



CITY OF SALEM

585 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Written Testimony #1

City Council

Monday, July 27, 2026

6:00 PM

**Loucks Auditorium/
Salem Public Library**

Item 5.1 Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek

Add - Written Testimony.

Item 5.2 Motion from Councilor Varney - NDAs

Add Written Testimony

Item 5.3 Motion from Councilor Varney – community and Council input

Add - Written Testimony.

Page
Break

Carl Hoffman

From: Shawn Engelberg <shawn.engelberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 11:44 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment in Support of the Proposed Next-Generation Data Center Project

Subject: Public Comment in Support of the Proposed Next-Generation Data Center Project

Speaker: Shawn Epping Engelberg, Trustee Larry and Jeanette Epping Family Foundation, Salem, Oregon. Salem First Citizen 2022.

Contact information: shawn.engelberg@gmail.com

Salem has a generational opportunity knocking at its door. This is our moment to showcase the next generation of data centers while we help Salem thrive economically and environmentally. I urge you to vote yes on this next-generation data center.

This next-generation data center project directly addresses the two biggest concerns opponents of large data centers have: power and water consumption.

First, it features a flexible power load design using battery storage. This system smooths out peaks and valleys on our electrical grid and utilizes excess power that would otherwise be wasted or curtailed. These batteries also replace dirty diesel generators for emergency backup, thereby reducing greenhouse gases.

When considering environmental impacts, note that locating this facility here is far better for the environment than drawing from higher-emission grids in other states. Furthermore, Oregon's POWER Act (House Bill 3546) ensures that large energy users pay directly for required grid growth, protecting Salem households from absorbing infrastructure costs.

Second, this facility uses an advanced closed-loop water cooling system. It consumes 99% less water than legacy evaporative cooling data centers. This is the design of the future and should be promoted by all of us.

This is Salem's moment to promote an innovative and sustainable new generation of data centers while building a thriving local economy. Salem needs this, our children need this, and our world needs this. Please be part of the solution and support this data center. Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Alexandria Hitchen <alexbhitchen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 6:15 PM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: Data Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey there,

My name is Alex Hitchen and I am a resident here of Salem, in Ward 1.

I've been aware that we've had servers and server centers of smaller scales scattered throughout Salem for over a decade now, but Data Centers have a specific point of agitation to the community. In my lifetime here in Salem I've witnessed a decrease in our tree canopies, I've felt the ever increasing days exceeding 92° and I've endured the strains on our local water sources due to lack of snowfall.

How will a new data center be the solution to these issues? \$5 billion is nothing compared to the long term value of just leaving our shrinking wildlife alone.

Larry O'Neill, Associate Professor & Director of the Oregon Climate Service *CEOAS*, told Salem Reporter last summer that, "By the end of the century, we're expecting the snowpack will be about half of what it is now,". Therefore leaving Oregon's key natural reservoirs depleted and far less water available to use. Another major impact of this means an increase in severe drought which heightens the risk of wildfire in the valley.

We know that even the most sustainable data center, is in the end still NOT sustainable. Tech companies have already told the general public that they plan to spend \$700 Billion in 2026 alone to build out AI infrastructure.

We've been trained by the internet boom of the early 20's to think that the next "big thing" in tech, therefore equates to an investment. A study last year from MIT found that only 5% of AI businesses are successful - so why are we so committed to providing infrastructure to a system that seems to have very little benefit?

From an ecological standpoint, manufacturing IT hardware and building physical infrastructure leads to the generating of massive carbon emissions before the facility even operates. Server lifespans are relatively short, (especially when operating with a closed loop-operating system, like the center being proposed) so to reproduce, and dispose of the significant hazardous e-waste that requires specialized IT recycling, are the aspects of this project that will lead to long term issues for our environment, whether done with best practices or not.

Genuinely, I could go on and on about my feelings on this subject. Please reply if you want to engage in more conversation about this topic!

I urge you to please vote NO on allowing the building of a data center in our community.

Thank you,
Alex Hitchen

Carl Hoffman

From: A ORourke <aorourke18@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 9:42 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment on proposed Verrus data center - July 27, 2026 City of Salem Councilor Meeting

July 22, 2026

To: City of Salem Council Members
Re: Proposed 75-acre Verrus Data Center

I adamantly **oppose** the proposed 75-acre Verrus Data Center to be built near Oakline and Mill Creek in Salem, Oregon.

Verrus claims the three data center buildings will use a “closed-loop” cooling system that will require 90 to 99 percent less water than standard data centers. “Closed-loop” is a shorthand term for water-efficient data centers, but it has little to do with the data center’s actual water usage. Yes, the water can circulate for months even years before it needs to be flushed out, and that “waste water discharge” is very concerning. It is a major infrastructure that needs to be considered for environmental impacts, wildlife effects and contamination.

Prior to beginning operations, a data center must clean its “closed-loop” pipes. The process is known as “fill and flush,” where the water gets circulated through the pipes — sometimes with the addition of chemicals to prevent pipe corrosion — to remove bacteria and other impurities.

What’s left behind is wastewater with contents that City of Salem’s water treatment facility may not recognize. That estimated \$9 million a year in tax revenue from Verrus Data Center will hardly cover the cost to clean up future contaminated drinking water.

Bottomline, vote no or vote without prejudice and revisit in 2030 when more environmental studies, energy and water consumption data and information are available. Keep the Willamette Valley pristine!

A. ORourke - Ward 1
PO Box 2835
Salem, OR 97308

CC: Julie Hoy, Paul Tigan, Salem of City Recorder

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Carl Hoffman

From: Amy Pasetti <amypasetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 9:51 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers in Salem!

Statement to Salem City Mayor and City Council
Re: Opposition to Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center Proposal (Verrus)

Salem City Mayor and City Council,

My name is Amy Pasetti and I am a resident of the Morningside community, Ward 3, Salem, 97302. I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center campus.

My primary concern is water and electricity use. Data centers of this scale are resource-intensive and even a "closed-loop" cooling system requires a vast amount of water to fill and maintain, as well as a substantial ongoing electricity demand. Salem's water and power systems already serve a large and growing population. I'm not convinced our infrastructure can absorb a facility of this size, three buildings plus a dedicated utility substation, on a 75-acre site, without straining supply or driving up costs for residents.

I realize that the Oregon Public Utility Commission's new data center rate structure raises data-center rates by about 29%. While that's meant to shield residential customers, there is no way to know or guarantee that residents will be fully protected from any rate hikes or grid problems related to this project. While we are being told that just told that rates "shouldn't" increase, the reality is that in other locations, costs dramatically increase. According to Bloomberg News, wholesale electricity costs have gone up over 267% over the past five years in areas near data centers. Residents should not have to pay more for their energy consumption because data centers are moving in. Data centers should pay for added costs and infrastructure necessary to power their massive needs.

I'm also very concerned about the 24/7 noise and environmental impact for our city. Industrial cooling equipment and backup generators on this scale run continuously and can be disruptive to nearby neighborhoods.

For example, there is a phenomenon occurring in Virginia's data center corridor. Low frequency infrasound disturbances, undetectable with most decibel meters, can cause residents to have debilitating physical side effects such as headaches, nausea, ear pain, vertigo, hypertension, and insomnia. This is unacceptable. We must learn about these types of physical consequences before any more data centers are built.

Additionally, there are no independent, third-party noise or environmental studies available regarding the potential harm to our City and its residents... only the word of Verrus and their own 'data'. There are no protections for the heritage oak trees on site. Residents in cities with many data centers report that birds and other animals leave the area due to the low frequency humming of these facilities.

I recognize this project promises tax revenue and construction jobs. I don't dismiss that, but I have many concerns. The construction jobs will be gone once the facility is built, leaving a handful of locals employed. I am skeptical about what the city is getting out of this. Who is being enriched besides the ultra-rich behind the project? Why did the city sign an NDA with Verrus? Why was the zoning for this data center so secretive and why do they want to push this through last minute? This is alarming to me. Salem City residents should get a say, EVERY step of the way!

This would be Salem's first data center of this kind, and the precedent we set matters. I'm asking the Council to:

1. Follow New York's lead and place a moratorium on all new data centers. In the interim:
2. Require independent environmental, water, and noise impact studies, not developer-supplied data
3. Hold additional public hearings before any final land-use or utility decisions are made
4. Let Salem RESIDENTS have more information, more say in what is good for this city; Amend the 2006 city code to allow for public input regarding modern data centers

Thank you for your time and for taking these concerns seriously.

Sincerely,
Amy Pasetti
4870 Chauncey Street SE
7-15-2026

Amy Pasetti
Sent from my iPhone
Amy Pasetti
Sent from my iPhone

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Carl Hoffman

From: Bill Dixon <bill.r.dixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 12:15 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Vanessa Nordyke
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment Regarding Agenda Item 5.1, Update on Proposed Data Center

My name is Bill Dixon, and I am a resident of Ward 7. I urge the City Council to take two actions that would yield long-term benefits from the proposed data center and beyond.

First, implement a revised city operations fee that better balances its impact on different classes of accounts and increases revenue.

Second, adopt a policy that requires community benefits agreements for all proposed projects that require subsidies of any kind from the city.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

--

Bill Dixon, 608 Salem Heights Ave. S., Salem 97302

bill.r.dixon@gmail.com

503-602-1708

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Carl Hoffman

From: Brian Hines <brianhines1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 3:27 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment for agenda item 5.1 on 7/27 meeting

I support a fair and unbiased consideration of the Verrus proposal for a data center on the Mill Creek Corporate Center property. The instant opposition to the data center bothers me, as it is largely—and sometimes completely—untethered from the facts of this particular proposal. Note: particular.

Opponents conflate opposition to AI in general, and data centers in general, with the particular circumstances of the Verrus proposal. Naturally much work remains to confirm that the claims Verrus is making for a “kinder and gentler” data center (less noise, less water use, less electricity requirement, etc.) stand up under close scrutiny.

But attempts to paint the Oakline at Mill Creek with the broad brush of horror stories of poorly designed and sited data centers in other parts of the country ignore the unique characteristics of this particular proposal.

The AI genie is not going to be put back into a technological bottle. AI will continue to develop, in some ways positively, in some ways negatively. The computing resources needed to train and maintain AI models like ChatGPT and Claude may lessen over time, as Chinese models seem to have demonstrated. In that case it will be Verrus who will have overbuilt, and it will be Verrus who will absorb that financial burden.

However, Verrus seems to be wise in planning a second generation data center that is less costly to operate than first generation data centers. Opponents fret that so far Verrus hasn't built a data center akin to the one planned for Salem.

Well, we here in Salem should look upon this as an opportunity. If the design of Oakline at Mill Creek proves to be an advance, Salem will become a mecca of sorts for those looking to build similar data centers. We will have helped advance wise AI technology. So let's look forward optimistically to a review of the Verrus proposal, rather than rejecting it for spurious reasons.

Sincerely, Brian Hines

Brian Hines

Salem, Oregon USA

brianhines1@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/OregonBrian>

<https://www.facebook.com/StrangeUpSalem>

<https://www.facebook.com/SalemPoliticalSnark>

<https://www.facebook.com/SalemCanDoBetter>

<https://bsky.app/profile/oregonbrian.bsky.social>

www.hinesblog.com (blog)

www.churchofthechurchless.com (other blog)

www.salempoliticalsnark.com (other other blog)

www.brianhines.com (web site)

<https://brianhines.journoportfolio.com> (selection of my writings)

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Carl Hoffman

From: Brook Weir <brookaweir@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 3:30 PM
To: citycouncil; Salem Planning
Cc: Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; smathews@cityofsalem.net; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Request for Transparency and Community Input Regarding Potential Data Center Development

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I am a Salem resident concerned about the potential expansion of large-scale data center development in our community.

I recognize the importance of technology infrastructure and economic development, but I believe residents deserve transparency and meaningful opportunities for input before major land-use decisions are made.

I respectfully request information regarding any proposed data center projects in the Salem area, including anticipated impacts related to energy demand, water usage, noise, air quality, traffic, infrastructure capacity, and long-term effects on surrounding neighborhoods.

I also ask that the City ensure robust public engagement and independent review processes before approving developments of this scale.

Thank you for your service to our community. I appreciate your commitment to considering residents' concerns as Salem continues to grow.

Sincerely,
B. Weir

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Carl Hoffman

From: Colleen 'Cole' <orchaos@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 1:18 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment for July 27 City Council Meeting – Opposition to Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council,

My name is **Colleen Olivas**, and I am a resident of the Battlecreek neighborhood area. I am writing to formally submit my opposition to the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center campus. While I understand the city is facing a structural budget deficit, the severe long-term risks this industrial project poses to our local community vastly outweigh the projected financial returns.

I urge the Council to deny or heavily restrict this proposal based on the following critical concerns:

- **Incompatible Proximity to Vulnerable Senior and Memory Care Residents:** It is deeply concerning that this massive industrial campus is proposed just across the way from a zoned memory care facility and a senior retirement compound. Seniors, particularly those navigating cognitive decline, are highly susceptible to environmental stressors. Forcing vulnerable populations to live adjacent to an industrial zone—exposed to the ongoing anxiety of heavy construction traffic and the relentless, 24/7 low-frequency drone of cooling infrastructure—is entirely unacceptable and a failure of responsible city planning.
- **Water Resources and Local Watershed Pollution:** While the developer promises a closed-loop system, data centers historically generate highly concentrated, mineral-heavy industrial wastewater. I am deeply concerned about the long-term cumulative impact of discharging this concentrated wastewater into our municipal system, which risks leaking trace contaminants into local watersheds and straining our public treatment infrastructure.
- **PFAS and Hazardous Materials:** Heavy industrial cooling systems and backup power infrastructure frequently utilize PFAS ("forever chemicals") and other hazardous materials. The city must demand absolute transparency regarding what chemical compounds will be present on-site and what specific protections are in place to prevent localized runoff.
- **Proximity, Noise, and Traffic:** The southwestern edge of the Mill Creek Corporate Center sits less than a mile from dense residential zones. The 24/7 low-frequency hum from massive industrial cooling fans and substations represents a severe, continuous noise pollution issue that will directly degrade the livability of Battle Creek neighborhoods. Furthermore, the construction phase will bring heavy commercial traffic and congestion to our local roads.
- **Disproportionate Investment-to-Job Ratio:** A \$5.1 billion development that yields only around 75 permanent jobs is a remarkably poor return for local employment. This project consumes a massive footprint of our limited industrial land while contributing almost nothing to Salem's long-term workforce development.

- **Lack of Local Hiring Guarantees:** The developer has failed to clarify their workforce strategy. There are currently no binding commitments ensuring that the few operational positions created will be hired locally within Salem and Oregon, rather than contracted out to remote or overseas technicians.

The City of Salem should not compromise the environmental safety, quiet enjoyment, and resource security of its residential neighborhoods for a corporate development that brings high resource strain but minimal local employment. I ask that the City Council prioritize its constituents over non-disclosure agreements and corporate promises.

Thank you for your time and for entering these concerns into the official public record.

Sincerely,

Colleen Olivas
Foxhaven Dr SE,
Salem Oregon 97306
orchaos@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Ehe Nandayo <tootiredTOTYPE.jpg11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Julie Hoy; Shane Matthews; Mai Vang; Paul Tigan; Deanna Gwyn; Vanessa Nordyke; Linda Nishioka; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Micki Varney
Subject: Do not go through with the AI data center.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, this is my formal request as a community member of Salem, as someone who has lived here their entire life, on the topic of the AI data center that you want to build on Turner RD and Deer Park DR.

I am asking you not to go through with it. We already have 125, yet you seem to want more and it is killing our planet, that means all of us go down with it. I'm not saying this as a threat but a simple fact.

AI data centers take up a LOT of water that we are rapidly running out of and are noise polluting pests to deal with, it's not just hurting us if you go through with it. Simply put, we do not care how low the noise is or how much water it uses. We do not want this filth to poison us more (quite literally), and by building it you only shoot yourself in the foot because you live here too.

I strongly suggest you don't go through, thank you for your time

Carl Hoffman

From: E N <enebzydoski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 6:24 AM
To: Julie Hoy; Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; smatthews@cityofsalem.net; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: Data City

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Members of the City Council,

I am going to do my best to attend the meeting July 27th; however, I also wanted to put my opposition to the data center into words.

I moved out to Salem 3 years ago as a travel pediatrician to help out a practice to better serve the community. Since then, I moved out here permanently and took a permanent position in the a non profit office focused on seeing the underserved. I moved to the area (from across the US) as I love how many outdoor activities there are to do in such a short distance away. Oregon is one of the most beautiful and diverse states. I love how open the state is to other cultures, ethnicities, etc as well. And I thought Oregon cared about the environment. Watching more trees being ripped down for developments and apartment complexes is heartbreaking enough. Now to potentially use water resources (I'm pretty sure I read about issues with the reservoir and it might needing draining last year before this center was even proposed <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Home/Components/News/News/2163/>), cause more pollution, and be an eyesore, I truly oppose a data center in our small city. We only get one planet. Our world is already trashing it enough as it is. I hope you do what's best for Salem and its resident by voting no on a data center.

Sincerely,

Emily M. Nebzydoski, MD
enebzydoski@gmail.com

Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Nishioka
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 5:49 PM
To: Holly Carter
Subject: Re: Please fight Verrus data center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms. Carter,

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns regarding the proposed Oakline Data Center. I appreciate hearing from residents on issues that are important to them, and I understand the depth of your concern.

Like many residents, I first learned about the proposed data center on Friday, July 10. I, too, have many questions and am actively seeking information so I can better understand the proposal, its potential impacts, and the City's role in the process.

I will be forwarding your email to City staff so they are aware of your concerns. As additional information becomes available, I expect it will be shared publicly so residents have the opportunity to review the facts and participate in the discussion.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda Nishioka
Salem City Councilor, Ward 2

Linda Nishioka (She/Her)

City Councilor - Ward 2

lnishioka@cityofsalem.net | 971-707-2112

From: Holly Carter <lynnedebrooke@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, July 17, 2026 at 5:06 PM
To: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Please fight Verrus data center

Dear Councilwoman Nishioka,

I'm writing today from a place of deep alarm at the recent news of the city's negotiations with Verrus to build a data center in our community's backyard. Apart from the obvious concerns about the impact such a deal would have on Salem's energy resources and precious water supply, I'm deeply concerned by the clandestine nature of the negotiations to date, including the NDA that put Verrus's interests above that of residents as well as the move to hide negotiations from the city council until just a few days ago. Neither of these moves signal good faith on behalf of Verrus OR whoever has been representing Salem in

negotiations to date. This deal is NOT in the best interests of our community, and I urge you to use your leverage on the Council to speak up on behalf of residents with valid concerns.

