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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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City Releases Draft Data Center Policy Framework for Public Review

Community Invited to Provide Feedback Before Final Recommendations Are Presented to Council

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso has released the draft Data Center Policy Framework for public review and feedback, marking the next step in the City’s work to develop a clearer, more transparent process for evaluating future hyperscale data center development.

The draft framework reflects months of research, analysis, and public input gathered through six community meetings and an online survey. More than 540 residents participated in person, and the City received 274 online survey responses. Feedback focused on water consumption, electricity demand, utility rate impacts, environmental effects, transparency, economic incentives, land use, and long-term community protections.

The City recognizes that many residents also used the engagement process to express opposition to the existing Meta project and to call for cancellation of the related Chapter 380 agreement. While the draft framework is intended to guide future policy decisions and does not reopen or cancel existing agreements, that feedback helped shape recommendations focused on stronger oversight, transparency, economic accountability, and clearer standards for future hyperscale data center proposals.

As the draft framework moves into public review, City Council has also adopted general policy direction related to future hyperscale data center development. That action states that the City should not actively recruit, pursue, or incentivize future hyperscale data centers, and that those projects should not be considered for tax abatements, rebates, permit fee waivers, public financing assistance, economic development grants, or similar economic development tools unless the policy direction is later changed by City Council. The action also directs the City Manager to continue developing a future-focused Data Center Policy Framework for Council consideration.

The draft framework is intended to guide how the City evaluates and regulates future hyperscale data center development, with a focus on environmental sustainability, infrastructure impacts, community transparency, and long-term economic accountability.

“This draft framework reflects the concerns we’ve heard from people across El Paso about water, infrastructure, energy demand, and the long-term impacts on our community,” said Mayor Renard U. Johnson. “The framework is focused on creating stronger safeguards, greater transparency, and clearer oversight moving forward.”

—more—



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The draft framework includes proposed policy recommendations related to:

- Requiring hyperscale data centers to obtain Special Permits rather than being automatically allowed “by right” in eligible zoning districts
- Establishing stronger environmental and utility performance standards related to water use, energy consumption, noise, and emissions
- Encouraging Community Benefit Agreements tied to future developments to support workforce, infrastructure, local hiring, and other community priorities.
- Expanding state and federal advocacy efforts related to transparency, utility protections, and infrastructure impacts
- Recommending a pause on public land sales for hyperscale data center use until policies are formally considered by City Council, consistent with recent Council policy direction related to future hyperscale data center development

“This draft framework gives the City a stronger footing for future decisions,” said City Manager Dionne Mack. “It reflects extensive public feedback and lays out practical tools to strengthen oversight, protect infrastructure, and bring greater transparency to future hyperscale data center proposals. The next step is to ensure the final recommendations are clear, enforceable, and aligned with El Paso’s long-term interests.”

The draft Data Center Policy Framework is available online at [Draft Data Center Policy Framework | Draft input](#), or visit ElPasoTexas.gov/data-centers/.

Residents are encouraged to review the draft framework and submit feedback through the City’s Data Centers webpage. Public comments received during this review period will be evaluated and considered as staff continues developing recommendations for future City Council discussion and consideration.

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