cooling towers. Toxic to any life but especially aquatic ecosystems.
- Glycols: Some liquid-cooled systems use ethylene or propylene glycol as a coolant. Ethylene glycol is toxic and can cause serious environmental damage if it leaks or is disposed of incorrectly.
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Some advanced two-phase immersion cooling systems use refrigerants that fall under the category of PFAS, or "forever chemicals," which are persistent and bioaccumulative in the environment.

Image Source:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/news/2025/03/06/data-center-water-use-georgia.html>

Atlanta Business Chronicle



³⁹ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/victoriaforster/2026/07/09/meta-ai-data-center-linked-to-rare-bacteria-in-citys-water-system/>

COMMON HARMS

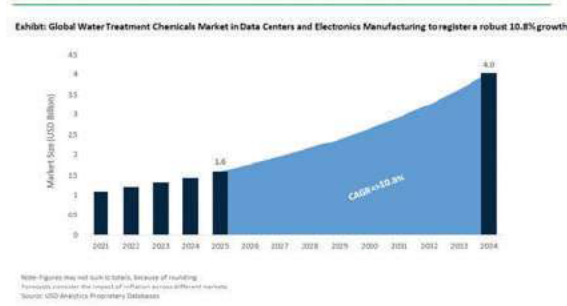
- Heavy metals: These can leach from cooling equipment as it corrodes. Examples include lead, zinc, copper, and chromium, which are harmful at these levels to wildlife, marine life and humans.
- Sulfuric acid, lime, and anti-scaling agents like phosphonate
- How often blow-down (dumping the coolant water and replacing it) happens must be monitored, recorded and reported, because a "closed loop" system could be blow-down multiple times per day essentially turning a "closed loop" promise into an effective open-loop well-to-sewer system.
- Blow-down dumping. For those DC sites where wastewater treatment at local municipalities or on-site operations cannot or will not properly and safely treat blow-down water, many DC operators truck this waste for off-site "removal", "relocation", or other potential scenarios for possible dumping.⁴⁰

Wastewater Pollutants from backup power (generators or BESS):

- DCs typically use methane or diesel-powered backup generators to ensure continuous operation during grid failures. While their primary output is air pollution, water contamination is normal.

Image Source:

<https://www.usdanalytics.com/industry-reports/water-treatment-chemicals-market-in-data-centers-and-electronics-manufacturing>



⁴⁰ <https://www.techrepublic.com/article/news-meta-ai-data-center-water-scare/>

COMMON HARMS

- Diesel fuel spills: Accidental leaks or spills of diesel fuel from on-site storage tanks can contaminate soil and groundwater.
- Heavy metals from batteries: Uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems use batteries to bridge the gap between a power outage and the startup of backup generators.
- Lead-acid batteries contain lead and sulfuric acid, both of which are hazardous materials that require strict management to prevent water contamination at end-of-life.
- Lithium-ion batteries release toxic chemicals during manufacturing and at the end of their lifecycle.



Image Source:

<https://www.tycorun.com/blogs/news/data-center-batteries?srltid=AfmBOooqZxzqMDX969IOli0vIQ-icap7ExwEVduJi16TQ7Y0idlJQ6>

Wastewater Pollutants from e-waste, maintenance and emergency/fire response:

- Electronic waste (e-waste): Servers, batteries, and other hardware are regularly upgraded in data centers, producing significant amounts of e-waste.
- Toxic leachates: If not disposed of properly, e-waste can leach heavy metals like lead, mercury, copper, and cobalt into groundwater.
- Cleaning agents & degreasers: Maintenance produce wastewater contaminated with industrial-grade chemicals used for cleaning & degreasing.
- Clean Agents specialized for firefighting data centers create substantial PFAS and other pollutants.

COMMON HARMS

Air Pollution:

10+ Miles Setback for DC Air

Pollution:⁴¹ DCs, especially gas-powered and backup DCs, emit significant pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides, methane, volatile organic compounds, and coarse to fine particulate matter. According to a September 2025 study, these pollutants increase rates of respiratory diseases and cardiovascular conditions, and they elevate cancer risks among nearby communities. A 2025 model indicates that U.S. data centers in 2030 could cause approximately 600,000 asthma symptom cases and 1,300 premature deaths, exceeding 1/3 of asthma deaths in the U.S. each year, resulting in a public health burden of more than \$20 billion. Air quality measures that do not meet agreed upon levels are subject to penalties, moratoriums and legal liabilities.

Impacts to adults and children include but not limited to⁴²:

- Abnormal brain development, reduced math test scores, and increased ADHD or behavioral risks
 - Asthma exacerbations, hospitalizations, and even structural DNA changes in the lung's airways
 - Obesity, childhood obesity, diabetes, and metabolic changes
-



Image Source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/20/technology/ai-data-center-backlash-mexico-ireland.html>

Marcos Zegers for The New York Times

⁴¹ <https://hsph.harvard.edu/news/analyzing-air-pollution-health-economic-risks-from-ai-data-centers/>

⁴² <https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/niehsepa-childrens-environmental-health-and-disease-prevention-research-centers>

COMMON HARMS

Waste Particles can be carried over long distances by wind and then settle on ground or water.

Depending on their chemical composition, the environmental effects include but not limited to⁴³:

- making ground water, lakes & streams acidic
- changing the nutrient balance in coastal waters, large river basins & surrounding lands
- depleting the nutrients in soil & soil viability
- damaging sensitive forests & wildlife, farm crops & ranch animals
- affecting the diversity of ecosystems
- contributing to acid rain & its effects
- EPA alongside the NIEHS, has determined this is no safe level of diesel gas or nitrous oxide emissions



Image Source:

<https://loudounclimate.org/data-centers/>

Transboundary Air Pollution - DC Air Pollution Traveling Distance:

Communities living within one mile of EPA-regulated DCs face levels of particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, diesel and other types of particulate matter above the national median. However, the impact is confined to just those living within such close proximity. Under certain conditions, PM2.5 particles can travel hundreds or even thousands of miles away from their source, meaning that data center emissions can affect non-fenceline communities because

⁴³ <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/health-and-environmental-effects-particulate-matter-pm>

COMMON HARMS

particulates can stay in the atmosphere for days to weeks. Nitrogen oxides have a relatively short atmospheric lifetime, but they can still travel far with strong winds. PM10 particulate can stay in the air for minutes to hours and can travel between 100 yards and about 30 miles.⁴⁴

Carbon Credits & Offsets:

Carbon offset allows an individual or organization to compensate for their GHGs greenhouse gas emissions by funding environmental projects that reduce or remove an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide elsewhere. One carbon offset represents the reduction or removal of 1 MT (metric ton) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). DC should have their construction, operations and emissions off set by Nature-Based local or in state Certified Carbon Capture Projects annually. A continuously running 1 MW IT load draws significantly more power to operate (accounting for cooling and power distribution overhead, known as Power Usage Effectiveness or PUE). A 1 MW facility generally emits between 3,000 and 6,500 MT metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) per year. A Data Center of 100MW would require 3-7M+ MT metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂e) per year. The DC Developer must provide names of Carbon Offset Projects chosen or work with municipality to select local certified programs. Additionally, the land that was cleared is extensive. Carbon Offset Projects for that impact will need to be included as well.

Carbon Credit

"Carbon credits are instruments that monetize quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions achieved by certified climate action projects."



1 

carbon credit

= 1 ton CO₂e

avoided / removed

Image Source:

<https://energytracker.asia/what-are-carbon-credits-and-how-do-they-work/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.clarity.io/blog/how-far-can-air-pollution-travel> & <https://energy.sustainability-directory.com/term/transboundary-air-pollution/>

COMMON HARMS

Wildlife, Plants, Farms & Ranches:

DCs impact trees, land and animals primarily through massive land clearing, heat islanding/heat domes, water reduction/contamination, and pollution, which destroys native habitats and the ability for the land to act as a Carbon sink as well as ground water support. DCs threaten wildlife through habitat destruction, intensive water use, water pollution, ecosystem drought exacerbation, noise pollution, heat islanding, and grid-related air pollution for several miles up to 10 or more. These facilities stress local ecosystems, displace native species, and endanger vulnerable or migratory wildlife. Wildlife is also impacted by distressed trees and other plant life.