Thank you,
Holly Carter
Salem resident since 2007

Carl Hoffman

From: Inga Johnson <ingaj03@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 7:33 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center

For goodness sake, please do your homework and see all the horrible repercussions of putting in a data center at Mill Creek. Irreversible damage, all for the sake of temporary jobs for builders. Please STOP this project from going forward!

Inga Johnson

Concerned Citizen of Salem Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Julie Ford <jnford64@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: Opposition to the Data Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayor Hoy,

Even though the proposed data center is said to use less resources and is quieter to run, the full environmental impact, including property values and quality of life, of a facility that of that type is a complete unknown.

A.I. is not a necessity. And the day it becomes one will be a very sad day for all of humankind. The fact that you, my elected official, would approve a project that risks the health and wellness of the people and environment you were elected to serve and protect, without allowing a public vote, is a massive disappointment.

No amount of funding is worth risking further environmental strain on an ecosystem that is already struggling.

It's not too late to start making better choices for Salem, its citizens and the planet we call home.

Sincerely,

Julie Ford

Wildwood Dr SE, Salem

Carl Hoffman

From: Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 12:09 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Testimony on Agenda Item 5.1 on the July 27, 2026 Agenda

City Recorder:

Please accept my testimony on Agenda Item 5.1 on the July 27, 2026 City Council Agenda.

Thank you,

Jim Scheppke

Ward 2

My Top Ten Reasons to Move Forward to Explore the Oakline Data Center Proposal

- 1) The development company Verrus states that they were “founded to reinvent the legacy data center model to serve as a better partner to communities, utilities and the environment.”
- 2) The proposed 75 acre site is not on farmland but on the eastern edge of the Mill Creek Corporate Center zoned for industry.
- 3) The site is adjacent to the site of the new 1.1 million square foot Dollar General warehouse and the 479,000 square foot Gensco warehouse and will not require extensive infrastructure development.
- 4) Verrus says they will preserve all of the healthy large Oregon white oaks on the site and will plant an additional 36 Oregon white oaks.
- 5) Unlike many data centers, the site is remote from homes and businesses – about a mile and a half from the nearest significant residential development to the west on the other side of I-5.
- 6) The project design features what is called “ultra lower water use” — far less than in a legacy data center. The innovative closed-loop cooling system is promised to use less water than the average golf course and about the same as a few sit-down restaurants.
- 7) Unlike legacy data centers, Oakline will be designed to be quiet, with low noise cooling equipment and battery backup instead of primary diesel backup.
- 8) Unlike legacy data centers that draw power continuously, Oakline will be designed to work collaboratively with Portland General Electric to use less energy when the grid is stressed and to contribute energy back to the grid from its batteries when needed.
- 9) The City has posted a timeline for project development that is slow and responsible and deliberate, with plan review and permitting extending to the 4th quarter of 2027 and including numerous opportunities for public input and engagement.
- 10)

Verrus is proposing to invest \$5 billion dollars in the project, eventually adding many billions to Salem's \$16.7 billion tax base. This, along with other revenue generating strategies (like reform of the City Operations Fee, hopefully this year) could solve the structural deficit problem that we have been living with since 1997 when Measure 50 was enacted. Maybe in my lifetime Salem could have well-funded libraries, parks, sheltering and services for the unhoused, and adequate emergency services. We should be grateful that Verrus has chosen Salem, and I hope we can work with them to carry out their innovative plan.

Jim Scheppke
Ward 2

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Carl Hoffman

From: J W <joyrwicks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:29 PM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: No New Data Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Julie,

I am a resident in South Salem and am reaching out to express my sincere disapproval of this proposed new data center. Data centers have been proven to be harmful to the people living around them as well as the environment (i.e.. water use, energy use, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution). I hope that you will use your voice to help Salem block this new data center. Thank you.

Joy Wicks
South Salem, OR

Carl Hoffman

From: kathy <kathy@avenuelarchitects.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Linda Nishioka; Vanessa Nordyke; Julie Hoy; SALEM Manager
Subject: Proposed Verrus data center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to request information regarding a potential 75-acre data center development in south Salem.

1. Under what statutory authority is the City allowed to sign non-disclosure agreements with a property developer?
2. What other data centers has Verrus built and put into operation? Where are these projects located? If none (and I'm not finding any), what other major projects has Verrus developed and operated? Where are they located?
3. How much more demand (electric and gas) will be placed on the PGE system, vs existing capacity? What will be the data center's power source(s)? What percentage will be electric? What percentage will be natural gas? PGE's electricity is sourced 40% from natural gas, a polluting fossil fuel. So even if most of the data center's power will be sourced from electricity, 40% of that comes from gas.
4. Demonstrate how the increased electrical demand, sourced at least 40% from natural gas, will meet the Oregon Climate Protection Program. This State program mandates declining limits on fossil fuel's greenhouse gas emissions.
5. How many backup diesel generators will be installed?
6. How much water will be used for cooling? What is the water source? Does Salem have that existing capacity? What % of the water will be recycled and reused within the facility? In order to reuse the water, its heat must be released. How/where will the heat be released? Releasing heat into the atmosphere is not classified as a greenhouse gas, but it does cause local warming. How will that be mitigated?
7. Verrus touts a new data center system that allegedly has fewer adverse environmental impacts. At what other locations has this new engineering approach been installed? How long has it been in operation?
8. What sound will be emitted and at what times of day or night? What is the frequency/vibration of the sound? Please provide a specific answer, not just that it "will meet local ordinance." Other data centers emit a low frequency noise, 24 hours a day, that has resulted in demonstrable negative health impacts to surrounding communities.
9. How much exterior lighting will be installed? What type and what brightness? What hours of day and night will it be used? Describe how it will comply with State night sky mandate.
10. How many jobs will be created, *exclusive* of construction jobs to build the project? What types of jobs are these? Does Salem currently have the workforce with the needed skills?

Thank you for pursuing answers from Verrus. A project of this magnitude, potentially with major environmental and health impacts, needs to be carefully considered. Potential property tax dollars must not be the sole determinant.

Thank you.
Kathy Lingo
1755 Winter Street SE
Salem OR 97302
(303) 588-4626

Sent from my iPhone

Carl Hoffman

From: SALEM Manager
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 1:15 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Proposed Verrus data center

-----Original Message-----

From: kathy <kathy@avenuelarchitects.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>; Vanessa Nordyke <VNordyke@cityofsalem.net>; Julie Hoy <JHoy@cityofsalem.net>; SALEM Manager <MANAGER@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Proposed Verrus data center

I am writing to request information regarding a potential 75-acre data center development in south Salem.

1. Under what statutory authority is the City allowed to sign non-disclosure agreements with a property developer?
2. What other data centers has Verrus built and put into operation? Where are these projects located? If none (and I'm not finding any), what other major projects has Verrus developed and operated? Where are they located?
3. How much more demand (electric and gas) will be placed on the PGE system, vs existing capacity? What will be the data center's power source(s)? What percentage will be electric? What percentage will be natural gas? PGE's electricity is sourced 40% from natural gas, a polluting fossil fuel. So even if most of the data center's power will be sourced from electricity, 40% of that comes from gas.
4. Demonstrate how the increased electrical demand, sourced at least 40% from natural gas, will meet the Oregon Climate Protection Program. This State program mandates declining limits on fossil fuel's greenhouse gas emissions.
5. How many backup diesel generators will be installed?
6. How much water will be used for cooling? What is the water source? Does Salem have that existing capacity? What % of the water will be recycled and reused within the facility? In order to reuse the water, its heat must be released. How/where will the heat be released? Releasing heat into the atmosphere is not classified as a greenhouse gas, but it does cause local warming. How will that be mitigated?
7. Verrus touts a new data center system that allegedly has fewer adverse environmental impacts. At what other locations has this new engineering approach been installed? How long has it been in operation?
8. What sound will be emitted and at what times of day or night? What is the frequency/vibration of the sound? Please provide a specific answer, not just that it "will meet local ordinance." Other data centers emit a low frequency noise, 24 hours a day, that has resulted in demonstrable negative health impacts to surrounding communities.
9. How much exterior lighting will be installed? What type and what brightness? What hours of day and night will it be used? Describe how it will comply with State night sky mandate.
10. How many jobs will be created, *exclusive* of construction jobs to build the project? What types of jobs are these? Does Salem currently have the workforce with the needed skills?

Thank you for pursuing answers from Verrus. A project of this magnitude, potentially with major environmental and health impacts, needs to be carefully considered. Potential property tax dollars must not be the sole determinant.

Thank you.
Kathy Lingo
1755 Winter Street SE
Salem OR 97302
(303) 588-4626

Sent from my iPhone

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lucy Gillespie <lucykeas@proton.me>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:23 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Upcoming data center agenda item meeting 7/27/26

Good day,

I was informed that I may send my public comments to this email address for consideration.

1. The Oregon Heritage Tree Program, launched in 1996 as the nation's first state-sponsored program of its kind, is run by the Oregon Travel Information Council (a state agency created under ORS 377.835) and a volunteer committee. It reviews public nominations and designates trees with exceptional historical, cultural, ecological, or aesthetic value. Designated trees receive a plaque and public recognition, but designation requires the owner's consent and does not override local removal authority on private land. On state-owned property, designation creates preservation expectations for the managing agency. Local governments may adopt their own heritage-tree ordinances providing additional protection.

*It doesnt matter that Verrus plans to build "around" these protected trees. Waste water still needs to be routed and the construction will change runoff patterns, local habitat, and heat retention.

2. The closed loop cooling system means nothing because WASTE WATER still needs to be dispelled from the system and they will be dumping that directly into our waterways OR soil.

3. The larger environmental burden is usually the facility's round-the-clock power demand, which drives greenhouse gas emissions depending on the grid mix.

4. Even with LFP, you still need lithium, iron, phosphate, copper, aluminum, graphite, plastics, and electronics; mining and processing these materials create upstream emissions and habitat disturbance. The waste WILL NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE.

5. With their tax incentives for years to come it's like we're paying THEM to be here regardless of how many "jobs" they promise the city.

Thank you,

Lucy Gillespie

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July, 2026i

Salem city staff & City Councilors
Salem Planning Commission members

The Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association after hearing from Councilor Mayor Elect Vaneesa Nordyke, reviewing the information posted on the city website, reviewing the promotional website oaklineatmillcreek.com, hearing from a neighbor who has done lots of research on data centers built around the country and a neighbor who actually worked on several data centers, we have questions and concerns regarding the proposed Verrus Data Center at the Mill Creek Corporate Center

What will the mega wattage of this data center and where will the power lines be placed that feed this center? We understand that centers can warm the land, what does Verrus say about this issue? Even though the company touts a closed loop cooling system, what is the impact on our water system?

We know there will be batteries that will back up the data center in case of a power loss. How and where will these batteries be disposed of when they need to be replaced? Are there plans for generators as back up power?

In reading the information on the city website, it indicates that there appears to be room for only one data center, is this accurate or would there be room on the property for more? If this data center is approved, would it make it difficult to reject future data centers?

We know during the construction phase, lots of electricians and plumbers are employed. Will these be union jobs with hiring from IBEW Local 280 and 48 and Plumbers & Steamfitters Union 290? How many permanent jobs will there be once construction is complete? What will the traffic impact be especially with all the growth along the west side of Cordon Road north of Hwy 22 and the access to the businesses at the south end of Lancaster accessed from Kuebler/ Cordon Road? What will the response time for the fire department responding to a medical emergency on the site?

In checking the Verrus website, we discovered that they are a world wide company. but have only 6 data centers planned with the one being Salem and 5 are located in New Hudson Lyon Township Oakland County Michigan None of the data centers appear to be operating. What experience does Verrus have in building and operating data centers? We urge the city staff and the planning commission to contact and learn information from the data centers in Michigan

Thank you for listening to our concerns and finding answers to our questions.

Respectfully,
Linda Miller
Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Carl Hoffman

From: Laurie <brdgrl@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 4:03 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center in town? Or anywhere NO

It appears looking around town that this council is in the pockets of developers already. PLEASE DO YOUR RESEARCH on the horrendous effects being experienced from these data centers. Using human resources of water and electricity. Making people pay through the roof for these necessities and so much more. The sound vibrations are harmful to humans and wildlife. The wastewater is contaminating communities waterways. People all over are protesting these centers and winning against them! It must be stopped. Please do the right thing and prioritize quality of life and protect health. They also increase the temperature for miles around. Show you care!

Most sincerely,

Laurie B.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

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Carl Hoffman

From: mbhustoles@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 11:41 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: Salem Data Center comments, July 27, 2026 City Council Mtg

To the Salem City Council:

I won't pretend that I know all the science behind the technology and water demands of data centers. But I do know about transparency, about including the community in decision making, and about how investment bubbles most often result popped, with high costs to those who can least afford them.

There has been no transparency in the data center proposal. Relying on Verrus and their promises does not improve that transparency. Without real, substantive study of the energy costs, the heat and sound exposure to our community, and the actual expense of using a "closed-loop" water cooling system, both in water expenditure and the chemical pollution to our municipal water supply, no decisions about building a data center here should even be entertained. We have all heard of small towns that sorely regret the data centers that were pushed to completion on the failed promise of jobs and tax monies. The hubris of Verrus (and frankly our city manager) to assume that Salem would welcome anything that would endanger our environment, already at risk by past corporate decisions on a national level, for a promised carrot of \$6 million in taxes, is fairly stunning.

In regards to including the community in decision making, Jeff Bladen, Head of Energy for Verrus, was quoted by the Salem Reporter as saying, "the "No. 1 thing" for Verrus is to identify communities that want projects like its data center." If that is so, I hope he's watching and monitoring the responses he's receiving now that this plan has been unveiled. Certainly the information provided in the Verrus website, oaklineatmillcreek.com, hiding the water consumption and chemical pollution realities by comparing them with outdated systems, makes one question any statements the company makes.

AI may be an undeniable reality, but so is corporate greed, and the fact that corporations have jumped on the AI bandwagon, creating fortunes for themselves on the backs of communities desperate to provide basic services for their residents, is also undeniable. Salem can do better.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Hustoles
Salem resident, Ward 2
Sent from my iPad

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Carl Hoffman

From: Emme Jay <emmejaydiary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 1:58 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Francys Veras
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: No Data Center, No Matter What

Please consider this email chain my written testimony for the upcoming meeting on July 27th. I ask that it be included as part of the public comment record.

Please don't wager our City's future on the lies of big tech. Like many of the other cities that fell pray to their tactics, it's the people who will pay the price.

Allowing a data center in Salem is a huge mistake.

Nathan Owens
Ward 6

On Tue, Jul 21, 2026, 9:36 AM Emme Jay <emmejaydiary@gmail.com> wrote:
Thank you for your response.

Please consider this article (linked below) regarding the lie of closed loop cooling systems. The water burden isn't reduced, it's just shifted elsewhere. Regardless, the consequences will fall on residents.

No data center, no matter what.

Article:
<https://gneuton.com/the-illusion-of-waterless-ai-how-closed-loop-data-centers-shift-the-fresh-water-burden-to-power-plants>

Thank you for your consideration.

Nathan Owens
Ward 6

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026, 3:19 PM Francys Veras <fveras@cityofsalem.net> wrote:

[Mayor and Councilors bcc'd]

Good afternoon Mr. Owens,

Thank you for sharing your feedback regarding the proposed data center in the City of Salem. Councilors and City staff are in receipt of your comments.

Residents are encouraged to review the recently published Frequently Asked Questions relating to the [proposed Verrus Mill Creek Data Center Project](#) available on the City's website. Additional information about the project can be found on the company's website at oaklineatmillcreek.com.

We appreciate you taking the time to provide your input.

Best,

Francys Veras

Constituent and Government Affairs Manager

City of Salem | City Manager's Office

Find us at the Parkway Building, [440 Church Street SE, Suite 400](#)

P.O. Box 14300

Salem, Oregon 97309

fveras@cityofsalem.net | (971) 493-8761

From: Emme Jay <emmejaydiary@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 10:13 AM

To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>

Cc: Mai Vang <mvang@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers in Salem

City Council,

I recently discovered several paragraphs in SEDCOR's annual report indicating that several data centers are under negotiation in Salem Oregon. Many of them intended for Mill Creek, which means they can draw on grant subsidies funded by our tax dollars. Data centers are necessary to a degree, but we should be increasingly selective and impose considerable oversight on developments within Salem. You have a duty to protect your constituents from special interests that would shift their burden onto the public without following public process.

SEDCOR is under contract with the City to promote economic growth in the area. Those tax dollars are meant to benefit Salem at large. There's considerable evidence to suggest a pattern of data centers profiting on the backs of working class people through higher priced utilities and major environmental impacts, all while receiving massive tax breaks and subsidies without adhering to public process.

The Boardman Oregon City Council was recently busted for signing NDAs that shield data center developments from Public inquiry. Please do not fall prey to this same tactic. It's apparent that SEDCOR already has.

You have a duty to serve all of Salem, especially the working class citizens that lack the resources to stand against special interests. Please take this duty seriously by admonishing SEDCOR for its attempt to skirt public input on projects that do not serve the greater good.

Thank you.

Nathan Owens

Ward 6

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Carl Hoffman

From: Orchid Asher <orchid.asher@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 12:29 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers In Salem

Hello, City Council.

My name is Orchid Asher. I am a young adult living in Salem. I have lived here for over a decade, and the future of my home city is very important to me.

I am strongly against the construction and operation of data centers in Salem for these reasons:

1. The lack of transparency. As a long-time resident of Salem, I would like to know when big changes happen that will impact me, my family, and my community. The city of Salem signed a non-disclosure agreement with Verrus through SEDCOR in March of 2025. We, the public, members of your city, did not hear about it until this month. Sixteen months is too long. I find this unacceptable in its own right.
2. Noise pollution and ill health effects. Data centers run all day, every day. During normal operation, they have been shown to emit a constant, low hum that has lead people to report headaches, vertigo, ear pain, and other disturbances. Residents of Salem deserve peace. They should not be subjected to constant, dangerous low frequency noise.
3. The construction may bring some jobs, but it will not maintain enough permanent positions to justify its other consequences. The number of jobs offered by the construction of a data center is largely temporary. Once the construction is complete, those jobs mostly disappear. About 75 permanent positions will remain, but even some grocery stores have more employees-- over 100 in some larger ones. One Walmart Supercenter, for example, employs about 300 people.
4. Water and power. Though Verrus has promised closed-loop cooling and a grid-friendly design, specific figures for those resources have not been released. A facility the size of a data center will cause significant strain on water and electric power in our home region. Communities that once welcomed data centers now suffer from polluted water and expensive electric bills, which is especially dangerous in hot summers.

In conclusion, I urge you to cease any plans to construct and operate a data center in the Salem area. The harm outweighs the benefits for my community.

Thank you for considering my input.

Best regards,
Orchid T. Asher.

