



Eugene Anti-Data Center Campaign Testimony Guide

Testimony Info

***Testimony must be given in person,** although City Council Meetings can be viewed live online.*

When: Monday, September 14, 2026, 7/7:30 PM

Where (must be in-person to testify): New City Hall (old EWEB building), 500 E 4th Avenue, Eugene OR 97401, North Building

Sign up to testify here (at time of meeting only): [Request to Speak form](#)

Sign-ups to speak during the Public Forum will be accepted from **7:00 to 7:35 pm** (signing up closer to 7:00 is HIGHLY recommended). You can sign up with a paper form in person or via [this link](#). Speaking order will be randomized

The council does track emails! Please send in written testimony both if you are able to speak at the meeting or if you are unable to attend. Send your written testimony to: mayorcouncilandcitymanager@eugene-or.gov or reach out to your City Councilor ([full contact details here](#)).

We recommend you write out your testimony in advance. You will typically have 2.5 minutes to speak for a regular public forum — that is about 300-350 words typed. Time may be shortened if there are a large number of people testifying.

Background:

On July 14th, a zone verification request (ZVR 26-050) was submitted to the City of Eugene to consider data center use at the former Hynix location at 1830 Willow Creek Circle.¹ Our community is growing increasingly concerned with the speed at which data centers are rapidly developing all over Oregon and across the United States, and especially concerned with the potential for a data center here in west Eugene. Data centers have notable “offensive external impacts” on the surrounding communities, including air, water, and noise pollution concerns, in addition to dramatically increasing the load on the electrical systems leading to rate increases for residents and businesses.

Talking Points

Topline:

- In light of the significant energy use, and climate, air and water pollution associated with data center development, the City of Eugene must decline the proposed zoning verification request.
- Data Centers are not compatible with the purpose of E-1 zoning, nor with the values of Eugene.
- Beyond just rejecting this verification request, the City must take steps to establish a permanent ban, or at the very least, a moratorium, on the development of data centers in the City.
- As investor-owned utilities are required to establish consumer protections to shield Oregon residents from the impacts of data center development by the 2025 POWER Act, it is likely that these corporations will look toward cities like Eugene that have publicly owned utilities as havens for lower energy costs and less regulation.
- In order to protect residents from increasing energy costs, and to protect our air and water, Eugene must act proactively to data center development in our city.
- Even Governor Kotek has explicitly expressed her support for cities to pass moratoriums against data center development.
- **Reject E-1 Zone Verification**
 - The property at issue is zoned E-1 Campus-Employment. Data centers do not fit into the listed “Information Technology” use categories permitted in the E-1 zone.
 - There are four such listed uses: 1) “Computer Networking (includes services and technical support center);” 2) “E-commerce (includes call centers, online sales & shipping, and business-to-business services”; 3) “Internet and Web Site (includes services and technical support center);” and 4) “Software Development (includes

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<https://lookouteugene-springfield.com/story/business-development/2026/07/20/eugene-is-asked-to-confirm-if-data-center-is-allowed-at-former-hynix-site/>

services and technical support centers).² Data centers cannot be said to fall into any of these more specific use categories.

- The E-1 zone is designed for uses that “have a large number of employees per acre” and for uses that “do not generate offensive external impacts” and “do not tolerate substantial noise, pollution, or vibration from surrounding uses.”³
- It is well-documented that data centers provide few long term jobs.⁴ Some experts estimate that data centers only provide 20 to 50 long term jobs.⁵ Even using the upper range of that estimate, this facility, at 120 developable acres, would result in less than one employee per two acres. And, for the reasons described in the section below, data centers have immense external impacts, including noise and air pollution,⁶ that are above and beyond typical light-industrial uses. Accordingly, data centers are clearly inconsistent with the E-1 zone.

- **Climate Impacts:**

- Data centers require huge amounts of electricity, and run back up diesel generators, both of which would undermine the City of Eugene’s climate recovery ordinance goals to reduce community wide fossil fuel use by 50% by 2030

- **Huge Energy Demand:**

- Conventional data centers have an average of 25 megawatts of power capacity, whereas the average house draws around 1.5 kilowatts on the grid at any given time. One conventional data center consumes the same amount of electricity to power roughly 20,000 homes.
- Hyperscale data center energy consumption is around 100 megawatts, or the equivalent of 80,000 homes; the largest data center energy consumption is around 5,000 megawatts⁷.
- Power consumption in Oregon is already up 30% from 2010, most of that increase in the past few years. AI computing data centers are expected to double the state’s energy consumption over the next five years, while upgrades to the

² EC Table 9.2450, <https://eugene.municipal.codes/EC/9.2450>.

³ EC 9.2400, <https://eugene.municipal.codes/EC/9.2400>.

⁴ Liz Mineo, The Harvard Gazette, *Why Are Communities Pushing Back Against Data Centers?* (Apr. 9, 2026) (“Once the data center is up and running, it requires very few people, often just 20 to 50 staff members, because it’s not an office for software developers, product managers, or marketing experts. It is a warehouse of servers.”).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Cecelia Smith-Schoenwalder, US News, “Living in Hell”: Data Center Neighbors Grapple With Noise, Air Pollution” (Apr. 28, 2026).

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

⁷ International Energy Agency, 2024. Data centre electricity consumption in household electricity consumption equivalents, 2024.