Plants whether native or landscaped suffer. Thermal Pollution and Heat Islands/Heat Domes from the continuous emission of hot air from data center cooling systems creates localized "microclimates" of 4 to 16+ degrees Fahrenheit hotter laterally. Vertically temperature increases of up to additional 65+ degrees Fahrenheit hotter (reducing or eliminating snow and other precipitation) have been measured. This extreme elevated temperature dries out the surrounding soil, forcing plant life to adapt to increased drought stress and altered seasonal growth cycles. Normal watering for landscaping needs to be increased substantially to sustain plants. Most plants in perimeter show slow to stunted growth. High water-consumption models and cooling towers can alter local humidity. Some local agriculture, like nearby Christmas tree farms, have reported stunted growth and lost viability. Routine testing and emergency use of



Image Source:

<https://www.instagram.com/reels/DXuSh3aEv>
VL/ Clayton Tucker Texas Agriculture

COMMON HARMS

diesel backup generators emit nitrogen and sulfur oxides and other particulate matter that damage tree foliage, degrade air safety and produce acid rain.

Farms of any type⁴⁵ can suffer – Those farms located within 6-10+ miles and ranches where livestock experience ongoing negative impacts similar to people. Farms and ranches next to or near DCs across Texas have been experiencing some consistent impacts: no pregnancies or only still births with cattle and goats, reduced growth rates and weights of around 30% less consistently with various types of livestock, reduced dairy yields, and egg production rates reduced by 50%. Agricultural farms typically are negatively impacted by contaminated water, low water pressure, 'Habitat Parching' (decreased water table dries out entire areas), increased utilities rates, competition for land, and increased water scarcity.⁴⁶ Combined negative impacts alters soil composition, promotes desertification, acid rain (from nitrous and sulfuric oxide emissions) and disrupts delicate underground mycorrhizal (fungal) networks that plants rely on for nutrient sharing.⁴⁷

Sound & Vibration Pollution:

There are several types of sound and vibration pollution all with their own harmful impacts.



Image Source:

<https://www.wsj.com/business/energy-oil/a-new-foe-has-emerged-for-data-centers-farmers-4a3eda8f>

⁴⁵ <https://news.vcu.edu/article/northern-virginia-data-center-air-pollution-rivals-power-plant-emissions>

⁴⁶ <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/06/24/ai-data-center-boom-farmland/>

⁴⁷ <https://www.clarity.io/blog/what-is-the-impact-of-ai-data-centers-on-air-quality-and-the-environment>

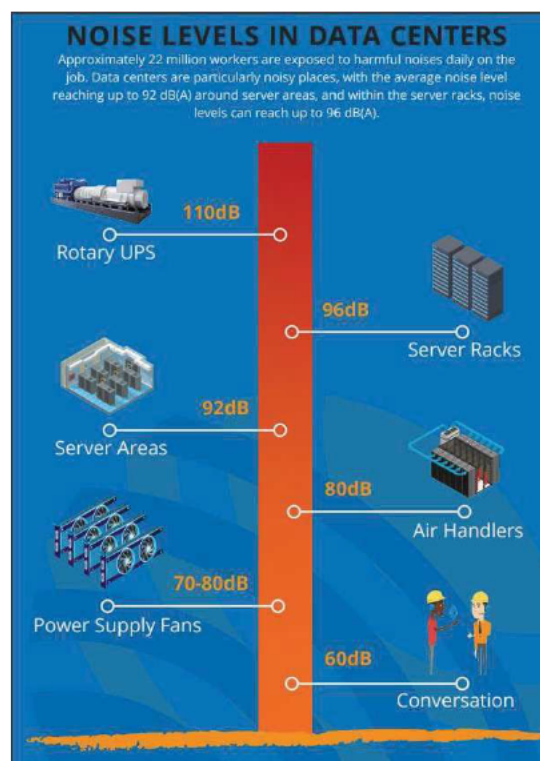
COMMON HARMS

Low-Frequency Noise or LFN - They frequently propagate through the air and ground, penetrating buildings, with significant impacts reported over 2 miles from sources like industrial sites, wind turbines, and transit hubs. LFN is not common naturally as usually only from pre- earthquakes and earthquakes. Minimum safe buffer zone of 2-3 miles needed for LFN, and vibration.

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) - Substations and high-voltage power lines emit EMFs. EMF Electromagnetic Frequencies - DCs generate non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMFs), primarily in the form of Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) fields from power distribution systems and radiofrequency (RF) signals from wireless infrastructure. Surrounding electrical infrastructure—including new transmission lines and substations required to power the sites—can increase exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMFs), which some community and health groups monitor for potential links to increased long-term health risks.⁴⁸ While the science on EMF and human health remains debated, many studies over the years starting from 1979,⁴⁹ link chronic high exposure to increased cancer risks, such as childhood leukemia. Power quality issues (harmonic distortions) from large data centers can also cause electrical fluctuations that increase indoor EMFs. Most people and property buyers tend to devalue places with substations nearby. An electrical substation typically devalues nearby

Image Source:

<https://www.sensear.com/markets/data-centers/noise-levels-infographic>



⁴⁸ <https://ehsciences.org/ai-data-center-health-impacts/>

⁴⁹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12441653/>

COMMON HARMS

property by 2% to 10%, and up to 20% to 30% for homes directly bordering the perimeter fence due to buzzing noise, aesthetic blight, fear of health risks and security lighting.

Audible Spectrum Noise - the heavy equipment used to construct the facilities are loud. Then, once they are up and running, diesel generators plus heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems create a constant hum that can be audible to neighboring residents and wildlife. DCs generate noise levels that may exceed 90-95 decibels. Noise levels above 85 decibels are harmful to hearing. Depending on wind-direction and topography, .5 to 1.5 miles safe buffer zone distance is required for Audible spectrum noise.

Zoning & Ordinances Noise Levels – Most US municipalities only allow **Construction Noise** Monday–Friday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Construction is prohibited on Sundays and city-observed holidays.

Construction & Operation Property & Equipment: Fixed outdoor mechanical equipment (like AC units, pool pumps, and spas) for most municipalities must adhere to city decibel limits and are typically expected to quiet down by 10:00 PM depending on the property zone.

Human & Animal Harm:

Mental Health – Due to ongoing health harms, noise and other documented negative impacts, mood disorders, low-no sleep, depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems are common for those near and in DC cities and towns. Continuous exposure contributes to



Image Sources: Food and Water Watch

<https://x.com/foodandwater/status/2027111485147681007>

Business Insider, Nov 2023

COMMON HARMS

insomnia, hypervigilance, and clinical depression. Many DC neighbors report that the noise triggers severe anxiety attacks and forces them to avoid their own outdoor spaces.⁵⁰ The rapid replacement cycles of hardware create millions of tons of e-waste, causing severe neurodevelopmental and psychological damages in vulnerable recycling communities. Solastalgia (Loss of Environment) - Rapid construction often converts green or rural spaces into industrial facilities and the destruction of natural environments and loss of community character creates a deep sense of emotional loss and distress, known as solastalgia.⁵¹ Removal of green space, heat islanding/heat dome and other impacts add to both mental and physical health negative short- and long-term impacts.

Chronic exposure to DC environmental noise – It is linked to sleep disruption, high blood pressure, elevated stress hormones, and cognitive issues in children.⁵² Inside the facilities, workers face daily risks such as arc flash incidents, exposure to harsh water treatment chemicals or battery acid, extremes in temperature, noise at damage levels, air pollution, general high-stress, and musculoskeletal strains from repetitive lifting and maintaining heavy server hardware.