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Carl Hoffman

From: paula nania <nania.paula@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:49 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Vote NO on the proposed data center

A massive date center in Southeast Salem will be a detriment to the quality of life for the residents of Salem because of environmental and health issues
Vote NOT to approve !

Thank you

Paula Nania
2252 Wildwood Drive SE
Salem

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Carl Hoffman

From: Rodney Cuda <rodney.cuda@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 3:57 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No data center in Salem!

I strongly oppose allowing a data center to be developed in Salem.

A project of this scale will have significant impacts on our community, infrastructure, natural resources, and quality of life. The fact that the initial planning appears to have taken place without meaningful public awareness or involvement is especially concerning. A proposal this controversial should be handled with full transparency, public notice, and ample opportunity for residents to provide input before any decisions are made.

I urge the City Council to reject this proposal and prioritize the long term interests of Salem residents.

Sincerely,

A Salem resident who does not support data center development in our city

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Carl Hoffman

From: Ray Quisenberry <rayquisenberry@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 1:57 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on agenda item 5.1, proposed data center

Mayor and city councilors

My name is Ray Quisenberry. I live in Ward 1.

I am writing in opposition to the proposed data center by the Verrus company. My understanding is that it may not be possible to stop this project since the company meets the city zoning requirements for the site, which is such a shame. So I strongly urge the city to correct the zoning to prohibit any future data centers from coming to our city.

From my reading about data centers in other communities, the promised benefit of job creation is generally overblown, the environmental impacts of water usage and power consumption is always understated, and the back up power used during outages is very polluting. The costs to our community will outweigh any benefits.

It's also very much the case that, once again, we are willing to destroy our environment for increased convenience, and to put money in the pockets of the already wealthy. Don't you think it's time we stop doing that?

Please do what you can to stop this project since, or at the very least, make sure it never happens again.

Thank you

Ray Quisenberry
Sent from my iPad

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Carl Hoffman

From: rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 12:01 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: DATA CENTER

might want to play this....

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/18eeQKMjaK/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

On Thu, Jul 23, 2026 at 12:00 PM rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com> wrote:

I MOTION MY MOTION ALL RESIDENTS GET \$1000 A MONTH DIRECTLY FROM ANY DATA CENTER COMPANY RESIDENTS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME BE PUT TO A VOTE TO SALEM RESIDENTS.

PLEASE BEING THIS UP AT THE MEETING.

thank you

ms walker

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

On Thu, Jul 23, 2026 at 11:56 AM rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com> wrote:

NO THERE **MUST BE A \$1000 A MONTH PAYMENT TO EVERY SALEM RESIDENT FROM THE DATA CENTER COMPANY BEGINNING AT GROUND BREAKING THAT SALEM RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THAT AMOUNT FROM TIME TO TIME AS REQUIRED.

THE NDA's MUST DISCLOSE WHAT & WHY AN NDA WAS NECESSARY TO BEGIN WITH.

ms walker

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

On Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 6:09 PM rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com> wrote:

THERE SHOULD BE A BILL OF \$1000 A MONTH PAID TO EVERY SALEM RESIDENT FROM THE DATA CENTER THAT SALEM RESIDENTS WILL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME SHOULD UTILITY BILLS SKYROCKET or NO DATA CENTER IN SALEM.

will a nuclear energy be involved is also an important question.

rosemary walker
1111 waller street se
salem or 97302

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 12:00 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: DATA CENTER

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ms walker

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ms walker

catbelt.com
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rosemary walker
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factshowandtell.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: shawn@eagleaccounting.com
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 4:29 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Center in Salem

Hello,

I am emailing you to let you know that I am strongly against having a Data Center in Salem.

They use too much water that we need to survive, not to mention the strain they will put on the electricity grid. They are destroying our planet, and we need to save what is left for future generations. We also need to preserve the water that all life needs to survive and not let the data keep using it all up trying to keep their systems.

Please do not allow this to happen to Salem. We need to protect our city.

Shawn Haddon

Licensed Tax Preparer
Eagle Accounting, Inc.
Phone: 503-365-7214
Office Cell Phone: 971-707-8361
Fax: 503-365-7188
Backup E-Mail: eagleacctinginc@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sarah King <sarah.king0908@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 6:03 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Salem Data Center

Hello,

I'm writing to express concern about the Verrus Mill Creek Data Center Project. I am greatly concerned that the city went about setting up this project without citizen knowledge and that the information was by accident.

Data centers have consistently shown to be more of a drain on cities and their people than a benefit. They are reliant on large quantities of water which is something Salem already struggles with due to the inconsistencies of Detroit Lake. This is not a project for the people and I'm greatly opposed. Do the right thing. Don't build a data center.

Thank you.

Sarah.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tealah Meyer <tealgreen21@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 4:18 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data centers

To whom it may concern:

Data centers are NOT needed at all in Oregon. This is a huge safety concern and we don't want it! This poses a giant threat to our water supply and it's completely unnecessary. We the people say no! There is no need for it! We did not vote for this!

-Tealah, a resident of Salem, Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Woodworth, Whitney <wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:46 PM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: Comment on data centers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,
I am working on a story about the data center proposed for Mill Creek and am reaching out to see how elected leaders feel about it. Would you support a data center? Do you have any concerns?
Thank you,
Whitney

Whitney Woodworth
Reporter



wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com

Phone: 503-910-6616

Twitter: @wmwoodworth

Carl Hoffman

From: Adolfo de la Garza-Cano <503lucha@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:25 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No DATA CENTERS IN SALEM OREGON

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a Salem resident writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. We cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Salem residents will pay for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is not rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,

Adolfo Garza-Cano
Salem resident 97301

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From: [Alyssa Cokinis](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Paul Tigan](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Shane Matthews](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Mai Vang](#); [Dr. Irvin M Brown](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [SALEM Manager](#); [Julie Hoy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Testimony: No Data Center
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:32:16 AM

Members of City Council, Mayor Hoy, and City Manager Krishna Namburi,

My name is Alyssa Cokinis, and I reside in Ward 1. Not only am I concerned about your recent amendments where the Presiding Officer is allowed to suspend public comment with a majority vote of City Council (against the rules of the First Amendment much?) and the fact you can contain public comment to 30 minutes (again, your job is to listen to your constituents), I am also concerned about the proposed data center run by Verrus in the Mill Creek area.

While the City Manager was making plans to announce potential layoffs to library, parks, and Center 50+ staff, she and the City entered into an NDA with Verrus. While planning to gut important jobs that were only saved due to an increase in property taxes due to the Livability Levy, she and the City entered into an NDA with Verrus. While 50+ people were about to get a notice that could potentially change their life should the levy not pass, she and the City entered into an NDA with Verrus to make plans to make money off of a data center. The NDA was signed by the City on March 27, 2025, and the NDA was executed by both parties on April 10, 2025--one day after the layoff notices came.

This is insidious. I would like to thank Councilor Varney who has a backbone, whose two motions tonight are a step in the right direction. Thank you for your hard work, Councilor, and I'm sorry that you also didn't know about this until the previous meeting. Other Councilors, please support her motions which would make this process of data centers or any larger tech companies seeking land more transparent.

As we await the drawdown from Detroit Lake, I beg Councilors and the City Manager to consider what affect that will have on our local drinking water if we *also* must account for the water consumption the Verrus data center would require.

I'd like to draw attention to this part of the agenda:

The company's investment would be taxable, and after the first three years, those tax revenues would flow to the City's General Fund to help pay for City services like Police, Fire, and other services — as well as the Community Services Levy. Because the City is no longer collecting property tax increment revenue at the Mill Creek Urban Renewal Area, all property taxes collected from this development will be distributed to taxing districts such as the Salem-Keizer School District, Marion County, and Salem Area Mass Transit District (Cherriots).

If the City is no longer collecting property tax revenue from the Mill Creek Urban Renewal Center, then please explain how those property taxes would assist with the "Community Services Levy," which is based on property taxes. How will that money be distributed?

Verrus has asked in their pre-application questions of the City, "*We understand there is existing 18" watermain available in Turner and Deer Park Drive. Can the City provide the water pressure and available capacity of both mains?*" Does this mean the City of Salem will need to consult the City of Turner? Will tapping into this affect the water pressure of the

communities around this area?

If, as per the City's Use Classification chapter SRC 400.110(e), *"Facilities may or may not be regularly staffed by employees on-site,"* does that mean that the jobs Verrus promises for the community could actually go to people who do not reside in the City of Salem at all?

I could go on and on, but you have hundreds of residents tell you that they oppose the new AI data center. I also oppose this new AI data center. We, *including the City*, should not be encouraging the reliance on AI anymore. We should not be entering into NDAs about AI data centers or anything else that will greatly affect the local population. Even Verrus's claim of a "closed-loop" cooling system does not have sufficient evidence that its water consumption will not affect our local population. AI data centers are energy guzzlers; please consult the science brought about in many of the testimonies sent ahead of this meeting.

Do not allow what happened with Avelo and the airport to happen with Verrus and Mill Creek. They want to exploit our community. Are you going to listen to your constituents, or are you going to cave?

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of andreafoust@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:07 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Andrea Foust
Your Email	andreafoust@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038813396
Street	565 Leslie St. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	Dear City Council Members, I am writing to you about the proposed data center. If this project is truly such a benefit for Salem, why did discussions proceed under a nondisclosure agreement and without meaningful public involvement? Environmental advocate Erin Brockovich recently stated: "Datacentre developers often enter into nondisclosure agreements with local officials, so it is not possible to see why they were approved without environmental-impact assessments or input from residents. I am getting reports from people where their local leaders are changing zoning laws for this to happen." That raises an important question for our community: Why was the public excluded from conversations about a project that could have lasting impacts on Salem? I do not support the construction of this or any other large-scale data center in Salem or Oregon without a comprehensive public review. At a minimum, I urge the City to adopt a moratorium on new data center development until there has been a thorough assessment of the environmental, economic, and community impacts, along with meaningful public participation. Decisions of this magnitude deserve transparency and careful long-term planning. My concerns include the following: Water As climate change continues to affect Oregon through more frequent drought conditions and declining snowpack, water is becoming one of our most valuable and limited resources. Large data centers require substantial amounts of water for cooling. Before approving projects with significant water demands, the City should fully evaluate their long-term impact on Salem's water supply. Power and Climate Large data centers require enormous amounts of electricity, placing additional demands on the power grid. Communities that host these facilities have expressed concerns about increased infrastructure costs and higher electricity rates. Expanding energy demand without careful planning could also increase greenhouse gas emissions, which appears inconsistent with Salem's Climate Action Plan and our shared commitment to reducing emissions. Jobs and the Local Economy While data centers are often promoted as economic development, they generally create relatively few permanent jobs once construction is complete. At the same

time, the rapid expansion of AI infrastructure is contributing to changes in the workforce across many industries. Highly trained professionals, artists, writers, designers, and other creative workers are already experiencing displacement as AI technologies become more widespread. This broader economic impact deserves serious public discussion. Noise and Quality of Life Industrial-scale cooling systems and backup generators can produce continuous noise that affects nearby neighborhoods, wildlife, and overall quality of life. These impacts should be carefully studied before any approvals are granted. Property Values and Community Character Many residents choose Salem because of its neighborhoods, natural beauty, and quality of life. The construction of large industrial data centers has the potential to alter community character and may affect nearby property values. These concerns should not be dismissed. Short-Term Revenue vs. Long-Term Costs I understand that the City is considering the financial benefits this project may bring. However, any short-term revenue must be weighed against the long-term costs to our water resources, electrical infrastructure, environment, neighborhoods, and quality of life. Once these facilities are built, their impacts can last for decades. Salem is at an important crossroads. I respectfully ask the City to halt this project or, at the very least, join the dozens of municipalities across the United States that have adopted temporary moratoriums while they fully evaluate the impacts of large-scale data centers. Finally, I hope any nondisclosure agreement entered into with Verrus or any other data center developer does not prevent the City from acting in the best interests of Salem's residents. Public trust depends on transparency, accountability, and meaningful community participation. I urge you to put the long-term well-being of Salem ahead of short-term financial incentives. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Andrea Foust

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/27/2026.

From: [Adolfo de la Garza-Cano](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No DATA CENTERS IN SALEM OREGON
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:25:46 PM

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a Salem resident writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. We cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Salem residents will pay for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is not rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,

Adolfo Garza-Cano
Salem resident 97301

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Carl Hoffman

From: H., A. <hale5288@pacificu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 6:32 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]RE: Data Center

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Salem city, county, and council work for the people of Salem. The people need to trust that staff and council will listen to the evidence and the people to make decisions that are sound and hold companies accountable not only for the codes and ordinances but for the impact and well-being of the community. The current codes and ordinances are not written for the data center that Verrus is proposing. I am asking for a moratorium until the [impacts](#), with details and evidence, are understood and accountability regulations are in place. Please also consider the impact of the AI and data center bubble bursting, especially since Oregon is one of the [top 10 states](#) with the most data centers.

Additionally, the [Data Center Advisory Committee](#) will have recommendations at the end of September; although, if they are in line with the Governor's Prosperity Roadmap, they will likely favor taking more money from the budget for the mostly out-of-state 1% in the race to the bottom of business incentives and natural resources. Oregon imports energy, and our [hydro power is decreasing with droughts](#). DEQ already has thousands of [environmental cleanups](#) just in Salem.

Although Verrus is part of Alphabet (GOOGLE), this will be Verrus' [first data center build](#) since it was established in [2023](#) as a Limited Liability Company formed in [Delaware](#). It is [funded by Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan \(OTPP\) and private infrastructure fund StepStone Group](#) (STEP).

Here are a few of Verrus' promises or claims about their 3-two story data centers [emphasis added]:

-
-
- To use “**less**
- **water than an 18-hole golf course**, or about as much as just a few sit-down restaurants...**comply**
- **with all applicable** City of Salem noise standards, including nighttime thresholds”
-
-
-
- To use “a
- **battery-first**
- backup design...to **reduce**
- the routine operational air emissions associated with the diesel generators”.
-
-
-
- To be a data center company that “closely coordinates with its utility partners to
- **reduce**
- strain during peak demand and make
- better
- **use of the existing systems”.**
-
-

-
- That they commit to “**NDA-free**
- **relationships with local governments** and agencies” even though they had the city manager sign an NDA.
-

They also claim “they will be a long-term capital investment in Salem’s economy”. These are risky claims as they have not demonstrated the willingness or ability. Furthermore, we may be in an AI bubble and a data center glut.

Ed Zitron in “[The Subprime Data Center Crisis](#)” compares Data Center SPVs (data center debt deals) to collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) from the Great Recession. Will the AI bubble burst? Ed Zitron is not the only one who believes this is possible. Many think so, including: [Michael Burry](#), [Cory Doctorow](#), and [Gary Marcus](#). Annie Lowery of *The Atlantic* writes that, “[The AI Bubble is No Ordinary Bubble](#)”. I wonder how Oregon state and cities will manage with 93 [Oregon data centers](#) and the 32 planned Oregon data centers after the bubble bursts. The belief that data center money will feed the city and state is a gamble.

People make high-risk financial decisions because they believe they will pay off. They listen to the hype and worry about missing the boat. They make bets; they invest in collateralized debt obligations (mortgage-backed securities), bitcoin, cryptocurrency, or a start-up company. They gamble. Throughout history, this tendency has led to financial crises, panics, depressions, and recessions. More recently, it led to the Savings and Loan crisis, the Dot-com bubble, and the Great Recession. Today, high-risk financial decisions are being made in AI and data centers.

How will the city protect us?

Sincerely,

A. Hale

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From: [Amanda Holley](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]City Council Meeting 7/27/2026 - 5.3 - NO Data Centers in Salem!!
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:59:15 AM

Hello,

As a lifelong resident of Salem, I've watched this community grow and develop and seen things change and grow, some for good and some not so much. But nothing has drawn my attention or my ire as much as the discovery that there was a motion to build a data center in the heart of downtown Salem. The first reaction I had was, why didn't we, as citizens and voters, find out about this until now? Apparently, this was approved in 2025 and only came to light in 2026 now that the NDAs had cleared, which feels incredibly wrong because it seems like you've already made your decision without asking us, the people.

We have been told that we have to just 'accept' these data centers as an inevitability and to just grin and bear it, or we'll be left behind. That's disingenuous, to say the least. What reports have shown throughout this country is that time and time again, the people have stood up against these things and made their voices heard. Nobody wants these in their communities. No one wants these built. **No one wants AI**; no one has asked for it, and we can live without it. Now for the reasons why:

The Noise: The noise pollution of data centers is 'a constant hum', as reported by some. And according to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), "When operating, data centers emit sounds from the humming of cooling systems and air chillers, the rumbling of diesel generators, and the whirring of fans. Together, these sounds can be heard for hundreds of feet around the facilities. Data center neighbors have reported headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disturbances, ear pain, and hypertension....Data centers are becoming noisier as developers stack more information technology (IT) equipment and servers into smaller spaces. While individual servers are not especially loud, the compounding effect of thousands or tens of thousands of servers in a computing warehouse can raise noise levels to 96 decibels. This is a problem because some data centers are close to where people live, sometimes within 50 feet of homes" ([Link to the Article](#))

Water Use: It is claimed that this is a 'closed-loop' System, and this is

supposed to be preferable to the alternative. But data centers use a LOT of water. For example, "Google, which operates Oregon data centers at The Dalles, resisted disclosing its water use, paying \$100,000 for the city's lawsuit against The Oregonian, had filed a public records request for the data. When the suit was dropped, Google's water-use totals were public: 355.1 million gallons, a quarter of the city's annual water use in 2021." ([Link to Article](#))

In addition, the water is supposed to be recirculated and reused in the 'closed loop' system, yet after being reused, the wastewater is supposed to go somewhere. Where is the now-toxic water, full of pollutants and hazardous materials, supposed to go? The risk to our surrounding rivers, lakes, and groundwater is far too great. In addition, it requires additional water to be refilled; where would the replacement water come from? We already are in drought-like conditions, and it's expected to get worse every summer. As of July 24th, 2026, we have **140 wildfires** across the state.

Electricity Use: These data centers are going to use an exorbitant amount of energy, causing increased strain on grids that were never meant to handle this level of intense draw, especially during the hot summer months when more people want to use their AC units. That could result in a blackout. According to the Department of Energy, "data centers consumed about **4.4% of total U.S. electricity in 2023** and are expected to consume approximately **6.7 to 12% of total U.S. electricity by 2028**. The report indicates that total data center electricity usage climbed from 58 TWh in 2014 to 176 TWh in 2023 and estimates an increase between **325 to 580 TWh (Terawatt-Hours) by 2028**." ([Link to Article](#)) That is a MASSIVE increase, considering the average usage in the typical American home is **10,500 kWh (kilowatt-hours)** per year ([Link to Article](#)).

In addition, who is expected to pay for the additional cost of this data center? Us. The citizens of this community, who were never told about this project in the first place. Our energy costs are going to be rising as a result of this proposed data center because we are all going to have a strain on our energy costs.

