

Summary of Public Comment Submitted 7/6/26 – 7/21/26

27 public comments were received regarding the proposed amendments to the definitions of Research laboratory and Warehousing and distribution in Kitsap County Code Title 17. Comments oppose potential siting of data centers in Kitsap County. Several commenters voiced support for the proposed amendments, others provided technical recommendations for improving the ordinance language and clarifying the County's regulatory approach.

Summary of Data Center Opposition

Commenters opposed data center development, specifically in Kitsap County. Many comments centered on broader concerns about preventing future data center development, rather than on the details of the proposed code amendments.

Common concerns included that data centers would:

- Increase demand on local water supply and potentially impact aquifers and water availability.
- Place additional demand on the electrical grid and contribute to higher utility costs.
- Generate noise and other environmental impacts affecting adjacent neighborhoods, wildlife, and rural character.
- Negatively impact ecosystems, including fish habitat and other natural resources.
- Provide limited long-term local employment benefits while consuming significant public resources.

Summary of Support for Code Updates

Several commenters supported the proposed ordinance amendments and viewed the revised definitions as an appropriate measure to clarify and characterize uses that may classify as research laboratories or warehousing and distribution.

Summary of Technical Suggestions

A subset of comments focused on improving the proposed ordinance.

Suggestions included:

- Refining language and clarifying terminology to eliminate potential misinterpretation.
- Creating a separate land use definition specifically for data centers.

- Developing objective performance standards addressing measurable impacts such as water use, electrical demand, infrastructure capacity, and noise.
- Continuing public engagement as regulations evolve.

Overall

Overall, the public comments were focused on concerns regarding potential data center development rather than the specifics of the proposed Title 17 amendments. Commenters opposed allowing data centers in Kitsap County, citing concerns about water consumption, energy demand, utility costs, environmental impacts, and compatibility with rural communities. Commenters generally supported the proposed code amendments to clarify definitions or offered recommendations intended to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the ordinance.