Direct Physical Health – This report details physical harmful impacts but this is

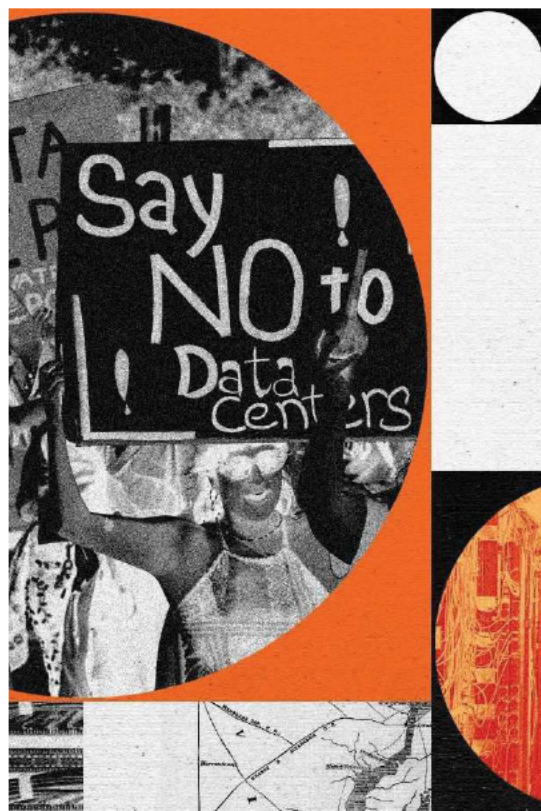


Image Source:

<https://www.wired.com/story/the-data-center-resistance-has-arrived/>

Photo-Illustration: WIRED Staff; Getty Images

⁵⁰ <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2026-04-28/living-in-hell-data-center-neighbors-grapple-with-noise-air-pollution>

⁵¹ [Data Centers: Examples of Adverse Health and Other Effects](#)

⁵² <https://phys.org/news/2026-06-ways-centers-endanger-local-communities.html>

COMMON HARMS

extensively growing in case and types to the point that it is impractical to list all possible medical problems as the list is not inclusive and up to date as possible. Particulate Matter, off-gassing and hazardous exhaust during routine testing and power outages adds to or can create increases in respiratory diseases or lengthen common viral or bacterial respiratory infections. Particulate Matter (PM) and air pollution are primary drivers of respiratory morbidity, triggering or worsening conditions like asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and lung cancer.⁵³ Microscopic particles bypass natural defenses, lodging deep within the lungs to cause chronic inflammation and oxidative stress. Poor air quality has substantial impact on school attendance, gross local productivity (workers taking more sick days) and general decreases in health requiring more or additional medical treatments. problems, including but not limited to:

- premature death in people with heart or lung disease
- nonfatal heart attacks
- irregular heartbeat
- aggravated asthma
- decreased lung function
- increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing.

Public Health Costs to Cities:

The negative impacts to local GDP, health insurance, and social services due to poor air quality and other related environmental impacts is significant.

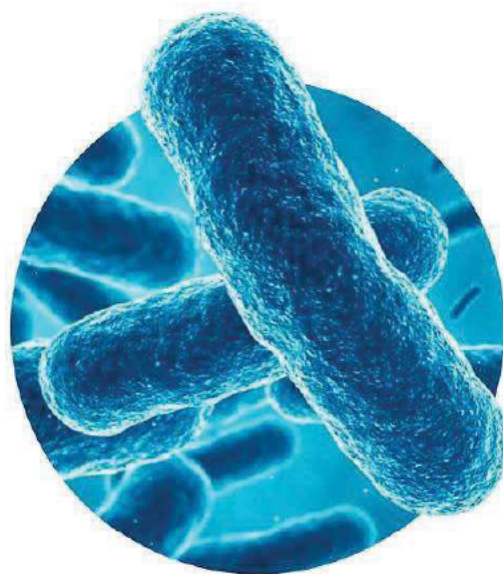


Image Sources: Legionella Bacteria

<https://t-safe.com/t-safe-in-focus/what-is-legionella-transmission-symptoms-and-prevention-explained/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/victoriaforster/2026/07/09/meta-ai-data-center-linked-to-rare-bacteria-in-citys-water-system/>

<https://legionellacontrol.com/legionella/legionella-control-for-data-centres/>

⁵³ <https://www.epa.gov/pm-pollution/health-and-environmental-effects-particulate-matter-pm>

COMMON HARMS

Frequency of illness, length of illness and types of illnesses all can increase.

"Stay Inside" unsafe air quality days and other DC pollution derived problems can impact populations at risk (elderly, special needs, young, pre-existing conditions, etc.) driving up medical care costs, social services costs, and decreasing local business productivity due to sick children not in school, sick employees not at work, sick customers not shopping and loss of valued citizens due to moving away.⁵⁴

Low Livability Leading to Blight and Environmental Degradation:

Substantial to very severe increases in costs (utilities bills similar to rent or mortgage payments) and increases in costs to growing lack of access to basic utilities (water, waste, sewage, electricity, fire and police services) are extensively documented and are increasing at such a substantial rate that it is impractical to list average figures in this document. Some communities are experiencing polluted utility water, polluted ground water, rolling-black outs to no electricity provided as more extreme cases. This creates a negative compounding environmental spiral effect.

Long-term blight—characterized by vacant lots, abandoned buildings, and neglected infrastructure—causes severe environmental harm by fostering toxic soil



Image Sources: Illustration Rose Wong

<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/2023/jan/state-strategies-controlling-health-care-costs-implementation-guides>

<https://www.caltech.edu/about/news/air-pollution-and-the-public-health-costs-of-air-pollution>

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2412.06288>

⁵⁴ <https://www.next10.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/ai-environmental-public-health-costs.pdf>

COMMON HARMS

and water contamination, escalating localized air pollution, and creating havens for disease-carrying pests. These decaying spaces act as localized ecological disasters, disproportionately threatening human and wildlife health.⁵⁵

- **Soil and Groundwater Contamination:** Abandoned residential and industrial sites frequently leak hazardous materials into the earth.⁵⁶
- **Vector and Pest Infestations Increase:** Dilapidated structures and unmaintained vegetation create ideal breeding grounds for disease vectors.⁵⁷
- **Localized Air Quality Degradation**
- **Urban Heat Dome Growth**
- **Unforeseen Environmental Harms:**

New environmental harms not already documented could very well exist. All DC project agreements should include a caveat to account for this.

Data Centers Are Draining Public Funds & Risking Global Financial Markets:

Data centers introduce a host of environmental and health harms, and yet states are forgoing many millions of dollars in tax revenue to entice Big Tech to set up shop. At the same time, the federal government may shell out billions



Image Source:

<https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/03/04/the-top-10-reasons-data-centers-must-be-stopped/>



Image Source:

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/ai-data-centers-backlash-stocks-8d564b5f>

Photograph by Nell Pittman

⁵⁵ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11349791/>

⁵⁶ https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/89491/2017.04.03_urban_blight_and_public_health_vprn_report_finalized.pdf

⁵⁷ <https://www.detroitgreentaskforce.org/post/the-state-of-blight-in-our-built-environment>

COMMON HARMS

to prop up the AI data center boom. In August 2025, the Trump administration pledged an \$8.9 billion investment in Intel stock to expand U.S. manufacturing of semiconductors (a key component in computers). Meanwhile, OpenAI is calling on Trump for support to finance its growth.⁵⁸

Public Money spent on AI and DCs means less for managing environmental impacts and natural consequences.