Light Pollution: These large data centers will have to have lights on 24/7 to run and for security, which "disrupts the natural (circadian) rhythms of the body, including melatonin production (the hormone that regulates

sleep) and sleep-wake cycles. Light pollution is also disturbing migration patterns and habitat development among birds, butterflies, bats, cats, and turtles—to name only a handful.

The long-term impacts of both noise and light pollution include hearing loss, stress, insomnia, and decreased quality of life. ([Link to Article](#)).

There are so many other reasons not to support the proposed data center here in Salem. The risks are far too great for any possible 'benefit' to our community. We do not need AI. We do not need it here now, or ever. We must think not just for our immediate gratification, but for our future, our children's future, and our children's children's future. Our planet deserves better.

We and Salem deserves better.

Thank you,
Amanda Holley

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Carl Hoffman

From: Arielle White <arielle.white@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:18 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment: Oakline Data Center Proposal

Hello,

I would like to express my thoughts on the proposed Verrus data center: I am **not** in favor of this, and the majority of folks I've seen discussing it via Nextdoor are also against it. I've spoken with a few of my neighbors directly as well, and they are also against this.

We've been dealing with ongoing drought and other substantial loss to our water supplies, as you are aware. Water for people, animals, and agriculture is a definite need, with proven benefits since we all came into being. I'd rather *any* amount of water go toward growing apples than even one cup go toward a data center. The proponents of data centers keep trying to sell us on the *possible* good data centers can do, while pushing our focus away from the fact that we all definitely and immediately NEED water and definitely benefit from it. Any day of the week, I'm in favor of someone having water to drink over "maybe somewhere, somebody has made a silly animated video of a cat that 27 people will laugh at."

While I have heard that this proposed data center would use a closed-loop system and thus not require continuous access to our water, where is the water coming from initially? I very highly doubt they'd be sourcing it from somewhere distant, pay the cost to transport it, when it's more cost effective to just take it from us, closer to where this data center would be. Even if they'd use this close-loop system and the same water for a time, eventually it needs to be replaced. Where does this now-unsuitable-for-drinking water go? This is such a poor use of water that people, animals, and our crops require. The data center proposal specifies 75 permanent jobs after the construction - what about the potential loss of jobs in agriculture or related food services if we simply do not have enough water to continue producing food locally? One of the great things about living here is how much of the food is grown locally and feeds people locally.

I hope the city will put the needs and interests of the people living here and making this community what it is first. The tech millionaires and billionaires do not need more, they have enough. We, however, need water to survive.

Best,
Arielle White

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From: [Barb Spane](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center comments
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:28:51 AM

I've lived in Salem for over 45 years and have seen MANY changes to our city. Most of those changes have been for the good!

When outsiders ask me what I love most about Salem my answer is always a resounding "our city parks!"

It has taken a long time for Salem to become a beautiful place to live and I credit our past leadership in moving us forward.

My concern with the Data Center is first and foremost noise and water consumption. It's been stated that Verrus is a "low water/noise" operation... but that's very subjective! We need decible comparisons and water volume comparisons.

People, livestock, and agriculture water consumption must ALWAYS come first!

We have longer hotter and drier summer conditions than ever before... this must be considered when discussing giving our water away (even if we're being financially compensated for it).

AI means absolutely nothing if living beings are suffering from drought!

barb Spane

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Carl Hoffman

From: Brook Weir <brookaweir@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 3:30 PM
To: citycouncil; Salem Planning
Cc: Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; smathews@cityofsalem.net; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Request for Transparency and Community Input Regarding Potential Data Center Development

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I am a Salem resident concerned about the potential expansion of large-scale data center development in our community.

I recognize the importance of technology infrastructure and economic development, but I believe residents deserve transparency and meaningful opportunities for input before major land-use decisions are made.

I respectfully request information regarding any proposed data center projects in the Salem area, including anticipated impacts related to energy demand, water usage, noise, air quality, traffic, infrastructure capacity, and long-term effects on surrounding neighborhoods.

I also ask that the City ensure robust public engagement and independent review processes before approving developments of this scale.

Thank you for your service to our community. I appreciate your commitment to considering residents' concerns as Salem continues to grow.

Sincerely,
B. Weir

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Carl Hoffman

From: cb@claudiaburton.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:05 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Shane Matthews; SALEM Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment regarding proposed data center for meeting July 27, 2026
Attachments: Burton_City_Council_comments_7-27-26.pdf

Attached are my written comments regarding the data center. I would appreciate it if all councilors were provided this information ahead of tonight's meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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From: [Cheri Hawkins-Weltz](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Please stop the data center from coming to Salem and Oregon
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:20:28 AM

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed construction of an AI data center in the City of Salem, Oregon. The prospect of such a facility raises serious questions regarding its impact on our environment, our drinking water, and the well-being of all the animals living in our local ecosystem.

From the outset, it seems clear that a project of this scale could potentially disrupt the delicate balance of nature in Salem. The environmental risks—ranging from increased energy consumption to the strain on our water resources—are far too significant to overlook. Not only could our drinking water be put at risk, but the lives of countless species that call Salem home might also be jeopardized.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge you not to allow the development of the AI data center to proceed until comprehensive research has been conducted into its long-term effects on both our population and the environment. We owe it to ourselves, future generations, and the wildlife in our community to ensure that every possible impact has been thoroughly investigated and addressed.

Please take these issues seriously and prioritize the health and safety of Salem's residents and its natural surroundings. Thank you very much for your attention to this urgent matter.

Best regards,

Cheri Hawkins-Weltz
6164 Kite Court N
97303
503-930-3266

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Christopher Lopez <christopher.lopez@mwvcaa.org>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:50 AM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: jimmy.jones@mwvcaa.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment (Agenda Item 5.1) Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek Corporate Center
Attachments: MWVCAA- Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek Corporate Center Public Testimony.pdf

Dear City Recorder,

Please accept the attached written public comment on behalf of Jimmy Jones, Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), regarding Agenda Item 5.1, the proposed data center at Mill Creek Corporate Center, for this evening's Salem City Council meeting. Jimmy is a Salem resident, and MWVCAA is headquartered in Salem.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Christopher

Christopher Lopez (he/him)
Director of Advocacy
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Direct: 541.829.9133
www.mwvcaa.org



Mid-Willamette Valley
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25 July 2026

Mayor Hoy and Members of the Salem City Council
City of Salem
555 Liberty Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek Corporate Center – Neutral Position

Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council:

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), headquartered in Salem. Across Marion, Polk, and nine other Oregon counties, MWVCAA administers more than \$80 million annually in services and direct assistance supporting housing stability, homelessness response, early learning, energy assistance, nutrition, workforce development, and other essential needs for tens of thousands of Oregonians. In Salem, we work alongside the City, schools, health systems, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to meet immediate needs, connect systems, and strengthen the pathways that help residents move toward long-term stability.

MWVCAA remains neutral on whether the proposed data center at Mill Creek Corporate Center should move forward. We recognize that the City is considering a complex project shaped by state land-use law, existing industrial zoning, infrastructure demands, and Salem's long-term fiscal needs. We also recognize the scale of the economic opportunity the project may present.

Our interest is in how Salem defines and protects a public return that improves life for residents across the whole community.

Large economic development projects can create substantial public value, but their clearest financial benefits often remain with large corporate and financial interests. For most residents, the promise is more distant and may never translate into lower costs, stronger public services, or greater financial stability. Salem should not leave that outcome to chance. A defined and protected public commitment will ensure that part of the project's value reaches the whole community in lasting and visible ways.

Part of the project's value should show up in the daily lives of Salem residents. It should help families remain in their homes, prevent people from falling into homelessness, reduce pressure from rising household costs, and expand access to housing people can afford. The City can protect that commitment by placing a defined share of new project revenue into a protected community investment that will endure across future councils and budget cycles.

The public commitment should be clear, enforceable, and transparent from the beginning. Residents should know how the revenue is calculated, where it goes, who oversees it, and how the City measures its impact. Those safeguards will protect the purpose of the investment as leadership, budgets, and community needs change.

Henrico County, Virginia, is an example of this visionary approach. In 2024, the county created the Henrico Affordable Housing Trust Fund with \$60 million in data-center revenue and established an ongoing connection between new economic development and affordable homeownership. Rather than allowing growth to remain an abstract promise, Henrico converted it into a lasting support for residents facing the greatest barriers to stability.

Salem should join the communities shaping this next generation of economic development. A dedicated public trust or similar structure can turn part of the project's value into a durable asset, directing the greatest benefit to residents with the fewest resources while strengthening stability and opportunity across the community.

The lasting value of the project will depend on what the City chooses to build from its public return. Salem can define this project by more than whether it is approved or denied. A protected community investment will turn future revenue into stronger families, greater stability, and a community better prepared for the future. Economic development should not only generate revenue. It should strengthen the community that makes it possible.

Respectfully,



Jimmy Jones
Executive Director

Additional Resources:

Henrico County: Affordable Housing Trust Fund

<https://henrico.gov/revit/affordable-housing-trust-fund/>

Henrico County: "Henrico to Create Trust to Enhance Access to Affordable Homeownership"

<https://henrico.gov/news/2024/05/henrico-to-create-trust-to-enhance-access-to-affordable-homeownership/>

Urban Institute: "Turning Data Center Revenues into Affordable Homes"

<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/turning-data-center-revenues-affordable-homes>

TIME: "Data Center Cash Is Powering an Affordable Housing Experiment"

<https://time.com/article/2026/03/11/data-centers-affordable-housing/>

Carl Hoffman

From: Carly Parker <mamacjparker@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 10:21 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Written comment for City Council Meeting Monday July 27, 2026

City Council and Mayor Julie Hoy,

Hello, my name is Carly Parker and I am a resident of Salem. I am writing to express my opposition to the Oakline at Mill Creek proposal.

Data centers have been proven to be more harmful to the communities they occupy than they are helpful. The small amount of jobs they create do not make up for the water and noise pollution data centers produce. These corporations are not investing in our city, they would be draining our resources and making millions off of it.

Please do not allow this or any other data centers to be built in our city.

Thank you,
Carly Parker

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Carl Hoffman

From: Cody Tesch <jdog209@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:13 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Input for the city meeting July 27th 2026 topic: data center proposal

To the Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed data center on the 75-acre site near Turner Road SE and Logistics Street SE.

I support responsible economic development and understand that this area is intended for industrial use. However, I do not believe a data center is the best use of such a large piece of industrial land.

Data centers occupy significant amounts of land and infrastructure while providing relatively few permanent jobs after construction is complete. If Salem is going to dedicate 75 acres to a major development, I believe it should be for a project that creates more long-term employment opportunities and delivers greater benefits to the local economy.

This decision is not just about one project. It is about how we choose to use valuable industrial land for decades to come. Once this land is developed as a data center, that opportunity is gone. I hope the City Council carefully considers whether this project represents the best long-term value for Salem and its residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to deny the proposed data center.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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From: [Cody Tesch](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Input for the city meeting July 27th 2026 topic: data center proposal
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:13:11 PM

To the Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed data center on the 75-acre site near Turner Road SE and Logistics Street SE.

I support responsible economic development and understand that this area is intended for industrial use. However, I do not believe a data center is the best use of such a large piece of industrial land.

Data centers occupy significant amounts of land and infrastructure while providing relatively few permanent jobs after construction is complete. If Salem is going to dedicate 75 acres to a major development, I believe it should be for a project that creates more long-term employment opportunities and delivers greater benefits to the local economy.

This decision is not just about one project. It is about how we choose to use valuable industrial land for decades to come. Once this land is developed as a data center, that opportunity is gone. I hope the City Council carefully considers whether this project represents the best long-term value for Salem and its residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to deny the proposed data center.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Cody_titus@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:44 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Cody Titus
Your Email	Cody_titus@yahoo.com
Your Phone	541-514-1571
Street	1395 Jefferson St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	I'm writing in regards to the proposed data center in Salem. The people of Salem do not want AI data centers! They mentioned that the data center will be a closed loop water center and uses less water that way. Data centers don't need to use water to cool. There is a whole list of other ways that they can cool their systems, it's just water is the cheapest. Using water period, close loop or not, takes from the community. Ever other place that data centers have cropped up it has been nothing but negative for the people around. I do not think AI data centers have been researched enough for them to know a energy efficiency way to operate them. The actions that I am see here are the actions of people that do not care about the people of Salem but rather care about their wallets. I think you know this is the wrong choice to make for the people that's why you signed an NDA with the company making the data center so the people of Salem wouldn't be able to stop you. To quote a friend of mine "Building a data center is a desperate act of a dieing town in the middle of nowhere to bring in revenue that doesn't work and instead they end up on 60 minutes with Erin Brockovich representing them because the brown water runs at a trickle, the electricity doesn't work, and everyone has vertigo, migraines, and asthma. We are the capital city of Oregon, let's act like it." The people of Salem are done with this sort of behavior. We do not forget and we will remember when it comes time to vote.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/27/2026.

Carl Hoffman

From: Christine Vesper <cdhansen.802@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:28 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Verrus' data center proposal public comment

July 27, 2026

City of Salem Planning Division

Re: Public Comment Regarding Verrus' Proposed Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding Verrus' proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center development in southeast Salem.

I recognize that data centers play an increasingly important role in our modern economy and that responsible economic development benefits our region. My concern is not with data centers as a concept, but with this specific location given its proximity to existing neighborhoods and the families who call this area home.

I live in this community because I value its quiet character, open space, and quality of life. Decisions made today will shape this area for decades, and I respectfully ask the City to place the interests of existing residents alongside the potential economic benefits of this proposal.

Before approving a project of this magnitude, I urge the City to require comprehensive, transparent, and independently reviewed studies addressing:

- Long-term noise from cooling equipment and mechanical systems operating 24 hours a day. This noise may not exceed the decibel level but it will affect animals and our neurodivergent community, both of whom are affected by these types of noise.
- Traffic impacts during both construction and ongoing operations.
- Air quality impacts from backup diesel generators and emergency power systems.
- Water use and long-term sustainability, particularly during periods of drought.
- Electrical infrastructure demands and any effects on the broader community.
- Stormwater management and impacts to nearby natural resources and wildlife habitat.
- Light pollution and visual impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.
- Potential cumulative impacts as additional data center development occurs in the future.

I am also concerned that a development of this scale may permanently alter the character of southeast Salem. Residents purchased homes and invested in this community with the expectation that future development would remain compatible with nearby neighborhoods. The City has an obligation to carefully consider how this proposal will affect quality of life, neighborhood character, and homeowners who have made long-term investments here.

Economic development is important, but so is thoughtful planning. Once a project of this size is approved and constructed, its impacts cannot easily be reversed. I respectfully ask the City to proceed cautiously and require that every potential impact be fully evaluated before any approvals are granted.

Given the documented negative effects experienced by other communities, I ask that the City deny this proposal if all concerns cannot be effectively mitigated.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your careful consideration of the concerns raised by members of our community.

Respectfully,

Christine Vesper

6095 Pear Tree Ln SE

Salem, OR 97317

Green Hills East

cdhansen.802@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Cheri Hawkins-Weltz <cherihawk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:20 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Please stop the data center from coming to Salem and Oregon

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed construction of an AI data center in the City of Salem, Oregon. The prospect of such a facility raises serious questions regarding its impact on our environment, our drinking water, and the well-being of all the animals living in our local ecosystem.

From the outset, it seems clear that a project of this scale could potentially disrupt the delicate balance of nature in Salem. The environmental risks—ranging from increased energy consumption to the strain on our water resources—are far too significant to overlook. Not only could our drinking water be put at risk, but the lives of countless species that call Salem home might also be jeopardized.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge you not to allow the development of the AI data center to proceed until comprehensive research has been conducted into its long-term effects on both our population and the environment. We owe it to ourselves, future generations, and the wildlife in our community to ensure that every possible impact has been thoroughly investigated and addressed.

Please take these issues seriously and prioritize the health and safety of Salem's residents and its natural surroundings. Thank you very much for your attention to this urgent matter.

Best regards,

Cheri Hawkins-Weltz
6164 Kite Court N
97303
503-930-3266

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Cindy Wignot <cbwiggy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:10 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; Shane Matthews; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Extremely concerned RE: proposed DATA CENTER

Hello,

I want to express my extreme concern about the proposed Data Center in South Salem.

I'm actually shocked & very disappointed that Salem City Council, the Salem government as a whole and even Oregon state government would even consider allowing a HUGE data center inside Salem, given the well-documented reports of the damage and danger these facilities are bringing to other communities around the U.S.

I understand and support the desire / need to bring in more tax dollars to Salem, but this id definitely NOT the way to do it.

Please register my comment as a "NO to this development."

Thank you,
Cynthia L. Wignot
400 Doaks Ferry Rd. NW
Salem, OR 97304

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Carl Hoffman

From: Dianne Greenlee <dianne.greenlee@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:36 PM
To: Mai Vang; citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center Questions

Hello, Verrus promises not to substantially compromise the electrical grid by - in part - using batteries to contribute to the data center operations. .

*By reducing reliance on traditional generators and incorporating **intelligently orchestrated batteries** and other distributed energy resources, our active energy management system can balance between high-availability and interruptible workloads, optimize for carbon-free energy procurement, and provide critical relief to the electric grid.*

Some current questions/concerns are:

1. Do these batteries need to be regularly replaced? If the answer to this is yes (which I assume it is) how are these batteries disposed of? Where will they go? To a landfill somewhere?
2. What does "Intelligently Orchestrated Batteries" actually mean?
3. A written agreement between Verrus and the City of Salem should, step-by-step, stipulate the management of the data center over time to ensure that the environmentally-friendly operations (per Verrus) continue. Will this agreement be publicly available?
4. Verrus claims that the data center in Salem will add 75 jobs. Will other jobs within the area be compromised by the data center?

Please be transparent with this project. It is disappointing that the Salem City Council did not share this information earlier with Salem residents.

Thank you,

Dianne Greenlee
Ward 6

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Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Nishioka
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 5:49 PM
To: Holly Carter
Subject: Re: Please fight Verrus data center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms. Carter,

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns regarding the proposed Oakline Data Center. I appreciate hearing from residents on issues that are important to them, and I understand the depth of your concern.

Like many residents, I first learned about the proposed data center on Friday, July 10. I, too, have many questions and am actively seeking information so I can better understand the proposal, its potential impacts, and the City's role in the process.