<https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/data-centre-electricity-consumption-in-household-electricity-consumption-equivalents-2024>

electrical grid are happening at a much slower rate, increasing the risk of rolling blackouts during peak surges at the state level.⁸

- **Air Pollution:**

- Data centers rely on back-up power generators to keep up with power demands during power outages or during high-peak consumption times.
- In a span of just 5 years, diesel generator use tripled nationally because of data center development.⁹
- Diesel exhaust has a tremendous impact on human health contributing to illnesses such as asthma, heart disease, lung disease- particularly in young children, elderly adults, or those who already have pre-existing health concerns.¹⁰

- **Noise Pollution:**

- Residents of existing data centers across the county are raising concerns about constant noise pollution from these operations.
- The cooling systems, fans, and diesel generators all contribute to a constant hum that is carried hundreds of meters away from these data centers.
- Communities around existing data centers have reported “headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disturbances, ear pain and hypertension” from nearby data centers.¹¹

- **Water Quality Impacts:**

- Approximately 57% of all data centers use potable water to cool their servers, and up to 90% of that water is pulled from the surrounding watersheds (from lakes, rivers, or aquifers).¹² Data centers in Loudoun County, Virginia, collectively used over 900 million gallons of water in 2023 alone.¹³
- Water which has been used to cool data centers has been linked to increased concentration of water contaminants such as nitrates and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), as well as thermal pollution by introducing warmer water back into the watershed.¹⁴

⁸ Mike Rogoway, The Oregonian.. ‘A 9-gigawatt problem’: Northwest’s soaring energy demand, supply constraints, could spark new power crisis. (Jan. 11, 2026).
<https://www.oregonlive.com/business/2026/01/a-9-gigawatt-problem-northwests-soaring-energy-demand-supply-constraints-could-spark-new-power-crisis.html&subscribed=auth0%7C6a6cfc10f8257b5fa6c07b85>

⁹ Bianca Giacobone, Latitude Media. *The data center boom is a diesel generator boom.* (Mar. 9, 2026).
<https://www.latitudemedia.com/news/the-data-center-boom-is-a-diesel-generator-boom/>

¹⁰ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Learn about impacts of diesel exhaust and the diesel emissions reduction act. (2026)
<https://www.epa.gov/dera/learn-about-impacts-diesel-exhaust-and-diesel-emissions-reduction-act>

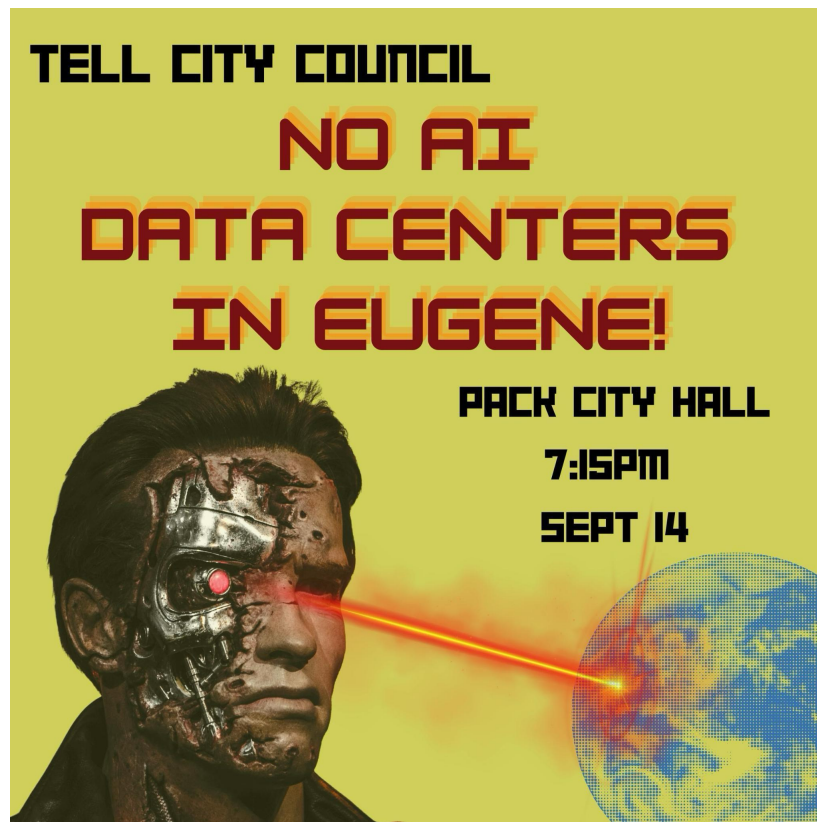
¹¹ Environmental and Energy Study Institute. Communities are raising noise pollution concerns about data centers. (2026).
<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/communities-are-raising-noise-pollution-concernsabout-data-centers>

¹² University of Georgia. *Understanding how data centers impact surface and ground waters.* (2026).
<https://fieldreport.caes.uga.edu/publications/TP121/how-data-centers-impact-surface-and-ground-waters/>

¹³ Environmental and Energy Study Institute. *Data Centers and Water Consumption.* (2025).
<https://www.eesi.org/articles/view/data-centers-and-water-consumption>

¹⁴ Kim, K., Data Center Cooling Water Discharge: Assessing Environmental Transparency and Information Gaps. *UC Law Environmental Journal*, 32(2), 177. (2026).

- 99.9% of Lane County residents are currently experiencing drought conditions, and a new data center would take much needed water away from homes and businesses.¹⁵



¹⁵ NOAA. National Integrated Drought Information System. *Drought conditions for Lane County*. (2026). <https://www.drought.gov/states/oregon/county/Lane>