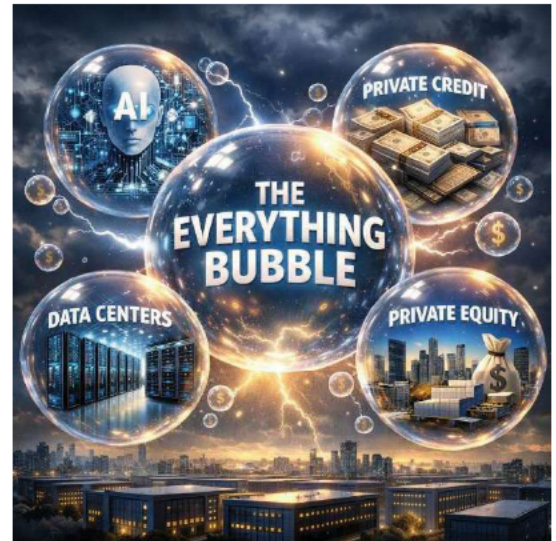


Image Source:

<https://roddubitsky.substack.com/p/the-everything-bubble-ai-data-centers>

⁵⁸ <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/2026/03/04/the-top-10-reasons-data-centers-must-be-stopped/>

COMMON HARMS

“THE ‘SUPER INTELLIGENCE’ TECH
SEEKS IS ALREADY IMBEDDED IN
THE EARTH, NATURE AND GOD.

THE PROBLEM IS THEY ONLY
WANT A ‘SUPER INTELLIGENCE’
THEY CREATE AND CONTROL.”

- TRELLA M DAVIS



NEXT STEPS

CLARITY & SUSTAINABILITY

- **Full Clarity:** Vague Data Center Developer proposals, and overly limited EIRs are potentially misleading legally fraudulent on environmental impacts for many reasons. Data Center impact communities' resources including soil, plants, water, air, animals, humans, electricity, and society and none of these represent a "Trade Secret".
- **Transparency:** NDAs with local or state governments are in fact a document that is legally part of the public record. It can be requested by citizens or courts. Elected Officials or proxy Non-governmental organizations like Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) have little to no legal legs with NDAs and Data Centers. Courts overwhelmingly rule them un-enforceable to outright illegal violation of Due Process, Public Notice Requirements, Public Records Acts, and Freedom of Information Act. Citizen advisory group for on-going active electorate participation in addition to following Public Notice and Due Process requirements.
- **Proactive:** Data Centers require specific Zoning. No "Industrial", "By-right" or mislabeling should be allowed. Data Centers must have their own unique "Data Center Zone" criteria. Data Center Moratoriums – whether indefinite to 5 years, are critical for understanding the real impacts on the environment and communities as well as the financial viability of the companies that are building/owning them (whose leaders have built dooms-day bunkers in other nations and remote island locations). Require Revenue Per Acre metric studies to determine best use of land allotments and competitive bidding (almost all DC proposals have no competitive bids).
- **Requirements & Sustainability:** 100% Clean electricity self-generation (partnerships with local farms agrivoltaics, curved low elevation wind turbines, rainwater harvesting), use of salt-ion BESS batteries, removal of generator use, aggressive use of passive cooling and ground cooling techniques, isolated locations for sound, vibration and radiation emissions, zero public tax abatements or grants, committed measurable local employment numbers for construction and operations, complete GHGs and CO2 footprints with full coverage nature-based Carbon Credit offsets, 100% e-waste reuse programs, sorting of other waste streams with verified recycling partners, impacts to city services (health care, fire, police, roads, etc.) fully funded, audited quarterly reporting on shared resource inputs as well as waste outputs, on-going monitoring based on extensive EIRs that address all areas of negative environmental hazards, and punitive, "claw back", or operations stoppage reparations for not meeting agreements, abandoned sites or default on debts.



SJ General Plan 2040 Mtg Aug 18th - Submission to Public Record

From Trella Davis [REDACTED]
Date Mon 7/20/2026 12:21 PM
To City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (647 KB)

CALIFORNIA City Large Compute Large Energy Generation Facility Data Center Moratorium Template Ordinance 2026.pdf;

[**External Email.** Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources. [Learn more](#)]

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi

I would like to submit the attached **The California City Large Compute - Large Energy Generation Facility - Data Center Moratorium City Ordinance Template** for the Aug 18th mgt.

Please advise as to what other information is needed to put this into public records and submit for review by council.

Thanks,

Trella Davis

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING PROCESSING OF PENDING, AND ACCEPTANCE OF NEW, LARGE COMPUTE, DATA CENTERS or LARGE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES OVER 5MW LAND USE APPLICATIONS WITHIN _____ TO CONSIDER ADOPTING ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS FOR SUCH LAND USES

The City Council for the City of _____ does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to State of California Government Code §§ 36937, 65858, and other applicable laws.

SECTION 2: *Findings.*

The City Council finds, determines and declares as follows:

A. The City may adopt and enforce all laws and regulations not in conflict with the general laws and the City holds all rights and powers established by California law.

B. On Date _____, the City Council adopted new regulations governing large compute – Large energy generation facilities (LEGFs) including Data Centers over 5MW. As codified at City Municipal Code § _____, LEGFs may only be permitted pursuant to the terms of a development agreement approved by the City Council.

C. While the provisions of the development agreement law (Government Code §§ 65864–65869.5) make it plain that any decision regarding LEGFs are completely discretionary for the City Council, additional regulations governing LEGFs provide certainty to the public and private property owners regarding the City's overall expectations for developing such land uses. Such regulations were first considered by the City Council on date _____ and should be reexamined to ascertain risks, evaluate financial benefits, seek competitive offers, and protect public health, safety, property values, and welfare. The City requires additional time to study which regulations are in the public interest.

D. To prevent frustration of these studies and the implementation of new regulations, the public interest, health, safety, and welfare require enactment of this Ordinance. The absence of this Ordinance would impair the orderly and effective implementation of contemplated City amendments, and any further authorization of LEGFs uses during the period of the moratorium may conflict with or frustrate the contemplated updates and revisions of the City of _____.

E. Based on the foregoing, the City finds that that this Ordinance is necessary in order to protect the City from the potential effects and impacts of LEGFs land uses and the accompanying impacts from energy use, noise, air quality, waste, wastewater, water, aesthetic, impacts to the City, and other similar or related effects on property values, other businesses disruptions or devaluations, and the quality of life in the City's neighborhoods.

F. The City Council further finds that this moratorium is a matter of local and City-wide importance and is not directed towards any business that currently seeks to utilize City Chapter _____.

G. The City Council finds that this Ordinance is authorized by the City's police powers. The City Council further finds that the length of the moratorium imposed by this Ordinance will not in any way deprive any person of rights granted by state or federal laws, because the moratorium is a reasonable duration and essential to protect the financial security of LEGFs, financial value of having an LEGFs (as compared to mixed use low-rise development or other development opportunities), public health, safety and welfare.

SECTION 3: ***Environmental Assessment.***

Adopting the draft Urgency Ordinance is exempt from further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq., "CEQA") and CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations §§ 15000, et seq.) because it establishes temporary rules and procedures for minor alterations in land use. The Ordinance is under CEQA Guidelines § 15305. This Ordinance does not authorize any new development entitlements. Any proposed project that will utilize the changes set forth in this Ordinance is subject to environmental review as part of the entitlement review of the project. The Ordinance will not adversely impact the environment.

SECTION 4: ***Interim regulations.***

The following provisions are adopted as interim requirements for issuing permits pursuant to the City for LEGFs land uses, and any construction or operation in the City in conflict with these provisions is expressly prohibited:

A. Restricted Activities. For a period of 3 years after adoption of this Ordinance, the City will not process any pending application for a LEGF land use or accept new applications for LEGF land uses.