I will be forwarding your email to City staff so they are aware of your concerns. As additional information becomes available, I expect it will be shared publicly so residents have the opportunity to review the facts and participate in the discussion.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda Nishioka
Salem City Councilor, Ward 2

Linda Nishioka (She/Her)

City Councilor - Ward 2

lnishioka@cityofsalem.net | 971-707-2112

From: Holly Carter <lynnedebrooke@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, July 17, 2026 at 5:06 PM
To: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Please fight Verrus data center

Dear Councilwoman Nishioka,

I'm writing today from a place of deep alarm at the recent news of the city's negotiations with Verrus to build a data center in our community's backyard. Apart from the obvious concerns about the impact such a deal would have on Salem's energy resources and precious water supply, I'm deeply concerned by the clandestine nature of the negotiations to date, including the NDA that put Verrus's interests above that of residents as well as the move to hide negotiations from the city council until just a few days ago. Neither of these moves signal good faith on behalf of Verrus OR whoever has been representing Salem in

negotiations to date. This deal is NOT in the best interests of our community, and I urge you to use your leverage on the Council to speak up on behalf of residents with valid concerns.

Thank you,
Holly Carter
Salem resident since 2007

From: [Hai Nguyen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Testimony on Data Center
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:22:16 AM

Good evening, Mayor and City Councilors.

My name is Hai Nguyen, and I am a small business owner here in Salem. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I ask the City Council to carefully consider the long-term impacts before approving a large-scale data center in our community.

While data centers bring investment during construction, they often create relatively few permanent local jobs compared to the amount of land, infrastructure, and resources they consume. Once operational, many facilities employ only a limited number of full-time workers.

I am also concerned about the strain on our city's infrastructure. Large data centers can require enormous amounts of electricity and, depending on their cooling systems, significant amounts of water. As Salem continues to grow, we should prioritize infrastructure that supports housing, local businesses, manufacturing, and industries that create a larger number of long-term family-wage jobs.

Another concern is the opportunity cost. Seventy-five acres of industrial land is a valuable resource. Once it is committed to a data center, that land is no longer available for businesses that may employ hundreds or even thousands of local residents. We should ask ourselves whether this is the highest and best use of this property.

I also encourage the Council to consider the environmental impacts, including increased energy demand, backup generator emissions, noise, and the potential effects on nearby neighborhoods and wildlife. These issues deserve careful study and public discussion.

I am not opposed to technology or economic development. I support responsible growth that benefits Salem residents. However, I believe any project of this size should clearly demonstrate that the long-term public benefits outweigh the costs to our community.

I respectfully ask the City Council to slow this process, require a thorough public review, fully evaluate the impacts on infrastructure and natural resources, and ensure Salem residents have every opportunity to be heard before any final decision is made.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Hai Nguyen

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Carl Hoffman

From: James Douglas <jamest.douglas18@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:05 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]July 27 Agenda item 5.1 comments

Good morning Mayor and Council.

I am writing today in opposition to data centers. While many reasons could be discussed, the current situation requires a focus on the following.

1. The City of Salem is currently unprepared for the additional strain on municipal utilities and resources demanded by this industry. Insufficient information exists in fact finding to understand whether or not current city resources and infrastructure can handle the demands of a new data center. Even with sufficient information, the lead time to increase water and wastewater services is not adequate. Boom and bust technology such as data centers require significant investment in public infrastructure and eventually leave the community holding the bill.
2. The City of Salem has not explored all options for ensuring citizens are adequately compensated for large industrial impacts of data centers within the jurisdiction. In my opinion data centers the cost benefit of data centers being built in Salem is not there. However, should mayor and council decide to move forward, they should first consider additional requirements and levers to ensure they are providing the most potential benefit for the constituents they serve. Across the nation, other municipalities have discovered that through impact fees, development fees, tiered water usage rates, and other locally controlled levers the building of data centers can provide a significant source of funds to ensure community benefit. These strategies have been used to fund everything from E-bike rebates to tree planting, to additional infrastructure upgrades. If the construction of data centers in the community is inevitable it is the responsibility of Mayor and council to ensure the city outlines a plan forward. This should include more creativity in negotiating the terms in which large industrial operations may exist in Salem.
3. Maintaining municipal control of utilities to prioritize human health and the environment. While the exact water use of this data center is not known or willing to be shared, the city of Salem should maintain a practical and proactive stance to utility control. In utility connection agreements with large users please consider a built in "off switch". During times of extreme drought or emergencies where human health is impacted, our limited resources should not be going to cool data processing. In addition, and as mentioned above, water rate structures that accomodate for high usage industries should be put in place to ensure the cost of infrastructure and resources are allocated accordingly. The community of Salem deserves a level of prioritization and security of resources from leadership when it comes to these large industrial operations.

For the purposes of this week's meeting I will leave this list at three examples. I appreciate your time and energy in reading this input. I hope that as the leadership of our community, you will continue to have our best interests in mind.

Thank you.

James Douglas

Ward 8

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Carl Hoffman

From: Joe <elderemo321@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:14 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center

Hi, I'm an oregon resident near the Salem area. Just heard the news about a zoning contract with some California company called Verrus. I know that they intend to take up 75 acres of land for a data center. I highly oppose this idea. Ever since open AI has made it's way into the hands of the public, these data center's have been popping up left and right. Polluting people's water sources. Spiking up their electricity bills. Not to mention the amount of heat it generates could likely end up causing more harm than good. I ask you, to take into consideration, not just what's best for these big tech companies but for the people of Salem. Deny the application for a data center. We really don't need anymore industrialization of AI.

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Carl Hoffman

From: julieerick <julieerick@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:41 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]OPPOSE the Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center Proposal

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I urge you to reject the proposed Oakland at Mill Creek data center. This project raises serious concerns about increased noise, strain on our water and power infrastructure, and a lack of transparency in the approval process. While construction jobs are temporary, Salem residents will live with the long-term impacts for decades.

PLEASE PRIORITIZE the health, quality of life, and interests of Salem residents over this project. I respectfully ask you to OPPOSE the proposal and require a more transparent process with meaningful public input.

I hope that extensive research has been done to see the negative and devastating effects this has on communities without having much of a positive outcome. The damage cannot be undone!!! Perhaps this is why the planning stages have been kept secret!!!!

Thank you for your consideration,

Julie Erickson

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From: [Susan Graves / Lloyd Chapman](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Agenda Item 5.1 - Data Center
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:34:07 PM
Attachments: [Mill Creek Data Center.doc](#)

Please find attached a summary of one South Salem neighborhood's concerns regarding the proposed Mill Creek Data Center and include it in the city council packet for July 27, 2026.

Thanks,

Jody Kishpaugh
Stanley Lane Neighbors

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Say No to Data Centers

We live on Stanley Lane and several other streets in our South Salem neighborhood.

We address you as an established neighborhood originating in the 1950s. Collectively and collaboratively we are opposed to the proposed Mill Creek Data Center.

At a brief neighborhood meeting on July 22 2026 the following concerns were raised:

- First and foremost, the lack of local government transparency re: Verrus and the proposed data center;
- The impact on utility usage and the cost to the community
- Potential depletion impact on the community water supply
- Potential impact on Salem's finite water system and electrical system;
- The impact on our community with re: 24-7 disruptive noise with unknown impact on neighbors and wildlife in the vicinity;
- Lack of a cost benefit analysis re: Verrus; how does the community actually benefit from this endeavor. We understand that Verrus has not previously built a data center and question whether commitments they make will be upheld. after construction and with the end user.

We are proposing an immediate halt to the action.

Thank you for your attention to these important community issues.

Sincerely,

Joanna Kishpaugh, Jerolyn Miner, Madeline Mulhern, Jeff and Denise Robers, Nicole Kielsmeier, Art and Veronica Cocker, Michael Miner, Jennifer Carley, Bruce and Lorie Fontaine, Lloyd Chapman, Susan Graves

Joanna Kishbaugh
kishpaughjody@gmail.com

3753 Stanley Lane S.

Carl Hoffman

From: Jessica McLane <jessicanmclane@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:28 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to Proposed Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" Data Center

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council,

I am writing as a local resident to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" data center in southeast Salem.

While I understand the desire for economic investment, I am deeply concerned about the long-term strains this massive project will place on our community's infrastructure. Data centers require immense amounts of electricity and water to operate, which risks driving up utility costs and straining resources for local households. Furthermore, these facilities generate minimal permanent jobs relative to their massive physical footprint and high resource consumption.

Southeast Salem deserves development that prioritizes community well-being, environmental sustainability, and local neighborhoods over high-impact industrial operations. I urge the City Council to thoroughly scrutinize this proposal's long-term impacts on our grid, water supply, and local environment before moving forward with any approvals.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to listening to the voices of Salem residents.

Sincerely,

Jessica McLane

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From: [Jessica McLane](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to Proposed Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" Data Center
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:28:42 PM

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council,

I am writing as a local resident to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" data center in southeast Salem.

While I understand the desire for economic investment, I am deeply concerned about the long-term strains this massive project will place on our community's infrastructure. Data centers require immense amounts of electricity and water to operate, which risks driving up utility costs and straining resources for local households. Furthermore, these facilities generate minimal permanent jobs relative to their massive physical footprint and high resource consumption.

Southeast Salem deserves development that prioritizes community well-being, environmental sustainability, and local neighborhoods over high-impact industrial operations. I urge the City Council to thoroughly scrutinize this proposal's long-term impacts on our grid, water supply, and local environment before moving forward with any approvals.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to listening to the voices of Salem residents.

Sincerely,

Jessica McLane

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jennifer Price <jenbered@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:05 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment on the Proposed Oakline at Mill Creek Project (Verrus)

Date: July 27, 2026

To: City of Salem City Council / Planning Commission

Regarding: Public Comment on the Proposed Oakline at Mill Creek Project (Verrus)

Submitted By:

Jennifer Ann Price

4851 WB Post Drive NE

Salem, OR 97305

To the Members of the Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my professional and personal objections to the 75-acre development plan submitted for the Mill Creek Corporate Center. My perspective is shaped by the information regarding this project I could find online, my residency in Salem, my bachelors of science degree in environmental engineering, and my extensive career background as a hydrologist and electric utility project manager. Because of this background, I recognize serious logistical flaws and community resource threats in the current proposal that standard reviews might overlook.

I request that municipal leaders closely evaluate seven primary technical, legal, and economic flaws before moving forward with this approval:

1. **Zoning Non-Compliance:** The developer intends to implement an industrial power production footprint capable of generating up to 768 megawatts on-site. Salem's existing advanced manufacturing zoning framework specifically excludes heavy power plants from this designation. Granting an exception for an active generation facility of this size ignores the explicit intent of local land-use laws.
2. **Unaddressed Grid Infrastructure Corridors:** Integrating a multi-hundred-megawatt industrial user into the local grid demands far more than localized wiring. It requires the physical establishment of a new high-voltage transmission corridor to supply the proposed substation. The municipality must mandate a thorough geographical and ecological review of this upcoming right-of-way, including its broad visual disruptions, potentially necessary clear-cutting, and property easements.
3. **The Thermal Efficiency Trade-off:** The applicant's marketing heavily emphasizes a reduction in water consumption through a closed-loop mechanical framework. From a utility management standpoint, bypassing fluid evaporation creates an immense thermodynamic energy penalty. The

design appears to merely swap water usage for unprecedented grid strain, demanding a massive amount of electricity simply to operate the necessary cooling machinery.

4. Simultaneous Disruption to Twin Watersheds: The 75-acre project area sits directly on top of the hydrologic ridge dividing the Pringle Creek Watershed and the Mill Creek Watershed. Stripping natural topography to build massive concrete pads and roofs creates an immediate stormwater hazard. High-velocity runoff and changed absorption patterns will alter the baseline hydrology of two independent local creek ecosystems at the exact same time.
5. Erosion of Public Oversight via Non-Disclosure Agreements: The prolonged enforcement of an economic non-disclosure agreement kept local citizens completely unaware of the immense scale of this project for well over a year. While legitimate proprietary trade secrets deserve legal protection under established state statutes, these confidential contracts are instead being used to hide the true scale of community utility consumption. Public resources should never be negotiated under conditions of enforced municipal silence.
6. Zero-Sum Resource Allocation and Urban Forestry Threats: Because this is Salem's first proposed data center development, the city has an obligation to protect our local water table before setting a dangerous precedent. Committing baseline municipal water capacity to automated server infrastructure during a period of increasing regional drought is an unsustainable risk to our citizens. Furthermore, paving over the majority of 75 acres of permeable terrain eliminates natural aquifer recharge. This localized groundwater drawdown directly threatens the survival of Salem's native tree canopy and the very heritage oak groves on-site that the applicant promises to protect.
7. Negligible Employment Yield Relative to Scale: The application projects the creation of only 75 long-term positions across this massive 75-acre campus. This represents an incredibly low density of exactly one job per acre. Traditional industrial use of this land would provide hundreds of varied jobs for local families. Sacrificing a vast portion of Salem's infrastructure capacity is a poor trade for an automated facility run by a skeleton crew, especially when the external burden of long-term grid maintenance falls on public utility crews rather than the developer's payroll.

Because the applicant has failed to provide transparent figures regarding maximum utility draw and precise grid-tie routes, I urge the city to pause all voting and approvals. The Planning Commission should require a fully independent engineering audit regarding zoning, transmission corridors, and dual-watershed stormwater impacts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for entering this testimony into the official record.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ann Price

4851 WB Post Drive NE

Salem, OR 97305

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jane Somerville <jane.somerville2015@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:32 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment- data center

Counselors,

As a long time resident of Salem, I urge you to stop the Verrus data center project. The only entity that will benefit from the data center is Verrus itself. As I'm sure you've heard, data centers all over the country have harmed the environment and infrastructures of the communities they're built in. Verrus has promised that this one will be different- quieter, cleaner, friendlier than all the rest. For the sake of argument, let's assume they're right and that this particular data center could have a minimal impact on the neighborhood.

Even if that is true, I still do not want it. I do not want any of my city's resources going to a data center. I don't want these insidious corporations to have more resources and power than they already do. I don't want the ancestral lands of the kalapuya to be used to support unnecessary artificial intelligence.

The city of Salem has an opportunity to avoid the harms that data centers are causing throughout the country. Please, stop all negotiations with Verrus NOW.

Jane Somerville

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Carl Hoffman

From: J Stembridge <stembrij@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 3:24 AM
To: Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney; Mai Vang; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn; CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Testimony for 7/2726 City Council Meeting

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council,

I encourage you to approve Agenda items 5.2 and 5.3

However neither agenda item impacts the Verrus proposal to develop a data center in SE Salem. Therefore I strongly urge the Salem City Council to do the following regarding the Verrus proposal:

1. Research other communities that have active data centers developed and managed by Verrus. How are those communities doing?
2. If Verrus has no active data centers operating there is no way to verify Verrus will develop a data center that they say will have low water usage, low noise pollution, low air pollution, high quality job creation and community support.
3. Do not proceed with Verrus unless and until the City of Salem creates a panel of scientists and public health care practitioners who visit other active data centers, study the Verrus proposal, and then recommend approval of the Verrus proposal.

Thank you for your public service and your efforts to create a healthy vibrant community for all residents.

Sincerely,

Joan Stembridge

48 resident of Salem

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jean W <jean.waring@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:31 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]NO to Data center

I am writing to voice opposition to the proposed Varus data center based on the noise pollution, water table injury, negative job growth compared to other opportunities, and degradation of the environment from back-up diesel generators.

Jean Waring
780 Waldo ave SE, Salem, OR 97302

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From: [James](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data centers
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:54:48 PM

With the current climate of this administration and the lack of trust in both political parties, why should Salem as a community allow a Data center, which in my opinion will be used against the community as a whole to be built in our back yard.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jose <joeym2882@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center

Hi, I'm an oregon resident near the Salem area. Just heard the news about a zoning contract with some California company called Verrus. I know that they intend to take up 75 acres of land for a data center. I highly oppose this idea. Ever since open AI has made it's way into the hands of the public, these data center's have been popping up left and right. Polluting people's water sources. Spiking up their electricity bills. Not to mention the amount of heat it generates could likely end up causing more harm than good. I ask you, to take into consideration, not just what's best for these big tech companies but for the people of Salem. Deny the application for a data center. We really don't need anymore industrialization of AI.

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From: [kristin gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Subject: proposed data center in SE Salem
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:46:42 PM

DATA CENTER MEETING

July 27, 2026

- Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council,

My name is Kristin Gwyn.

I was born, raised, and continue to live in South Salem. As a lifelong resident, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus data center campus at the edge of South Salem.

While I understand this project is in its early planning stages, the recent expiration of a 16-month non-disclosure agreement (NDA) raises profound questions about transparency. Keeping a project of this magnitude hidden from the public for over a year erodes community trust. A development that demands so much from our local environment should never be negotiated behind closed doors, away from the citizens it will directly impact.

I fear our infrastructure cannot support a project of this scale. Salem is not a massive metropolis; our systems are already strained. While the new housing developments on our outskirts are necessary, local prices have far outpaced local wages, and homelessness has reached a crisis level. Given these financial hardships, the possibility of this data center driving up our utility costs is startling. Despite promises of closed-loop cooling and peak-shaving batteries, if this facility's massive electricity and water consumption strains our local capacity, our most vulnerable, low-income residents will bear the financial burden.

Furthermore, I am deeply worried about the threat of contamination to Mill Creek and the destruction of our protected heritage oak trees. Introducing a massive industrial consumer next to Mill Creek is an unnecessary risk, especially while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing plans regarding Detroit Lake leave our foundational water supply in a fragile state.

Finally, we must address an issue plaguing data center neighbors nationwide: the high level of continuous, low-frequency noise. Across the country, residents living in proximity to these facilities suffer from constant acoustic pollution that degrades quality

of life, lowers property values, and harms mental health. Bringing this severe disruption directly to the edge of our residential community is unacceptable.

I ask the City Council to prioritize the people who have built their lives in Salem over outside tech corporations. Please thoroughly scrutinize this project and consider the cumulative impacts of the hidden 16-month NDA, infrastructure strain, environmental risks, and unlivable noise levels.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Kristin Gwyn
with James Gwyn
and Kaitlin Gwyn

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Carl Hoffman

From: kristin gwyn <keygwyn@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:47 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Subject: proposed data center in SE Salem

DATA CENTER MEETING

July 27, 2026

- Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council,

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I was born, raised, and continue to live in South Salem. As a lifelong resident, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus data center campus at the edge of South Salem.

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Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Kristin Gwyn
with James Gwyn
and Kaitlin Gwyn

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From: [Katie Hawk](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data centers in Salem
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 4:37:16 AM

Data centers consume vast amounts of water & we already face some issues with our water supply. They use astronomical amounts of electricity & even if they provide some upgrades to our system we cannot trust that our personal electric bills won't increase as has happened in other states. Another issue is the soil becomes contaminated from data centers. The sound emitted causes headaches & other health issues in humans, I'm not certain what effects if any on wildlife. The bright light emitted impacts any living nearby as well as migratory birds. Data centers go against everything Oregonians love & want for our state. Keep our state beautiful & healthy, do not allow more data centers in Oregon. It's terrible we are in the group of states with the second highest number of data centers in the nation & the US has 43 to 46% of all data centers in the world. These have far reaching negative impacts. Please stand with Oregonians Against Data Centers.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely, Katie Hawk

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Carl Hoffman

From: Kimberly Hawk <kahawk23007@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 3:19 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers

Good afternoon,

This email is to confirm that we DO NOT want data centers in or near Salem or the surrounding communities or anywhere within the state of Oregon.