B. "LEGF" is further defined at City § _____.

C. Based upon a review of the City's entire administrative record including, without limitation, from the City Council's previous meetings from the time periods of _____, along with a cursory review of information within the public domain, there is a plethora of substantial evidence demonstrating a reasonable argument exists that any proposed LEGF in California "may have a significant detrimental effect on the environment" necessitating a fair-argument that any application for a LEGF requires preparation of an comprehensive environmental impact report (EIR). Publicly available materials document that LEGFs have high and continuous electricity demand, often supported by diesel or gas backup generation with associated air quality, greenhouse gases, indirect and direct significant CO2 footprints, unique and specialized wastewater treatment requirements, light pollution, heat islanding, and noise/vibration impacts; that they may place significant demands on local water supplies for cooling; and that they can drive related infrastructure and land use changes, all of which have been specifically identified as needing robust CEQA analysis. In light of CEQA's requirement that an EIR be prepared whenever there is substantial evidence, in view of the whole record, that a project may cause a significant environmental effect, and the well-established "low threshold" nature of the fair-argument test, this body of evidence supports a finding that any LEGF proposal in California presents at least a reasonable argument of potentially significant environmental impacts such that an comprehensive EIR is required that provides inputs from affected communities, state and local agencies, and City emergency and security services particularly fire, police, sheriff, EMS and healthcare. Decommissioning impacts and Requirements adequate to for site restoration and remediation through financial bond or escrow account to cover the cost of building and equipment removal in the event of facility abandonment, bankruptcy, or other material changes preventing the City from receiving promised financial revenues and other benefits. The City will review interim and existing United States SEC Climate Risk Disclosure requirements and recommendations for facilities that meet LEGF categories. Additionally, per California Title 24 Energy Code (Title 24, Part 6) and voluntary energy efficiency provisions in CALGreen (Title 24, Part 11) shall be reviewed to inform all subsequent Ordinance considerations.

D. The City Manager, or designee, must review any application for a data center land use entitlement to determine compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance. The City Attorney shall review risks from potential suits for private or public nuisance, medical health claims, blight, property devaluation, etc. City employees, and City boards and commissions, are directed to refrain from accepting or processing any application for any land use entitlement, including, without limitation, use permits, variances, building permits, licenses and certificates of occupancy, necessary for constructing, placing, or operating LEGFs, and to refrain from processing any land use entitlement for any pending applications already received. These prohibitions will remain effective for 3 years following adoption of this Ordinance.

E. The City Manager and City Attorney are directed to draft regulations that prohibit LEGFs within the City's jurisdiction. Noticing for a public hearing to consider adopting such proposed regulations should occur forthwith to ensure timely public input (via Public Hearings and Citizen Advisory Committee) regarding such regulations and provide certainty to private property owners contemplating LEGFs developments regarding the City's expectations and regulation of such land uses. Non-Disclosure Agreements or NDAs related to City developments are in fact a part of public record and can be requested by citizen or court.

SECTION 5: ***Construction.***

This Ordinance must be broadly construed to achieve Ordinance No. _____ for the purposes stated in this Ordinance. It is the City Council's intent that the provisions of this Ordinance be interpreted or implemented by the City and others in a manner that facilitates the purposes set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 6: ***Enforceability.***

Repeal of any provision of the City _____ does not affect any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred before, or preclude prosecution and imposition of penalties for any violation occurring before this Ordinance's effective date. Any such repealed part will remain in full force and effect for sustaining action or prosecuting violations occurring before the effective date of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7: ***Validity of Previous Code Sections.***

If this entire Ordinance or its application is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, any repeal or amendment of the City _____ or other city ordinance by this Ordinance will be rendered void and cause such previous City _____ provision or other the city ordinance to remain in full force and effect for all purposes.

SECTION 8: ***Severability.***

If any part of this Ordinance or its application is deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the city council intends that such invalidity will not affect the effectiveness of the remaining provisions or applications and, to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION 9: ***Publication.***

The City Clerk is directed to certify the passage and adoption of this Ordinance; cause it to be entered into the City of _____'s book of original ordinances; make a note of the passage and adoption in the records of this meeting; and, within fifteen (15) days after the passage and adoption of this Ordinance, cause it to be published or posted in accordance with California law.

SECTION 10: Report. Pursuant to Government Code § 65858, the City Manager, or designee, must prepare a report for City Council consideration describing the measures taken to address the conditions which led to adoption of this Ordinance. This report must be provided to the City Council so that it may be considered and issued not later than 30 days before this Ordinance expires.

SECTION 11: ***Effective Date.***

This Ordinance will become effective immediately upon adoption pursuant to Government Code §§ 36937 and 65858 for the immediate preservation of the public prosperity, health, safety, and welfare. Pursuant to those statutes this Ordinance is adopted by a four-fifths vote.

SECTION 12: *Expiration Date.*

After adoption, this Ordinance will be repealed by operation of law on date _____ unless a subsequent ordinance is adopted by the City Council that extends this date.

Ordinance No. _____ Page 6 of 6

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____.

_____ [NAME], Mayor

ATTEST: _____ [NAME], City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: _____ [NAME], City Attorney State of California

State Of California)

County Of _____) §

City Of _____)

I, [NAME], City Clerk of the City of _____, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Urgency Ordinance No. _____ was duly passed, approved and adopted at its special meeting held on _____ day of _____ by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members:

Noes: Council Members:

Absent: Council Members:

Abstain: Council Members:

Recusal: Council Members:

Dated this _____ day of [MONTH, YEAR].

_____ [NAME], City Clerk



Data Center concerns

From John & Jill [REDACTED]
Date Wed 7/22/2026 4:59 PM
To Campos, Pamela <Pamela.Campos@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc Frances Herbert [REDACTED]; Darryl Ospring [REDACTED]; Lalbabu Babu [REDACTED]; Alain Mowad [REDACTED]; David Wilkins [REDACTED]; Vanessa Sandoval [REDACTED]; Carlos Rosario [REDACTED]; Zach Jones [REDACTED]; Vanessa Burbach [REDACTED]; Debbie Luu [REDACTED]; Mike Ospring [REDACTED]; Debbie Webster [REDACTED]; Victor Velasquez [REDACTED]; Wanda Wong [REDACTED]; Dang, Tara [REDACTED]; <lara.Dang@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; Maguire, Jennifer <jennifer.maguire@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

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Dear Councilmember Campos,

As data center development continues to expand throughout San José, I would appreciate learning more about the City's approach to ensuring these projects are environmentally responsible and compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods.

I would also like to understand your position on the significant number of data centers that are planned or proposed within District 2. Do you support the continued concentration of these facilities in our district? If so, what do you see as the primary benefits to District 2 residents, and what conditions or safeguards do you believe should be required before additional data centers are approved?

Specifically, what initiatives are you and the City spearheading to ensure that planned data centers are environmentally sustainable and energy efficient? Additionally, what measures are being taken to minimize impacts on surrounding communities, including concerns related to:

- Electricity demand and grid reliability
- The potential effect on electricity rates for local residents and businesses
- Water consumption
- The potential impact on local groundwater and private water wells within a reasonable radius of any new data center
- Noise from facility operations and cooling systems
- Traffic during construction and ongoing operations
- Air quality and emissions
- Overall quality of life for nearby residents

I would also be interested in understanding how these safeguards align with your stated priorities for District 2. How do these protections support your goals of creating safe and thriving neighborhoods, promoting

sustainable economic development, and improving the quality of life for residents?

As demand for data centers grows, how is the City balancing the economic benefits of these facilities with the need to protect residents, preserve neighborhood quality of life, safeguard natural resources, and ensure that existing infrastructure can support this growth without shifting costs or burdens onto local communities?

These facilities can provide important economic opportunities, but they also have the potential to place significant demands on our electrical grid, water resources, transportation infrastructure, and surrounding neighborhoods. I would appreciate any information you can share regarding the City's policies, environmental review process, mitigation requirements, and long-term planning efforts to ensure that future data centers are developed responsibly and in a manner that benefits both the City and its residents.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the residents of District 2. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Leipelt
Chairman, San José District 2 Neighborhood Leadership Council
President, Basking Ridge Neighborhood Association

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FORMAL OPPOSITION: Prologis Silver Creek Valley Road Data Center (File No. SP26-016) — Demand for Cumulative EIR Due to Extreme Facility Density

From Ankit Shah [REDACTED]

Date Sun 7/26/2026 11:27 AM

To City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

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To the San José City Council, Planning Director, and City Clerk:

I am writing as a resident of San José to submit my formal opposition to the proposed Prologis data center project located at **5977 Silver Creek Valley Road (File No. SP26-016)**. While I support economic growth, placing a massive 99-megawatt, 516,000-square-foot heavy industrial server complex in close proximity to established residential neighborhoods poses unacceptable environmental, health, and safety risks.

I urge the Planning Division and the City Council to reject this application or require a full, comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to address the following critical deficiencies:

1. Unacceptable Density and Cumulative Environmental Exploitation

The sheer spatial density and concentration of massive data center facilities within this specific South San José radius (encompassing Silver Creek, Edenvale, and Great Oaks) has reached a breaking point. This neighborhood is being systematically transformed into a heavy industrial energy complex without proper oversight. The city cannot legally evaluate the Prologis application in a vacuum. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the high density of these projects mandates a Cumulative EIR that calculates the combined, stacked impact of *all* neighboring operating and proposed data center campuses.

2. Severe Localized Air Quality and Toxic Emissions Risk

The proposed 99-megawatt facility will require a massive backup generation yard. Even during routine maintenance and readiness testing, these engines emit highly toxic Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx). Because the density of data centers in this radius is so high, staggered routine testing means our local air basin is subjected to industrial diesel exhaust nearly every week of the year. Because this site sits directly at the base of the Silver Creek Valley corridor, prevailing wind patterns will push these toxic, carcinogenic emissions directly into surrounding residential properties and local schools.

3. Inappropriate Land-Use and Zoning Exploitation

This 15-acre parcel was previously approved for a standard warehouse. Pivoting to a massive, three-story hyperscale data center fundamentally changes the industrial intensity of the site. Operating a data center with a dedicated on-site substation and heavy industrial cooling

infrastructure is completely incompatible with the residential and recreational character of the Silver Creek Valley community.

4. Noise Pollution from Industrial Cooling

Data centers require massive, continuously running industrial chillers and exhaust fans. The low-frequency acoustic hum generated by these systems operates 24/7. When multiple data centers are clustered tightly within a few miles of each other, these low-frequency hums overlap and amplify. Due to the topography of the Silver Creek foothills, this collective drone acts like a megaphone, bouncing noise upward into residential bedrooms.

Conclusion

The families and residential neighborhoods of this community were established long before this aggressive wave of data center applications. The City of San José should prioritize land use for housing and community-serving infrastructure, rather than expanding heavy digital factories into residential zones.

I request to be formally added to the public notice registry for all future hearings, environmental determinations, and public comment windows regarding **File No. SP26-016**.

Ankit Shah

Resident of Marshwell Way (Silver Leaf), San Jose, CA 95138

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FORMAL OPPOSITION & COMPLAINT: Equinix Great Oaks South Data Center Corridor (File No. SP15-031) — Demand for Strict Operating Restrictions and Health Protections

From Ankit Shah [REDACTED]
Date Sun 7/26/2026 11:34 AM
To City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>

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To the San José City Council, Planning Director, and City Clerk:

I am writing as a local parent and resident to submit my formal opposition to the ongoing expansions and operational impacts of the **Equinix Great Oaks South data center campus (File No. SP15-031)** [I] and the surrounding data center corridor. While the city treats these facilities as passive tech infrastructure, the reality on the ground is that our neighborhood has been transformed into a heavy industrial energy zone that directly threatens the health, safety, and well-being of our children.

I urge the Planning Division, the City Council, and the City Manager to enforce immediate, strict neighborhood protections regarding this corridor based on the following critical impacts:

1. Severe Proximity to Local Schools and Vulnerable Children

The Great Oaks data center complex sits in unacceptable proximity to our local neighborhood schools, where my daughter and hundreds of other children spend their days. Developing a massive industrial complex packed with 39 backup diesel generators right next to active school zones is a profound failure of urban planning. Children are uniquely vulnerable to the toxic, carcinogenic emissions of Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) and Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) released during routine generator maintenance testing. The city must prioritize the health of our students over data storage and mandate an immediate ban on daytime generator testing during school hours.

2. Ridiculous and Unprecedented Facility Density

The sheer concentration of data centers crammed into this tight South San José radius has reached a dangerous breaking point. We are completely surrounded by a high-voltage industrial web. By clustering multiple hyperscale facilities within a 3-mile radius, the city has created a compounding environmental hazard. The noise, grid strain, and localized emissions cannot continue to be evaluated on a project-by-project basis. The extreme density of this corridor legally mandates a comprehensive, multi-source Cumulative Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to assess the total combined burden being forced onto our community.

3. Elimination of Setbacks and Constant Noise Pollution

During the approval processes for this corridor, traditional industrial setback requirements were systematically rolled back, allowing these massive server buildings and generator yards to encroach directly upon residential fences. As a result, our neighborhood is subjected to a relentless, 24/7 low-frequency acoustic hum from industrial cooling fans and chillers. This constant industrial rattle vibrates through our homes, disrupts sleep, and degrades the quiet enjoyment of our neighborhood.

4. Grid Monopolization vs. Residential Conservation

The continuous multi-megawatt draw of the Great Oaks corridor places an immense strain on our local electrical grid. It is fundamentally unjust that local families are asked to conserve energy, dim lights, and adjust thermostats during peak summer heat waves to prevent blackouts, while corporate server farms are permitted to draw massive amounts of continuous power directly from the Santa Teresa substation backbone.

Conclusion

Our families, residential neighborhoods, and local schools were established in South San José long before these aggressive mega-data centers arrived. We refuse to let our community be treated as an industrial sacrifice zone for tech industry profits. I demand that the city enforce strict property setbacks, mandate a swift transition to zero-emission battery backups, and halt any further expansion of the Great Oaks data center corridor.

Please add my email to the public notice registry for all future hearings, environmental determinations, and council sessions regarding the Great Oaks data center corridor.

Sincerely,

Ankit Shah

Parent and Resident of Marshwell Way (Silver Leaf), San Jose, CA, 95138

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TECHNICAL PERMIT OPPOSITION: Equinix Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility (CEC Docket No. 20-SPPE-01 / BAAQMD Site No. 202864) — Demand for Multi-Source Cumulative Health Risk Assessment (HRA) and Fenceline Monitoring

From Ankit Shah [REDACTED]

Date Sun 7/26/2026 12:28 PM

To [REDACTED]

Cc District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov> [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]> City Clerk
<city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

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To the BAAQMD Air Pollution Control Officer and Engineering Evaluation Staff:

I am writing to submit a formal technical objection to any pending, new, modified, or renewal Authorities to Construct and Permits to Operate for the stationary diesel engine arrays at the **Equinix Great Oaks South Backup Generating Facility (CEC Docket No. 20-SPPE-01 / BAAQMD Site No. 202864)**.

As a local resident living within the direct zone of influence of this facility, I am formally contesting the adequacy of the Health Risk Assessments (HRA) and emissions profiles used to evaluate this site under BAAQMD Regulation 2, Rule 5 (New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants). I urge the District to halt permit advancements and mandate the following technical revisions:

1. Failure to Model True Multi-Source Cumulative Risk Boundaries

Under BAAQMD's cumulative risk frameworks, the 1,000-foot screening radius applied to individual projects fundamentally fails to capture the true toxic burden of the South San José data center corridor. The Equinix Great Oaks site sits within an extreme cluster of hyperscale data centers, major highway networks, and heavy utility transmission infrastructure. Reviewing this 39-generator facility in geographic isolation violates the intent of CEQA and BAAQMD risk ceilings. We demand a comprehensive, multi-source regional dispersion model that totals the stacked toxic air contaminant (TAC) profiles of all operating and proposed generator yards within a 3-mile radius against the **100-in-a-million cumulative cancer risk threshold**.