Data centers have been proven to be harsh on the environment and water shelf of the communities close to these centers.

With much of the world on literal fire right now, we need to be better stewards of our city, county, community, state, region, country, and world.

No Data Centers in Oregon.

Thank you,
Kim (they/them)
[Why Pronouns Matter](#)
kahawk23007@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Kristen Kessler <kess4652@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:42 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Proposed data center

Dear Salem City Council,

I don't live in Salem, but have visited several times, and am considering moving there when I retire. I am distressed and saddened by the proposed data center, and the fact that the city entered into an NDA about this project.

Salem is a lovely town. Its natural beauty is what draws visitors like myself. If this project goes through, I doubt I will want to visit Salem in the future. I want to plant the seed that data centers are not good for tourism. Please do not go through with this project.

Thank you,
Kristen Kessler
Ventura, CA

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Carl Hoffman

From: Karla Spence <spencekarla@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:27 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Mill Creek Data Center

NO NO NO!!!! Me and my family and friends are a resolute NO! It's too big a drain on our precious natural resources, especially water, creates very few jobs after initial construction and displaces ecosystems. Don't do it!!

Karla Marks
Salem
503-931-1049

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Carl Hoffman

From: LJ Anderson <ljanderson120@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 5:47 PM
To: CityRecorder; Julie Hoy; Micki Varney; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on Salem City Council agenda on July 27, 2026

Dear City Council members:

I'm very concerned about the potential for a data center to be constructed in Salem, OR, and want to express my deep opposition to this plan. The proliferation of data centers in communities across America is one of the most contentious issues in our country right now. According to legitimate polling, over 70% of Americans are opposed to these centers--for a multitude of troubling factors which adversely affect their health, safety, and quality of life. And no matter what the developers "promise" to the city initially and "what a good neighbor" they will be, there are no certitudes about the functioning of these centers.

For example, in February 2026 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, as reported by *The Guardian*, bacteria-contaminated water was flushed into the public sewer system by a contractor for Meta's AI data center. How would you feel if that happened here? Circumstances such as this and many others are being reported by US residents, by whistleblowers, environmental activists and investigative reporters, among others. The health of Salem residents should be of utmost importance in approving any project--so that something like this never happens.

Also of concern is the lack of transparency as news of this project was basically dumped on the residents after an NDA had already been signed. Over the past several years, residents have had to pay for the severance of a city manager who was let go under non-transparent circumstances, and then there were ethics violations and the tedious process that went into that. To suddenly read that local government officials knew and had signed this NDA was startling and disheartening to say the least. The residents whose health and quality of life would be affected by this were the last to know.

I would also like to encourage the City Council to adopt/approve Micki Varney's two motions, Agenda items 5.2 and 5.3.

Thank you for your service.

(Ms) LJ Anderson
Resident, Ward 2

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Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Baehr <msbaehr@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 6:45 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Vanessa Nordyke; Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; Shane Matthews; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Julie Hoy
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No data Center, Don't sell us out!

Dear City Council,

Please don't sell us out for data center. I am tired of all the sellouts in this country and I thought Oregon was better than that/

I live in Salem, Oregon, a community that prides itself on its natural resources, community, and local businesses. However, our city is under threat due to the proposal for a new data center development in SE Salem Mill Creek area. This data center will consume mass amounts of natural water and power, not to mention the noise pollution these centers produce. All while contributing little to the community it would reside in.

Data centers across the country have caused water shortages, power grid failures, and loss of community. One data center can use as much power as an entire city. Salem prides itself on its natural resources like Mill Creek and the Willamette River, all of which are in jeopardy should this data center be built.

Contrary to popular belief, data centers do not provide substantial amounts of jobs for the community. The initial construction jobs it provides are short-lived. The 75-acre data center would provide 75 new jobs. Jobs that could be invested in our local community instead of private corporations.

We have the power to invest in projects that align with Salem's community values like renewable energy or supporting local businesses that employ our community members. We can support Salem in investing in a future for our people, not in investing for the complete use of all of our resources we rely on. This goes beyond taking a stance on a single project. This is for the betterment of Salem and the community as a whole to reach for a future that is better for all of us. I encourage you to join me in saying NO to the Verrus Data Center development in Salem.

Together we can stand strong against big corporations using the resources we value most.

Linda Baehr
Salem, OR

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Carl Hoffman

From: Leanne Cruikshank <leannecruikshank@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:23 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center Written Comment

City Council,

This written comment is to inform you I, Leanne Cruikshank, am against building the Verrus Data Center in Salem. This would cause a disruption in our local environment, power grid, and water resources. Not to mention traffic during construction, the noise and effects a data center has on the people of this great city. Listen to the people and say "no" to data centers in Salem.

Thank you,
Leanne Cruikshank

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sonic <sonic.tiktok@proton.me>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:41 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Tonights factual point list regarding Verrus data center

Good morning,

These are just some of the factual items addressing Verrus statements regarding their intentions for the build. I understand that the docket is overwhelmed with opposition on this line item, but I would appreciate these facts being mentioned and distributed.

1. The Oregon Heritage Tree Program, launched in 1996 as the nation's first state-sponsored program of its kind, is run by the Oregon Travel Information Council (a state agency created under ORS 377.835) and a volunteer committee. It reviews public nominations and designates trees with exceptional historical, cultural, ecological, or aesthetic value. Designated trees receive a plaque and public recognition, but designation requires the owner's consent and does not override local removal authority on private land. On state-owned property, designation creates preservation expectations for the managing agency. Local governments may adopt their own heritage-tree ordinances providing additional protection. It doesn't matter that Verrus plans to build "around" these protected trees. Waste water still needs to be routed and the construction will change runoff patterns, local habitat, and heat retention.
2. The closed loop cooling system means nothing because WASTE WATER still needs to be dispelled from the system and they will be dumping that directly into our waterways OR soil.
3. The larger environmental burden is usually the facility's round-the-clock power demand, which drives greenhouse gas emissions depending on the grid mix. 4. Even with LFP, you still need lithium, iron, phosphate, copper, aluminum, graphite, plastics, and electronics; mining and processing these materials create upstream emissions and habitat disturbance. The waste WILL NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE.
5. With their tax incentives for years to come it's like we're paying them to be here regardless of how many "jobs" they promise the city.

Thank you kindly for your time,

Lucy Gillespie
Ward 3
97306

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lucy Gillespie <lucykeas@proton.me>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:23 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Upcoming data center agenda item meeting 7/27/26

Good day,

I was informed that I may send my public comments to this email address for consideration.

1. The Oregon Heritage Tree Program, launched in 1996 as the nation's first state-sponsored program of its kind, is run by the Oregon Travel Information Council (a state agency created under ORS 377.835) and a volunteer committee. It reviews public nominations and designates trees with exceptional historical, cultural, ecological, or aesthetic value. Designated trees receive a plaque and public recognition, but designation requires the owner's consent and does not override local removal authority on private land. On state-owned property, designation creates preservation expectations for the managing agency. Local governments may adopt their own heritage-tree ordinances providing additional protection.

*It doesnt matter that Verrus plans to build "around" these protected trees. Waste water still needs to be routed and the construction will change runoff patterns, local habitat, and heat retention.

2. The closed loop cooling system means nothing because WASTE WATER still needs to be dispelled from the system and they will be dumping that directly into our waterways OR soil.

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4. Even with LFP, you still need lithium, iron, phosphate, copper, aluminum, graphite, plastics, and electronics; mining and processing these materials create upstream emissions and habitat disturbance. The waste WILL NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE.

5. With their tax incentives for years to come it's like we're paying THEM to be here regardless of how many "jobs" they promise the city.

Thank you,

Lucy Gillespie

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Carl Hoffman

From: LARRY GLASSOCK <lglassock@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 3:47 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Verrus Data Center
Attachments: Verrus.docx

See attached letter.

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LARRY GLASSOCK
2000 MANORVIEW CIRCLE NW
SALEM, OR 97304

July 25, 2026

Re: Verrus Data Center

There is a lot of negative hoopla over social media about the proposed Data Center at the Mill Creek Industrial Park.

There is something odd about their objections to this development. First, they seem to copy the same letter time after time. Are these original thoughts? Second, they have no idea of the proposed water or kilowatt usage at the Verrus complex.

Remember that Salem at one time had a great number of food processers using millions of gallons of water every month and discharging an enormous amount of organic material to our sewer plant. Do the opponents to the data center know the precise water demand the center may have on Salem's water system? I suspect the city of Salem would welcome the additional revenue without added burden on the sewer plant. Let's get the facts before reacting!

Do the opponents to the Verrus data center know the precise electrical demand the center might use. Do they know if that usage will negatively impact the grid or our electrical rates? Let's get the facts before reacting!

The opponents cite carbon pollution and global warming. Precisely what is the Verrus development contributing to the carbon situation or global warming. If the State of Oregon was completely eradicated from the global map, it would never be noticed.

Let's get the facts before reacting!

Larry Glassock

From: [Len Lingo](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Mai Vang](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Paul Tigan](#); [Shane Matthews](#); [Dr. Irvin M Brown](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]I Support Agenda Items 5.2 and 5.3
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:23:19 AM

I support Councilor Varna's motions for the Council meeting July 27, 2026, and urge City Council to adopt and approve agenda items 5.2 and 5.3.

Leonard Lingo
1755 Winter Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
303-482-5090

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Carl Hoffman

From: L. A. Miller <liseanne27@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:21 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment for Salem City Council meeting 7/27/26

I am submitting a comment to the Salem City Council for tonight's meeting regarding the proposed data center at Mill Creek Corporate Center, future data center proposals and whether the Salem city council should sign NDAs regarding data centers.

My name is Lisa Miller and I live in ward 7. Data centers provide little to the communities in which they reside and have been shown via multiple studies by universities and other state governments that they cause more harm than good. Washington State Department Of Ecology, Cambridge University and the University Of Chicago are three examples that have run such studies. The University of Chicago and The WA department of ecology outline the impacts of data centers on air, water, and ground around the sites. The impacts include diesel air pollution, water extraction and pollution, chemical runoff that affects water and soil, hazardous waste disposal, and surges in use of the power grid which can greatly increase power costs in the area. There are also several incidents where data centers have not been truthful about their potential pollution, potential temperature increases, local infrastructure needs, and other negative impacts to an area. There are university studies from Cambridge as well as others on data centers in Europe and Central America which have had anomalous temperature increases, likely due to the data centers in the area, of 3.6 degrees on average and can span 6 miles or more. In Oregon alone, data centers have cost millions of dollars in taxes in such areas as Hillsboro and Prineville according to local news outlets. Because of these losses and harmful practices, it is necessary for there to be public input on data centers entering the area, this includes the potential data center in Mill Creek. It is also necessary for city council members to remain transparent in their dealings with companies such as Verrus and not sign NDAs. If a company will be controversial and have such great impacts on an area of Salem, we should be able to comment on and understand fully what is happening in conversations between city council and the company. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Lisa Miller

--

Lisa Miller
1017 Hermitage Way S
Salem Or 97302
liseanne27@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Laura Norbury <norburylaura@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:27 PM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Verrus Data Center

Members of the City of Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Verrus Data Center.

I have lived in Salem since 1994, and live in the Court Chemeketa Historic District.

One of my concerns with this, and any other data centers that might be built in Salem, is the impact to the water supply for the current residents. Verrus says that they will use "less than the water needed for 1 golf course", but is this a one time use, or will they need more over the life of the data center. They mention that they will be using a closed-loop cooling system, but I find it hard to believe that they will not be needing water on a regular basis. If there is a water emergency that limits the water supply for the city (like another algae bloom in Detroit Lake), who will have precedence on water - the residents or the data center?

I'm also concerned about the impact on the power grid. How much will this increase our current electric rates? Again, who will be impacted first if there is a surge to the power grid during the heat of the summer - the residents of the data center?

Data Centers are known for the noise that they create. This impacts nearby residents, business, and also, the wildlife. Since this data center is planned for a location near Corbin University, how will the noise impact the students as they are studying or sleeping? Also, what will be the overall impact to Corbin in the future? Will students not go because of the nearby data center?

Studies have also shown that data centers increase the temperature of the surrounding area due to the heat generated by running all of the equipment. We don't need any additional heat in the valley.

For three years, the city will not receive any property taxes from Verrus. This is at a time when Salem is struggling due to the fact that numerous properties within the city limits are owned or leased by governmental entities and are exempt from property taxes. So the property owners within the city will be expected to cover the costs of additional city services provided to Verrus. I don't believe that this will go over well with property owners the next time they are faced with an increase in their property taxes.

All of these negatives for 75 permanent jobs. To me this isn't worth it - to the city or to the residents.

I strongly encourage each of you to NOT support this project. I will be watching how my city council member votes, and I will remember the vote at the next election.

Thank you.

Laura Norbury

260 18th St NE
Salem, OR

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lindsay Pirelli <lpirelli28@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:41 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Paul Tigan
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Verrus data center

Hello,

My name is Lindsay and I live in Ward 1. I'm writing to oppose the development of a Verrus data center in SE Salem.

Verrus and the city council have already broken the trust of Salem citizens by signing an NDA. If this development was as beneficial as Verrus claims, there would be no reason to sign an NDA and hide those negotiations from the public.

We should not be bringing in a data center at a time when Salem's drinking water is already at risk from the planned drawdown of the Detroit reservoir this year. That aside, Verrus' closed loop system would introduce anti-corrosion chemicals into our water supply when they flush their system. As we saw during the toxic algae bloom in 2018, Salem's infrastructure is not equipped to deal with these kind of threats to our water system.

In addition, the Verrus build wouldn't bring as much impact to Salem's job market as promised. The build itself is short-term and once constructed, would only add 75 new jobs; which is around 0.0004% of Salem's population. Verrus has also applied for a three year tax abatement, so they would not be contributing to the city's funds either.

Finally, Verrus is owned by Alphabet, which is the parent company of Google. Google has already shown a track record of questionable decisions around privacy and data collection in recent years. We cannot be complicit in the building of architecture for a surveillance state.

Please reconsider and vote to stop the Verrus data center in Salem. I also ask that the City of Salem ends its practice of signing NDAs with private corporations.

Thank you,
Lindsay Pirelli,
Ward 1

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Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Silvestri <linda@tresgatos.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:15 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - Proposed Verrus Data Center

Greetings Mayor and Councilors,

My name is Linda Silvestri, a resident of Salem,

Regarding the proposed Verrus Data Center in Salem, I strongly urge you to slow this process and insist on greater transparency, which has been lacking thus far, before moving forward. Decisions with impacts lasting generations should not emerge after more than a year behind closed doors.

First, I feel we must carefully evaluate the project's demands on our community's water and electrical systems. Although they claim to use much less than other data centers, they have not disclosed how much usage exactly. The resources needed for this data center belong to our entire community, and any project of this scale deserves thorough public review of its long-term impacts before commitments are made, regardless of the property being already appropriately zoned.

Second, we must acknowledge the very real impacts that data centers have on neighboring communities. These facilities operate around the clock, every day of the year. Residents living near data centers across the country have reported constant noise that has led to headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disruption, ear pain, elevated blood pressure, and diminished quality of life. Much of this comes from low-frequency sound and infrasound—noise that can be felt throughout the body even when it is difficult to measure using standard decibel meters. This makes enforcement of traditional noise ordinances extremely difficult.

This decision is about more than one development proposal. It is about whether our community values transparency, meaningful public participation, and careful stewardship of our shared resources. I demand the Council do whatever it can to pause this process, require full public disclosure, and ensure residents have a genuine opportunity to understand and weigh in on a project that will affect our city for decades to come.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,
Sincerely, Linda Silvestri

2198 Joplin Street
Salem, Oregon 97302

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Carl Hoffman

From: LCT <lacthornton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 5:12 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center - NO!!

I am against a data center in Salem Oregon. I am especially concerned that the public does not have a say in this plan or a VOTE in this plan. My understanding is the that cost of data center to the public does not outweigh the benefit, and that the public's electricity rates are at risk of going up and there is concern that adequate power to the city is at risk. This is a decision that should be well thought out then rejected. Data centers need to be fully funded by those putting the center up (or preferably not built at all) and should not be in largely populated places.

Lorri Thornton
Salem Oregon resident.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelllex@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 6:14 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Micki Varney; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; dgdgwyn@cityofsalem.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL]072726 Public Comment – NON Agenda item 8

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Lynelle Wilcox and I live and work in Ward 1.

I am writing because the City's FY2026/27 budget includes ZERO funds for Inclement Weather services. Inclement weather includes warming centers, cooling centers, fire/smoke situations, and any weather conditions that put people at risk.

LIFE-SAVING services: Protecting people during dangerous weather is a public obligation. Community Action and the City of Salem have partnered to provide those life-saving emergency management services for more than a decade.

Budget implications: Budgets reflect funding decisions AND budgets also have a corollary purpose or result of reflecting our priorities. Budgeting ZERO dollars for a life-saving program implies a shift in values, and a shift in emergency management priority, even if that is not the intent.

Disconnect: The city's annual belonging survey and the Bloomberg/Harvard project reflect our city's stated values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL. Omitting funds for inclement weather emergency services creates a disconnect from our stated priorities and values.

Request:

- Please consider issuing an OVERT statement that the omission reflects balancing our limited resources, and is NOT a change in priority or support of these life-saving emergency services. Please state that an emergency grant or other funding option will be implemented asap for inclement weather emergencies, if needed. These necessary services save hundreds of lives.

Bridging the gap: Those statements reflect the reality of limited funds AND reflect humanity, common ground, and unity on the values of belonging, inclusion, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynelle Wilcox, Ward 1

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:11 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Micki Varney; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 072726 Public Comment – Agenda item 2 Data center considerations

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

My name is Lynelle Wilcox and I live and work in Ward 1.

I am writing to strongly support Councilor Varney's two motions: 5.2 and 5.3, regarding data center non-disclosure agreements, and creating a data center task force, respectively. Please support these motions so Salem moves forward with transparency, and with more conversations and research to make data-informed decisions regarding data centers in Salem.

Beyond approving those motions, there is so much more to consider...

Pros and cons: Data centers are controversial – they create jobs to build and maintain the centers, and they create a revenue stream to the city. Yet data centers also have a history of creating constant noise, high needs for water and electricity, unknown risks to people and animals, and they take a toll on the environment. A Task Force is a valuable and necessary step for transparency, public conversations, and researching and balancing pros and cons and tangible and intangible costs of building a new data center in Salem.