2. Flawed Operational Metrics in Ambient Air Modeling

The current HRAs rely heavily on the assumption that these engines will only operate during routine, staggered maintenance testing, which is legally capped at a strict **20 hours per year per engine** for the 36 primary 3.25-megawatt units. This methodology completely ignores the reality of climate-driven grid strain in California. During regional heat waves, rotating blackouts,

or PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events, these 39 engines are legally permitted to operate simultaneously for emergency backup power. The District has failed to model a worst-case **Acute Hazard Index (HI)** scenario that simulates the localized impacts of all 39 engines (99 megawatts of total operational load) burning California Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) at full load during a multi-day grid failure event.

3. Demand for Real-Time Fenceline Particulate and NOx Monitoring

Computer-simulated air dispersion models (AERMOD) are highly sensitive to user-defined variables and frequently underreport real-world environmental exposure. Because Equinix was permitted to scale back traditional property setback restrictions—bringing industrial exhaust stacks closer to the residential boundaries of the Santa Teresa neighborhood and local school pathways—the community can no longer rely on self-reported developer models. BAAQMD must condition any ongoing or future Permit to Operate on the mandatory installation of continuous, real-time fenceline monitoring stations. These stations must measure and publicly log **Diesel Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM 2.5)** and **Nitrogen Oxides** along the residential fence line.

4. Transition Mandate to Zero-Emission Technology

The persistent reliance on fossil-fuel diesel generation fails to meet the standard of **Best Available Control Technology for Toxics (T-BACT)** in an era where utility-scale battery energy storage systems (BESS) and green hydrogen fuel cells are commercially viable. The District should enforce a strict glide path requiring Equinix to phase out its internal combustion diesel engines in favor of zero-emission backup technology to eliminate local inhalation risks entirely.

Please confirm receipt of this technical opposition and add my email to the mandatory **Public Notice Registry** for all engineering evaluations, draft permits, and public comment windows associated with this site.

Ankit Shah

Resident of Marshwell Way (Silver Leaf), San Jose, CA, 95138

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July 16, 2026

Dear San José Transportation and Environment Committee, City Councilmembers, and Office of the City Manager:

Currently, the City of San José is aggressively pursuing data center buildout yet has no comprehensive plan to protect the public and the environment from potential adverse impacts, nor a commitment to power all of the proposed data centers with 100% clean energy.

We recognize and appreciate the direction of the Rules and Open Government Committee to the Office of the City Manager to establish uniform standards for data center developments over the coming months. However, we are seriously concerned that this process will leave out important input from San José residents. In particular, there is no plan to meaningfully engage and represent the communities surrounding proposed data center sites like those in Alviso that are already facing socioeconomic and environmental adversity. We do not have confidence that this process will bring about robust safeguards for our people, environment, and climate, rather than just a streamlining of existing rules that does little to ensure that all data center development is safe, healthy, and sustainable.

Thus, we urge City leadership to pursue a deeper, more comprehensive approach. We recommend that the Transportation and Environment Committee and subsequently the City Council take action to:

1. Publish a **public dashboard** of all existing, approved, proposed, and pipeline data center projects in San José that includes, for each project: location, ownership, estimated megawatt (MW) demand, amount and type of water used or expected to be used, backup generation type and capacity, actual General Fund revenue to date, and permanent jobs created by operating facilities. This dashboard should be live before any new development agreements are executed.
2. Establish standards that include **quantitative thresholds**, not aspirational language, for energy use, emissions, air and water pollutants, backup generation, and water use.

3. Ensure that the stakeholder process for developing standards includes structured, equitable, and **accessible participation of local communities**, including a variety of stakeholders such as neighborhood associations, CBOs, environmental groups, and independent technical experts in areas where data centers are currently sited or proposed. Data center standards should be crafted with and by the San José community, rather than by the City government with only periodic public engagement.
4. Ensure transparency and gain the confidence of the public by **prohibiting City staff, Councilmembers, and the Mayor from signing nondisclosure agreements with data center developers.**

Without these steps, large-scale data center development as promoted by our City government risks reversing the past decade of progress on the climate crisis, locking in fossil-fuel reliance for decades more, harming public health and environmental quality, and increasing electricity rates for residents and businesses.

It is far more important that new technologies be adopted well than that they be adopted quickly. No one can in good conscience guarantee to the public that the rapid growth of data centers in our city will not adversely impact our health, environment, climate, and pocketbooks. Yet, experts can confidently predict the number of lives that could be harmed or even taken by their diesel pollution and acceleration of climate change should they be powered even in part by fossil fuels and built without robust environmental guardrails.

Please let this reality inform your urgent decisions today and demonstrate that the health and safety of residents and our climate future are your highest priority.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mani Bekele, Commission Youth Representative
On behalf of the San José Climate Advisory Commission



FW: Public Comment District 2 8/12

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 8/11/2026 7:21 AM

To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Katrena Thomson [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 6:13 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Public Comment District 2 8/12

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Hello Pamela Campos City Councilwoman District 2,

I'm writing to express my concerns and opposition of AI data center developments coming to our community. These facilities take an enormous toll on the communities where they're built, and they offer very few long term benefits. The city is fast-tracking massive data center approvals in San Jose in communities most impacted like Silver Leaf, Edenvale, Blossom Hill, and Santa Teresa, with more proposed across the Silver Creek corridor. This will compound heat island effects, degrade air quality, drain our water during a drought, and fill neighborhoods with generator noise and pollution. The Equinix expansion alone has 36 diesel backup generators holding 300,000 gallons of fuel near residential areas. Residents near Meta's facility in Mansfield, Georgia can't drink their water. We're not waiting until that's our neighborhood. The city collects short-term tax revenue while our communities absorb long-term health and environmental costs we can't afford.

By all accounts, the developers of these data centers are highly secretive, refusing to provide basic details about the project such as water consumption, energy usage, site plan, and wastewater contaminants. They also often require local officials, such as yourself, to sign NDAs in order to "learn more about the project". These developers are using fast, high pressure sales tactics to bully communities into signing on before they understand the scope of the project. These are just a few reasons why AI data centers would be wrong for our county.

We need an immediate halt on new data centers until a comprehensive regulatory framework is developed to fully protect communities and the environment. The environmental, financial, and social costs of unregulated AI, crypto, and data centers is tremendous. It's time to unite for a halt to this

frenzy. I hope you'll join this sign on letter. Together we can protect our communities and the environment from this exponentially growing problem.

Thank you,
Katrena Violet Thompson
B.A. Child and Adolescent Development

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Outlook

Item C.2 Data Center Community Benefits (Meeting August 12)

From Lisa Biesemeyer [REDACTED]**Date** Mon 8/10/2026 7:49 PM**To** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

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August 10, 2026

Dear Rules Committee,

As a long-time resident of San Jose, parent, and concerned citizen, I appreciate the opportunity to share ideas that will shape how the city forms standards and benefits of data centers.

Based on the memo titled "Data Center Community Benefits," the following are my ideas.

1. Including options for requiring community benefits with the projects is nice, but "options" are not the same as legally binding requirements. Data center owners and operators are not in business for citizens; they are in business for themselves. Thus, cities and their citizens and residents MUST step up and provide them with legally binding requirements for providing benefits for the citizens and residents.

2. There must be a way to invest the tax revenue, and it must benefit the citizens.

3. Data centers are large, white boxes with no windows. They often have giant contraptions jutting off the sides. Just drive around Santa Clara; you'll see. They look ridiculous. Trying to make them more attractive is fine, but what I'm more concerned about is the environmental impact and how they impact the everyday lives and well-being of the residents who have to live around them.

Please watch (and listen) to this video. NO ONE wants to live around this...even if it's pretty:
https://www.instagram.com/reels/DZIJzzdSh_d/

4. If the data centers that are currently in progress don't agree to some form of standards, then what? Will the city agree to halt their progress? I would want that.

5. My ultimate preference is for no more AI data centers in San Jose.

Thank you again for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Lisa Biesemeyer

District 10 San Jose Constituent

Lisa Biesemeyer

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights"

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Outlook

Public Comment 08/12 Rules Committee, Item C.2

From Patricia Flores [REDACTED]**Date** Mon 8/10/2026 9:02 PM**To** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>

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From: Patricia Flores [REDACTED]**Date:** August 10, 2026 at 8:56:26 PM PDT**To:** city.clerck@sanjoseca.gov, rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov, district2@sanjoseca.gov**Subject:** Subject: Public Comment 08/12 Rules Committee, Item C.2

Hello Pamela Campos

I'm writing to express my concerns and opposition of AI data center developments coming to our community. These facilities take an enormous toll on the communities where they're built, and they offer very few long term benefits. The city is fast tracking massive data center approvals in San Jose in communities most impacted like Silver Leaf, Edenvale, Blossom Hill, and Santa Teresa, with more proposed across the Silver Creek corridor. This will compound heat island effects, degrade air quality, drain our water during a drought, and fill neighborhoods with generator noise and pollution. The Equinix expansion alone has 36 diesel backup generators holding 300,000 gallons of fuel near residential areas. Residents near Meta's facility in Mansfield, Georgia can't drink their water. We're not waiting until that's our neighborhood. The city collects short term tax revenue while our communities absorb long term health and environmental costs we can't afford.

By all accounts, the developers of these data centers are highly secretive, refusing to provide basic details about the project such as water consumption, energy usage, site plan, and wastewater contaminants. They also often require local officials, such as yourself, to sign NDAs in order to "learn more about the project". These developers are using fast, high pressure sales tactics to bully communities into signing on before they understand the scope of the project. These are just a few reasons why AI data centers would be wrong

for our county.

We need an immediate halt on new data centers until a comprehensive regulatory framework is developed to fully protect communities and the environment. The environmental, financial, and social costs of unregulated AI, crypto, and data centers is tremendous. It's time to unite for a halt to this frenzy. I hope you'll join this sign on letter. Together we can protect our communities and the environment from this exponentially growing problem.

Knowing that the city is planning to put a Data Center in our neighborhood is causing so much stress, I do not want this in my neighborhood or any other neighborhood. We did Not even get any information sent to our homes, regarding this proposal. Everything looks like it's done in a very shady way. If you really want Data Centers put them in the ocean, you have tons of water to keep them cool and you can create all the power you need to keep them running like China is doing. Don't put the general public and nature at risk. Don't make San Jose Ugly.

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No on Data centers

From Brianna Flores [REDACTED]

Date Mon 8/10/2026 9:08 PM

To City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>

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To San Jose City Council, Planning Director and City Clerks:

Hello my name is Brianna Flores. I am a resident in district 2. My home is less than a mile from the proposed Prologis, 99 Megawatt Data Center site on 5977 Silver Creek Valley road. I am opposed to any data centers being built so close to mine and many others homes.

Like many others, I am concerned about the local impacts of these data centers. I'm filled with a lot of fear for what is to come, like lower water quality and pressure as we've seen across the USA. Every local government and company simply promises there will be no contaminations of local drinking water, but promises are not laws. Right now, residents are not legally protected to ensure proper drinking water and pressure. We want laws that protect us, before any more data centers are built.

Financial repercussions do not undo permanent damage done to our health. Many reports are saying that living by these projects directly impacts air quality. Exhausts sent out can't be taken back with payments given to the city. Most of us will not see a penny of what is supposed to make our lives better. The city says money brought in will go to parks. How can we enjoy the parks when the air outside is like smog, or the hum of the data facilities is too loud? Birds are known to avoid noise polluted areas as they can't find their flocks or one another. Will the city replace the birds? What of the increase of flies and mosquitoes when their natural predators have exited?

Recently the city of San Jose has stated it wants to be the AI data center of the world. This includes, generative AI. If San Jose wants to be the AI capital of the world then we should assume it also would be passively complicit to adding to the over 600% increase generative ai child exploitation as reported by NBC news. We the people of San Jose want no part in this modern cyber crime ring. Will the city of San Jose, be holding generative Ai data centers accountable for being complicit in these crimes, as they are providing the tools to generate this material with no safeguards? If so, why aren't these laws to require safe guards and clear transparency of data being produced and housed at these locations being implemented before anything is built? Will the City of San Jose and its representatives be alright, with also being the world capital of housing CSAM and deepfake production tools? This doesn't even include the rape culture perpetuated by nudity apps, and the grooming of individuals to commit suicide, inact mass shootings and homicides done through the sycophantcy nature of these Ai

chat bots. These publically available tools hurt people.

We do not want these data centers built here until laws are implemented that protect residents. Any project in process should be put on moratorium until we are guaranteed our protections.

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Public Comment 8/12 Rules Committee, Item C.2

From Kendall Wilkerson [REDACTED]**Date** Mon 8/10/2026 9:32 PM**To** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>

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Hello Congressman Michael Mulcahy for District 6,

I'm a long time resident of District 6 and writing to express my concerns and opposition of AI data center developments coming to our community. These facilities take an enormous toll on the communities where they're built, and they offer very few long term benefits. The city is fast tracking massive data center approvals in San Jose in communities most impacted like Silver Leaf, Edenvale, Blossom Hill, and Santa Teresa, with more proposed across the Silver Creek corridor. This will compound heat island effects, degrade air quality, drain our water during a drought, and fill neighborhoods with generator noise and pollution. The Equinix expansion alone has 36 diesel backup generators holding 300,000 gallons of fuel near residential areas. Residents near Meta's facility in Mansfield, Georgia can't drink their water. We're not waiting until that's our neighborhood. The city collects short term tax revenue while our communities absorb long term health and environmental costs we can't afford.

By all accounts, the developers of these data centers are highly secretive, refusing to provide basic details about the project such as water consumption, energy usage, site plan, and wastewater contaminants. They also often require local officials, such as yourself, to sign NDAs in order to "learn more about the project". These developers are using fast, high pressure sales tactics to bully communities into signing on before they understand the scope of the project. These are just a few reasons why AI data centers would be wrong for our county.

We need an immediate halt on new data centers until a comprehensive regulatory framework is developed to fully protect communities and the environment. The environmental, financial, and social costs of unregulated AI, crypto, and data centers is tremendous. It's time to unite for a halt to this frenzy. I hope you'll join this sign on letter. Together we can protect our communities and the environment from this exponentially growing problem.

I appreciate your service to our community and hope i can count on you to keep it safe into the future.

Thanks,

Kendall Wilkerson

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Outlook

FW: Item C.2. Data Center Community Benefits

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Tue 8/11/2026 7:23 AM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Delia Lira-Perez [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, August 10, 2026 10:08 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Item C.2. Data Center Community Benefits

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Dear City Council Members and City Officials,

I am writing to express my deep concern about the rapid approval and development of data centers in our community.

I appreciate city staff developing standards however before any additional data center projects move forward, there needs to be a comprehensive cumulative public health and environmental impact study that considers the combined effects of all existing, approved, and proposed data centers not each project in isolation.

Moving forward with these developments at the current rate without fully understanding their cumulative impact is absolutely reckless. Our communities deserve to know what the long term consequences could be for public health, air quality, noise, water resources, energy use, and overall quality of life.

Once these facilities are built, their impacts cannot simply be undone.

The responsible approach is to study the cumulative impacts first, establish appropriate safeguards, and then determine whether and where additional development is appropriate.

I urge the City to pause further approvals and require a comprehensive cumulative public health, environmental, and water-resource assessment before allowing additional data center developments to proceed.

Our communities deserve thoughtful planning and transparency- not development at a pace that may put our health, water resources, and quality of life at risk.

Thank you for taking this concern seriously.

San Jose can better.

Warmly,

Delia Lira-Perez

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Public comment for item C2: Data center community benefits

From Helen Lutke [REDACTED] >

Date Tue 8/11/2026 10:15 AM

To City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

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San José City Council must exercise proper due diligence by holding a public study session on the cumulative public health impacts of bringing this many data centers online, including impacts on air quality, water, noise, and heat. The public has a right to transparency, accountability, and a meaningful opportunity to understand how development at this scale could affect community health, neighborhood conditions, and long-term quality of life.

Helen Lutke

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