Accountability: Public comment at the 7/14/26 City Council meeting included testimony that this data center will operate differently – with minimal noise, a design for recirculating water, and power generators to reduce electricity needs. A Task Force enables valuable and necessary due diligence to identify if the company has effectively constructed a data center with those lower impacts to people, water and electricity resources, the community, and the environment. A Task Force might also identify possible consequences if the project doesn't deliver on promises they make.

Homeless crisis: The City has been operating on a tight budget, with many reductions and program cuts. Yet they found ways to expand the Homeless Services Team, and to create and fund a Clean Team and the new REACH team. Even with a focus of building relationships and connecting people to services, the overall concept of those teams is enforcement of "you can't be here". (Or here. Or there. Or here either.)

Tangible gaps: Even with years of increasing shelter beds, permanent supportive housing programs, and more "affordable" housing, there are hundreds more unsheltered individuals than there are places for them to be. And along the way, they still need places to go to the bathroom, places to charge their phones, places and/or services to dispose of their trash, places to sleep and live safely, and affordable housing that is affordable even for people who only receive SSI, which is

\$994/month for 2026. We've been talking about those diverse gaps and needs for years, yet there is never enough support or money.

Intangible, but very real gaps: People experiencing homelessness also experience ongoing discrimination – often daily, and occasional targeted violence. They are often perceived as drug addicts and as dangerous criminals, yet national data reflects that people experiencing homelessness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violence against a stranger.

The city's annual belonging survey and the current Bloomberg/Harvard project reflect our city's stated values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL. Yet our programs, services, behaviors, and opinions towards and about unsheltered individuals often fall far short of living those values.

New revenue stream: If Salem moves forward with the data center, we have opportunities to align more with our stated values and to create more lasting stability for the people experiencing poverty and homelessness.

As one creative example, Henrico County in Virginia established an affordable housing trust, with \$60 million from data center revenue to make homeownership possible for more of the area's workforce.

- <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/turning-data-center-revenues-affordable-homes> “Rather than relying on scarce federal dollars, Henrico County made an appropriation of \$60 million in previously unbudgeted data center revenues to launch its Affordable Housing Trust Fund.”
- <https://time.com/article/2026/03/11/data-centers-affordable-housing/> “...it could serve as a template for how to turn a highly-controversial industry into a community benefit.”
- <https://henrico.gov/news/2024/05/henrico-to-create-trust-to-enhance-access-to-affordable-homeownership/>
- <https://pharva.com/henrico-launching-60m-housing-trust-fund-with-revenue-from-data-centers/>

Request: If Salem moves forward with a data center, please allocate some of the data center revenue towards more utility assistance, more eviction prevention and Rapid Rehousing services and funds, more Permanent Supportive Housing, more shelters and shelter beds, more truly affordable housing - for people who only receive \$994/month SSI, and other essential services to meet basic human needs: restrooms, cell phone charging stations, funding Inclement weather services for life-saving warming and cooling centers, places or services for people to dispose of their trash, and more places for people to BE.

Benefits: Each of those programs and services benefit the individuals served AND benefits all of Salem by:

- Reflecting humanity and more equity as we enable more basic human needs to be met.
- Creating stability for individuals who are falling through the cracks and gaps in the system.

- Enabling more economic growth as more people develop stability.
- Reflecting more alignment with our city's stated priorities and values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynelle Wilcox, Ward 1

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Carl Hoffman

From: M. Cleary <mcmbebs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:55 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment

Hello,

I would like to submit comments regarding the proposed Data center in the area. I was raised in Salem, still live in the vicinity, and have a vested interest in property that would be directly impacted by this decision. For now and in the future, I think you need to keep several things in mind.

One of the first things is our fragile Northwest grid, which is currently at risk of failing; this is without adding the extra pressure of supporting another massive data center. As OPB reported in relation to the Amazon Data Center in Umatilla, the center has not only changed the landscape for the negative, it has also spiked the tax on our electrical grid. Oregonians face higher electric bills each year, and as we have seen from other data centers, it's the local people that pay the cost. At the same time, there are negative impacts on the air quality in and around data centers. This directly impacts the health and wellness of all living things in the area. (<https://www.opb.org/article/2026/07/22/data-center-eastern-oregon-air-quality-umatilla-basin/>)

In an article recently published in the *Portland News*, research has also shown that unchecked growth in this area will likely lead to us failing in our commitment to offset climate change in our area. Along with the tax on electricity, there will be a higher strain on the water supply, which could increase drought conditions. (<https://portlandnews.com/portland-data-centers-environmental-costs/>).

Oregon Live has also reported that our climate commitments cannot be met if we continue to strain our systems with these centers. Umatilla Electric Cooperative has been responsible for 1.8 million tons of carbon emissions. Making one of the smallest counties one of the biggest polluters, the impacts of which are felt all over Oregon. It leads us to question why anyone would believe adding to this already strained system is a good idea. (<https://www.oregonlive.com/silicon-forest/2024/02/one-of-oregons-smallest-utilities-is-suddenly-among-the-states-biggest-polluters-why-amazon-data-centers.html>)

Going off of the other data centers already in Oregon, it's known that they not only increase the cost of living for everyday Oregonians (in electricity and water bill spikes) but also in our ability to enjoy the land. This includes the impact on all local wildlife. Building any of these facilities includes laying transmission lines and creating a cooling infrastructure, which displaces habitats. We have seen this happen with *each* data center built. There is no defense in destroying local habitats for such short term menial gain. Building these centers does not guarantee Oregonians will benefit from any long term jobs in these areas. It also doesn't guarantee that the people who take control of the land will mitigate environmental costs. We have seen corporations with billions repeatedly choose to take a fine over committing to clean energy and ensuring they have little to no negative impact on the environment. That leaves the local community to deal with the pervasive, often expensive, environmental impacts; an unfair burden to say the least.

The city should not approve building data centers in our community when it has been proven that they strain resources, lead to us failing in our climate commitments, pass costs to everyday Oregonians (who have clearly come out to say that they are NOT in favor of the project), hurt local habitat and ruin the quality of life in the local community and Oregon in general.

Beyond this, I hope it is understood that there are real consequences for our current leaders who choose to install these centers against the public's wishes. We are tired of leaders who create short term plans that lack the foresight to see the devastating long term impacts of their decisions. Especially members who are unwilling to be transparent or who have signed NDAs in regards to decisions that will have widespread effects on so many. We need leaders who listen to the will of the people. If we cannot trust someone to do that, they should not be in a position of power.

Please, rethink these projects until we have the appropriate infrastructure and planning in place to prevent the hefty negative toll these centers have on local communities. The facts clearly show that building another data center would not be a positive decision for Salem or for Oregon.

Thank you for your time,
Megan Cleary

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Carl Hoffman

From: Missy Melissa <melissa.elijah@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:40 AM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]I am asking you to hold the Oakline at Mill Creek data center to a real standard

To the Salem City Council,

My name is Melissa Gauger and I live at 614 Browning Ave SE in Salem. I'm writing to formally oppose the Oakline at Mill Creek data center proposed by Verrus, and to ask the Council to support Councilor Varney's motions on NDAs and a resident task force at Monday's meeting.

Verrus is not a proven company. It was founded in 2024 and has not completed a single operational data center anywhere. Oakline would be its first.

Verrus's other project, Lyon Township, Michigan ("Project Flex"), shows the pattern I'm concerned about repeating here. In May 2026, after the township's Board of Trustees denied an easement Verrus needed for a stormwater project, Verrus's attorney warned the township it would pursue legal action, including injunctions and damages, if approval was further delayed. Source: WXYZ Detroit, "Lyon Township residents push back on data center as developer threatens lawsuit," June 2, 2026 (<https://www.wxyz.com/news/data-centers/lyon-township-residents-push-back-on-data-center-as-developer-threatens-lawsuit>). CBS News Detroit reported the same threat and included Verrus's own statement defending the project (<https://www.cbsnews.com/detroit/news/residents-oppose-data-center-lyon-township/>).

That same Michigan project's site plan calls for diesel generators as backup power, in addition to batteries — which sits in direct tension with Verrus's pitch to Salem that battery storage eliminates the need for generators. I would ask Verrus to clarify, in writing, whether Oakline will or will not include diesel backup generation.

Noise is a real and documented risk with this industry, not a hypothetical one. In Wisconsin, Microsoft has publicly acknowledged that its Mount Pleasant data center's noise traveled farther than expected, even while the facility met local noise limits on paper. A Heatmap News reporter who personally visited a similar Vantage data center in Sterling, Virginia described "an all-encompassing, monotonous whoosh accompanied by a low rumble you can feel in your body... like a jet engine that never stops running," clearly audible from a resident's driveway across the street. Source: Heatmap News, Jael Holzman, "Why Data Centers Are Turning People Against Renewables," April 24, 2026 (<https://heatmap.news/plus/the-fight/spotlight/data-centers-renewables-opposition>). In Southaven, Mississippi, over ten thousand residents filed a federal class-action lawsuit this June against xAI over gas turbine noise from a nearby data center.

I recognize Oregon's new POWER Act rate structure means Salem residents will not see higher electricity bills because of this project — PGE's data center customers now pay 29.7% more while residential rates drop 1.3%. Source: OPB, "Oregon approves PGE's 29.7% rate hike for data centers under landmark law," July 7, 2026 (<https://www.opb.org/article/2026/07/07/oregon-data-center-general-electric-rate-hikes/>). I

am not asking the Council to act on a false electricity-cost claim. But water and traffic remain completely unaddressed: as of the city's own reporting this week, Verrus has submitted no engineering analysis, no water use estimate, and no traffic study for this project.

This is not an isolated local concern. At least 14 states are currently considering bans or moratoriums on new data center construction, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, as reported by Newsweek (<https://www.newsweek.com/map-data-centers-being-banned-us-12140864>). Aurora, Illinois adopted binding regulations after its own moratorium, requiring generators and chillers to sit 1,000 to 1,500 feet from homes, banning rooftop generators outright, and reclassifying data centers as conditional uses requiring public hearings and council approval for every future project. Source: Daily Herald, "Aurora restricts where new data centers can be built, limits noise and water and electricity usage," March 25, 2026 (<https://www.dailyherald.com/20260325/news/aurora-restricts-where-new-data-centers-can-be-built-limits-noise-and-water-and-electricity-usage/>).

I am asking the Council to:

1. Support Councilor Varney's motion to look into banning NDAs with companies proposing data centers in Salem.
2. Support Councilor Varney's motion to establish the 9-member resident task force to set policy before any future data center project moves forward.
3. Commit, on the record, to denying any future application — including from Verrus — that does not fully answer the water, traffic, and environmental questions with verified, engineered numbers, not promotional language.
4. Adopt a binding noise standard now, before an application arrives, modeled on Aurora's ordinance.

Salem does not owe an unproven company the benefit of the doubt. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Melissa Gauger

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Carl Hoffman

From: Mitchell Jones <mitchellajones@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 1:02 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center

Hello,

I'm writing to you as a community member, a homeowner, and a business owner. I'm deeply concerned with the idea of Salem getting a data center. There have been so many studies so far that show how awful they are for the cities they are in, and it's only just begun. There are many studies that show that they always increase the strain on the electrical grid so dramatically, that no matter what there are increased costs to the surrounding areas. That the water being used is effectively filled with so many chemicals and later dumped into the grounds that it poisons wells of nearby areas and puts a strain on the entire community's resources. They drive away wildlife, significantly harm nearby farmers (there are several farmers nearby where the proposal is for the data center.). The ambient noise increase also causes harm to civilians.

This is all readily and easily available just from quick research of the topic. Not to mention, the data center would employ a minor amount of people, and generally they employ less than they quote in the first place. This would help Salem economically in the very short term, and then be a stain on the entire city for decades. There is a reason cities are moving to put a permanent moratorium on data centers in their areas. I urge you to do the same.

Here are some of the articles that I have found regarding this topic.

[The AI Data Center Boom Is Coming for Farmers](#)

[A loophole leaves Oklahoma data center water consumption largely untracked - Investigate Midwest](#)
[Confronting and addressing rising energy bills linked to data centers | Brookings](#)

[Data Center Power Demands Are Contributing to Higher Energy Bills | Article | EESI](#)

<https://www.gatech.edu/news/2026/07/09/data-centers-are-booming-who-benefits#:~:text=In%20areas%20where%20the%20researchers%20can%20cleanly,the%20increased%20cost%20of%20electricity%20isn%27t%20straightforward.>

[How Many Jobs Does a Data Center Create? \(2026 Data\)](#)

<https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2026/06/18/data-centers-ai-electricity-demand-air-water-noise-pollution-health-land-use-energy-costs/#:~:text=Noise%20pollution.%20Data%20centers%27%20continuous%20operation%20means,40%20and%2059%20decibels%20on%20residential%20property.>

[Nashville Zoo vs. a Data Center: 5 Ways Wildlife Loses - A-Z Animals](#)

It's your job to steward Salem and make sure that we grow in a way that supports its residents, not drive them away. <https://time.com/article/2026/07/22/community-backlash-ai-data-centers/>

Please consider doing what is best for the city of Salem in the long term, don't just look at the short term dollars and cents.

Thanks,

Mitchell Jones

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Carl Hoffman

From: Worth Mathewson <slpress@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 5:03 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]data center

The Statesman Journal article on the proposed data center was somewhat favorable in regard to innovations made to address common objections.

Notable was the use of battery power rather than diesel generators to address pollution, noise, and heat generation. Also water recycling for cooling. It would be a pity for this to be tarred with the same brush as conventional data centers without in depth consideration.

Protection of heritage trees will be a problem for any construction on this site. It is to be hoped that there will not be another performance gesture of moving mature trees in adverse weather, dooming them.

Margaret Thompson

2047 MVC NW, Capital Manor

Salem, OR 97304

503 843 2767

Ward 8

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My email has been changed to slpress@comcast.net

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Carl Hoffman

From: SALEM Manager
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:49 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: FW: Contact City Manager's Office
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net <noreply@cityofsalem.net> **On Behalf Of** trobaughnicole@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:20 AM
To: SALEM Manager <MANAGER@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Contact City Manager's Office

Your Name	Nicole Trobaugh
Your Email	trobaughnicole@gmail.com
Your Phone	503-569-8963x00
Street	1385 Jefferson St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	I'm writing in regards to the proposed data center in Salem. Salem does not want a data center. Oregon is known for outdoor activities. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center in Salem we took most of our calls from California and they would always talk about how Oregon is where they go to vacation. They would talk about snow activities, hiking, camping, backpacking, kayaking, etc. Our airport has trees in it! This what Oregon is about! How can we continue to be that Oregon if all of the wild ares are data centers? Oregon is also known for great food and wine. How are we supposed to be producing those quality products if the land is taken up by the data centers. I understand the data center in Salem is set to be built in an already industrial area but as we have seen in other parts of Oregon once one is built more start emerging. A data center takes more jobs than it creates. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center we already had AI answering phones with us and that was 2 years ago. And I am not talking about an automated system, I am talking about an AI that even adds in ums and ahs into the sentence so you can't tell at all. That is someone's job that AI was taking away. The more data centers we build the better AI will be and the more jobs like that we will lose. I have already watched commercials that are painfully AI. Those commercials could have gone to Oregon's Film Industry. Data centers only bring profit to a select few not Salem as a community. Everyone is sick of their data being collected and sold. And now your personal pictures that you post online are being collected as data. It's creepy. It's creepy to be talking about needing new glasses and then you get ads for glasses. Data centers increase the ability to collect our data and sell it. They mentioned that the data center will be

a closed loop water center and uses less water that way. Data centers don't need to use water to cool. There is a whole list of other ways that they can cool their systems, it's just water is the cheapest. Using water period, close loop or not, takes from the community. Talk to the farmers or the wine industry and you will know we get less and less rain each year. Our rivers and lakes get lower and lower each year. Our fire season gets worse and worse each year. We cannot afford to give up a finite resource like water to something that does not even need it. Data centers run 24/7, and communities across the country that welcomed them are now living with the consequences. Residents near data centers report headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disturbances, ear pain, and hypertension a constant hum they can hear day and night. Much of it is low-frequency sound and infrasound — noise so low you feel it in your body rather than hear it, and it often doesn't even register on standard decibel meters, making local noise ordinances nearly impossible to enforce. In Virginia's data center corridor, neighbors describe sealing windows and sleeping with earplugs just to get through the night. Once it's built, you can't unbuild it. Data centers create light pollution. Other cities report never seeing the dark of night again. This creates many sleep disorders in those communities. Salem's infrastructure couldn't even handle an ice storm. Is it really going to be able to handle a data center? PGE is saying the extra cost is going to go to the data center at the same time they have already raised the prices even though cost of living is so high. What is there to stop them from raising the prices again and just saying it's not because of the data center? The growing demand for artificial intelligence could push the annual public health burden of U.S. data centers' air pollution from over \$6 billion in 2023 to more than \$20 billion in 2028, according to resesrch from the University of California. The air pollution from data centers could contribute to about 600,000 asthma symptom cases and 1,300 premature deaths by the same year. What we should be investing in instead is the people of Salem. Getting people outside of their house to meet their neighbors. For example, the cherry blossoms or state fair. These are things that bring Salem together and invite people to visit. Something Portland has started doing in January is a light art show. It brings Portland and surrounding areas into the downtown area celebrating their local artists. They do many of these events to rejuvenate their downtown by bringing people together to celebrate their community. Growing our Saturday market is another example. Introducing more people to the farmers around them and growing the farmers profit as well. Monmouth's trolly public transit is another example of investing in the community while making it inviting to people to visit. The people around you is why you choose to move to a place and stay. Investing in Salem becoming a community that knows each other better and grows together is how you make a city livable. A data center only creates temporary construction jobs, 75 specialized jobs, unbearable noise pollution, water loss, strain on the infrastructure, land use loss, light pollution, air pollution, and living costs to go up. None of that makes people want to move here or visit here. None of that invests in Salem. None of that makes Salem livable. Building a data center is a desperate act of a dieing town in the middle of nowhere to bring in revenue that doesn't work and instead they end up on 60 minutes with Erin Brockovich representing them because the brown water runs at a trickle, the electricity doesn't work, and everyone has vertigo, migraines, asthma, and sleep disorders. We are the capital city of Oregon, let's act like it.

From: [Nicole Trobaugh](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:10:27 AM

I'm writing in regards to the proposed data center in Salem. Salem does not want a data center.

Oregon is known for outdoor activities. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center in Salem we took most of our calls from California and they would always talk about how Oregon is where they go to vacation. They would talk about snow activities, hiking, camping, backpacking, kayaking, etc. Our airport has trees in it! This what Oregon is about! How can we continue to be that Oregon if all of the wild ares are data centers?

Oregon is also known for great food and wine. How are we supposed to be producing those quality products if the land is taken up by the data centers. I understand the data center in Salem is set to be built in an already industrial area but as we have seen in other parts of Oregon once one is built more start emerging.

A data center takes more jobs than it creates. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center we already had AI answering phones with us and that was 2 years ago. And I am not talking about an automated system, I am talking about an AI that even adds in ums and ahs into the sentence so you can't tell at all. That is someone's job that AI was taking away. The more data centers we build the better AI will be and the more jobs like that we will lose. I have already watched commercials that are painfully AI. Those commercials could have gone to Oregon's Film Industry. Data centers only bring profit to a select few not Salem as a community.

Everyone is sick of their data being collected and sold. And now your personal pictures that you post online are being collected as data. It's creepy. It's creepy to be talking about needing new glasses and then you get ads for glasses. Data centers increase the ability to collect our data and sell it.

They mentioned that the data center will be a closed loop water center and uses less water that way. Data centers don't need to use water to cool. There is a whole list of other ways that they can cool their systems, it's just water is the cheapest. Using water period, close loop or not, takes from the community. Talk to the farmers or the wine industry and you will know we get less and less rain each year. Our rivers and lakes get lower and lower each year. Our fire season gets worse and worse each year. We cannot afford to give up a finite resource like water to something that does not even need it.

Data centers run 24/7, and communities across the country that welcomed them are now living with the consequences. Residents near data centers report headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disturbances, ear pain, and hypertension a constant hum they can hear day and night. Much of it is low-frequency sound and infrasound — noise so low you feel it in your body rather than hear it, and it often doesn't even register on standard decibel meters, making local noise ordinances nearly impossible to enforce. In Virginia's data center corridor, neighbors describe sealing windows and sleeping with earplugs just to get through the night. Once it's built, you can't unbuild it.

Data centers create light pollution. Other cities report never seeing the dark of night again.

This creates many sleep disorders in those communities.

Salem's infrastructure couldn't even handle an ice storm. Is it really going to be able to handle a data center?

PGE is saying the extra cost is going to go to the data center at the same time they have already raised the prices even though cost of living is so high. What is there to stop them from raising the prices again and just saying it's not because of the data center?

The growing demand for artificial intelligence could push the annual public health burden of U.S. data centers' air pollution from over \$6 billion in 2023 to more than \$20 billion in 2028, according to research from the University of California. The air pollution from data centers could contribute to about 600,000 asthma symptom cases and 1,300 premature deaths by the same year.

What we should be investing in instead is the people of Salem. Getting people outside of their house to meet their neighbors. For example, the cherry blossoms or state fair. These are things that bring Salem together and invite people to visit. Something Portland has started doing in January is a light art show. It brings Portland and surrounding areas into the downtown area celebrating their local artists. They do many of these events to rejuvenate their downtown by bringing people together to celebrate their community. Growing our Saturday market is another example. Introducing more people to the farmers around them and growing the farmers profit as well. Monmouth's trolley public transit is another example of investing in the community while making it inviting to people to visit. The people around you is why you choose to move to a place and stay. Investing in Salem becoming a community that knows each other better and grows together is how you make a city livable. A data center only creates temporary construction jobs, 75 specialized jobs, unbearable noise pollution, water loss, strain on the infrastructure, land use loss, light pollution, air pollution, and living costs to go up. None of that makes people want to move here or visit here. None of that invests in Salem. None of that makes Salem livable.

Building a data center is a desperate act of a dying town in the middle of nowhere to bring in revenue that doesn't work and instead they end up on 60 minutes with Erin Brockovich representing them because the brown water runs at a trickle, the electricity doesn't work, and everyone has vertigo, migraines, asthma, and sleep disorders. We are the capital city of Oregon, let's act like it.

Nicole Trobaugh

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Carl Hoffman

From: Phil Carver <philiphcarver@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:04 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on Agenda Item 5.1 City Council meeting 7/27/2026

Data Center Proposal
Agenda Item 5.1 July 27, 2026
City Council Meeting
Phil Carver, 1007 Newport Dr. SE, 97306

I worked 37 years as a senior economist and senior policy analyst for the Oregon Dept. of Energy and the Public Utility Commission. These are my personal opinions.

City staff and Councilors understand the process for this and other development proposals. If the application satisfies rules and procedures when a formal proposal is filed, the Council must approve it. That is the rule of law. While the Verrus proposal may be reasonable, pending details, the next proposal might not be.

The City needs to revise its rules to make sure the next data center proposal can be rejected if it is not appropriate for the city. Criteria might include the level of water use or type of cooling system. Other criteria might include a minimum level of battery backup and pollution control standards for any diesel generators. If the City does not have authority to make these and other requirements, it should seek appropriate remedies from the 2027 Legislature.

Google AI notes this about available industrial-zoned land in Salem assuming the Verrus proposal is completed:

Turner Road Development (Lot 2): A massive **72-acre industrial land parcel** located at [5465 Turner Road SE](#) is currently listed for **\$6,800,000**, positioning it right in the same logistics and employment hub as the data center project. [1]

The 388-Acre Turner Road Project: Directly adjacent to the Mill Creek Corporate Center and Corban University, a developer holds a **388-acre multi-lot developable parcel** inside city limits. This massive tract includes Industrial General (IG) and Industrial Commercial (IC) zoning parameters, making it the single largest urban development site currently on the market in any Oregon city.

The City should declare an immediate moratorium on further data centers in the city and develop a comprehensive policy on data centers. This policy should include an assessment of other land that could be zoned industrial. **Because data centers provide few jobs per acre, the City should have a long-term plan about what kind of facilities it wants on the limited amount of potential industrial lands.**

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Carl Hoffman

From: paula nania <nania.paula@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:49 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Vote NO on the proposed data center

A massive date center in Southeast Salem will be a detriment to the quality of life for the residents of Salem because of environmental and health issues
Vote NOT to approve !

Thank you

Paula Nania
2252 Wildwood Drive SE
Salem

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Carl Hoffman

From: Ryan <ryanjamesallm@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 3:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment — Verrus data center (Turner & Deer Park)

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a Salem resident writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. We cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Salem residents will pay for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is not rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,
Ryan Allm
Proud resident of Salem Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Rachael Atchison <occupyrachael@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 7:25 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Proposed data center

Below is a letter regarding the data center boondoggle that I sent to my councilor that I do not believe was submitted for inclusion into the public record.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rachael Atchison <occupyrachael@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Subject: Proposed data center
To: Shane Matthews <smatthews@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: "morningside@salemneighbors.org" <morningside@salemneighbors.org>, Leia <leia.salemmna@gmail.com>

Councilor Matthews,

I want to voice my concerns about both this proposed Verrus data center and the way it was presented to Salem residents on Monday night. You were not at the city council meeting but city manager Namburi spoke during the councilor comment period and introduced the data center plan that you've been discussing with the Alphabet/Google backed company for the past 15 months. While the information she presented was brand new to us, there was a large group of folks who had obviously been informed earlier that this announcement was going to take place. They arrived with prewritten comments in support of the plan and one person apparently even came from Nebraska to give his prepared testimony! We were told there was a PGE representative in the auditorium as well. It appeared to be an orchestrated PR stunt. None of this had been on the agenda.

I am very suspicious of the claims being made on the project website as they attempt to greenwash this plan. They are trying to sell it as environmentally responsible because it uses less water for active cooling than other centers and that it will be quieter because it will use battery rather than generator backup. There is no mention of the exorbitant power requirements that will surely use up our precious water upstream for increased hydroelectric demand. No verbiage that diesel generators will not be used, only that they'll use batteries "first". No mention of the potentially toxic wastewater expelled by the flushing of their proposed system. No assurance that they will not max out our grid, only that they could decrease power use in times of high demand.

While I am very much in favor of the creation of jobs in Salem and understand the allure that a large infusion of money holds for a cash strapped city, I hope that you will look more critically at this proposal. The roll out of information to the public on Monday had no semblance of impartiality and combined with statements from the head of energy for Verrus that "ultimately, we are actually going to build it" I am concerned that Salem residents have been given no say in the future health of our community.

While I have lots of concerns about AI in general, that would be more of an essay than a letter. Right now my hope is that this development will not be fast tracked without solid independent research and thorough consideration of the long term implications for Salem.

Rachael Atchison
Ward 3

--

Rachael

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From: [Rayce Conner](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:10:41 PM

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council, my name is Rayce Conner, and I'm a Salem resident.

I'm writing to ask for a thorough and transparent review of the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center. Specifically, please ensure clear public analysis of electrical capacity, water use, backup generation, noise, lighting, traffic, and any impacts on nearby neighborhoods and natural resources. I respectfully ask that no approvals be granted until it is clear the project meets all standards while protecting the public interest.

Thank you for your time and service.

I'll be on vacation 7/16 - 7/23

Rayce Conner
Taylor Metal Products
Rayce.conner@taylormetal.com
Cell: 503-930-9495
Office: (503) 581-8338
www.taylormetal.com



Quality products, exceptional service.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Rayce Conner <rayce.conner@taylormetal.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:10 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council, my name is Rayce Conner, and I'm a Salem resident.

I'm writing to ask for a thorough and transparent review of the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center. Specifically, please ensure clear public analysis of electrical capacity, water use, backup generation, noise, lighting, traffic, and any impacts on nearby neighborhoods and natural resources. I respectfully ask that no approvals be granted until it is clear the project meets all standards while protecting the public interest.

Thank you for your time and service.

I'll be on vacation 7/16 - 7/23

Rayce Conner
Taylor Metal Products
Rayce.conner@taylormetal.com
Cell: 503-930-9495
Office: (503) 581-8338
www.taylormetal.com



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Carl Hoffman

From: Ray Mcmillin <raymondmcmillin@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 6:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment Regarding 7/27 Meeting Regarding Mill Creek Data Center
Attachments: Albubble.JPG

Others have likely noted the environmental impacts of data centers, so, as a pro-tech, pro-business resident, I'd like to address the economic impact on Salem, since financial incentive seems to be the only argument in favor of allowing a data center in our backyard.

While data centers are not exclusively used for AI, discussing the wine market is important when considering a new grape field. Salem is not known as "grape juice country," even though we have several "grape centers." Our grape fields rely on the wine industry for profit. On the same token, we must discuss the AI market when considering a new data center, as generative AI companies serve as the primary customer for the data center being proposed in Salem.

Here is a quote regarding the current economics of the AI industry:

"Data centers are considered a bubble due to massive speculative debt-financed overbuilding, severe electrical grid constraints, and an unproven path to profitability for generative AI. Major tech firms are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on physical infrastructure that risks becoming underutilized if AI monetization stalls."

The source of this quote? AI. Specifically, Google AI, used by Alphabet, which is the parent company of Verrus, the company seeking a data center in Salem. The company itself knows it's in a market bubble. A screenshot of this search result is attached.

So, one of the following must be true: either the AI information on AI being a bubble is false, in which case it's a bad product, or, the AI result is true, in which case the technology we are investing in is literally telling us that it's an unwise investment.

We cannot tax businesses that are going bankrupt and defaulting on loans. We cannot create jobs if we know that said jobs are not going to last. Imagine building a housing development at the peak of the 2008 bubble, or investing heavily into Lazerdiscs and VHS tapes a few years before Netflix introduced streaming. Data centers are in debt and currently losing money, so there's nothing to tax. What I'm asking, is that the council demonstrate how and when a profit will actually be made. What I'm scared of, is seeing Salem go into debt because we banked on tax revenue from the worst investment in decades.

AI as a larger technology exists, and we should invest in it if and when appropriate. My mother recently beat cancer because the Salem Hospital was able to use AI for early detection. However, the AI used by the hospital uses localized, in-house data and computing power that is on par with that of a smartphone. On the contrary, the specific AI product that serves as the primary customer for data centers is for generative search results, cheating on exams and "art" in gigantic quotes (please use air quotes if reading this out loud).

AI companies need around 20 trillion dollars worth of customer-driven profit to get out of current debts, and we should not pass on these debts onto Salem residents who are seeking jobs at the data center, nor should we allow our city to bank on tax revenue that will never happen. The ripple effect of the AI bubble popping will affect us all, I just ask that we not invite the source of said collapse to have a home in Salem. And, if anyone thinks this still seems like a good investment after knowing the risks, I am currently selling tulips, Dogecoin and shares of the South Sea Company to interested parties.

- Ray McMillin, Salem resident, business owner, tech nerd and capitalist.

--

Ray McMillin
503.839.5624

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Data centers are considered a bubble due to massive speculative overbuilding, extreme debt-financed spending by tech giants, and a severe mismatch between high costs and unproven AI revenues. This dynamic mirrors the late-1990s dot-com telecom boom, threatening overcapacity if software profits fail to materialize.  YouTube · ColdFusion +4

Financial and Speculative Risks

- **Debt-fueled spending:** Major tech firms are shifting from pure cash reserves to heavy borrowing and complex financing partnerships to fund hundreds of billions in infrastructure.  YouTube · ColdFusion +1
- **Circular dependency:** Interlocking supplier and customer deals among AI developers and hardware makers create an inflated ecosystem vulnerable to a single point of failure.  CNBC
- **Unproven monetization:** The path to turning multi-billion dollar compute clusters into sustainable profits remains narrow, risking long-term asset devaluation.  LinkedIn · Louis Sessions +1

Physical and Resource Bottlenecks

- **Power grid strain:** Facilities require massive electricity loads rivaling small cities, forcing tight grid constraints and delayed or canceled projects.  Coface +3
- **Supply chain limits:** Critical hardware like specialized transformers and high-end chips face international bottlenecks and shortages.  YouTube · ColdFusion +1
- **Rapid obsolescence:** Speculative physical real estate risks becoming obsolete or underutilized if hardware design or computing requirements shift quickly.  LinkedIn · Louis Sessions +1

If you'd like, I can:

- Compare this buildout to the **1990s telecom and fiber-optic bubble**
- Detail the **local power and community grid impacts** of nearby facilities
- Analyze the **financial exposure** of specific tech companies

Let me know how you would like to proceed.

Carl Hoffman

From: Sandra <crissandra.stephen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 3:40 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Regarding the AI facility, or any AI facility, in Salem.

To the City of Salem Council people addressing the AI facility matter for Salem.

Im a resident of Salem. I formally object to the building or permitting of any AI facility in salem or Marion County. The negative long term effects outweigh any short term benefits. I object for the following reasons.

- AI facilities are a major threat to the environment and anything that depends on water, soil, or the environment to survive.
- AI facilities promote short-term, temporary job opportunities to create a foundation for longer term, sustained job losses.
- AI facilities act as an unchecked, poorly regulated, or unregulated, science experiment at the cost of human and environmental wellness.
- Poor transparency for this proposed plan with non-disclosure agreements made far before this meetings suggest mal intent or backroom deals- a fix that has something to hide or unfair gains to a targeted few.
- There are other ways to raise funds for public services.

Sandra Stephen
Salem, OR 97305
503-312-8842

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Carl Hoffman

From: Susan Graves / Lloyd Chapman <susanlloyd@peak.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:33 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Agenda Item 5.1 - Data Center
Attachments: Mill Creek Data Center.doc

Please find attached a summary of one South Salem neighborhood's concerns regarding the proposed Mill Creek Data Center and include it in the city council packet for July 27, 2026.

Thanks,

Jody Kishpaugh
Stanley Lane Neighbors

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Say No to Data Centers

We live on Stanley Lane and several other streets in our South Salem neighborhood.

We address you as an established neighborhood originating in the 1950s. Collectively and collaboratively we are opposed to the proposed Mill Creek Data Center.

At a brief neighborhood meeting on July 22 2026 the following concerns were raised:

- First and foremost, the lack of local government transparency re: Verrus and the proposed data center;
- The impact on utility usage and the cost to the community
- Potential depletion impact on the community water supply
- Potential impact on Salem's finite water system and electrical system;
- The impact on our community with re: 24-7 disruptive noise with unknown impact on neighbors and wildlife in the vicinity;
- Lack of a cost benefit analysis re: Verrus; how does the community actually benefit from this endeavor. We understand that Verrus has not previously built a data center and question whether commitments they make will be upheld. after construction and with the end user.

We are proposing an immediate halt to the action.

Thank you for your attention to these important community issues.

Sincerely,

Joanna Kishpaugh, Jerolyn Miner, Madeline Mulhern, Jeff and Denise Robers, Nicole Kielsmeier, Art and Veronica Cocker, Michael Miner, Jennifer Carley, Bruce and Lorie Fontaine, Lloyd Chapman, Susan Graves

Joanna Kishbaugh
kishpaughjody@gmail.com

3753 Stanley Lane S.

Carl Hoffman

From: Sergey Lyubinetzky <5171189@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 6:17 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment — Verrus data center (Turner & Deer Park), July 27 meeting

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a former Salem resident with continuing ties to the community, writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27. Even from outside Salem, the impacts of this project extend statewide, which is why I'm weighing in.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. Salem cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Every Oregonian, including those of us outside Salem, pays for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is NOT rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,

Sergey Lyubinetzky

Formerly of Salem, OR (currently residing in Pendleton, OR)

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Carl Hoffman

From: Info Osher Farms <info@osherfarms.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 4:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Extreme Concern Regarding the Proposed Data Center

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Osher Farms to express our extreme concern regarding the proposed data center near our property.

We are not distant observers of this project. We are local residents, business owners, and farm owners who live just up the street from the proposed site. The decisions made about this development could directly affect our home, our agricultural operations, our animals, our guests, our property value, and the long-term character and livability of our community.

Our concerns include, but are not limited to:

- The potential strain on local water supplies and whether agricultural and residential users will be protected during shortages or periods of increased demand.
- Continuous noise from cooling equipment, generators, electrical infrastructure, construction, and truck traffic—particularly low-frequency noise that may travel well beyond the project boundary.
- Increased traffic, road damage, construction disruption, dust, lighting, and impacts on emergency access.
- The effect of industrial development on nearby farms, livestock, wildlife, rural businesses, tourism, and neighboring homes.
- Whether promises made by the current developer will be legally binding, independently monitored, and enforceable if the project is expanded, transferred, or sold to another company.
- The lack of confidence created by limited transparency, nondisclosure agreements, and the appearance that affected neighbors were not given complete and timely information.

This project is being presented as an economic opportunity, but the costs and risks appear to be concentrated on the people who already live, farm, and operate businesses here. Those impacts cannot be treated as secondary simply because they are difficult to quantify.

Before any approval is granted, we strongly urge the responsible officials to require independent studies of water use, noise, traffic, environmental impacts, emergency preparedness, and cumulative effects. The public should be given access to the underlying data—not merely summaries prepared by the applicant or its consultants.

Any commitments involving water limits, noise limits, operating hours, generator use, expansion, road improvements, community benefits, or environmental protections must be written into binding and enforceable conditions that remain attached to the property regardless of a future sale or change in ownership.

We also request meaningful notice and participation for nearby residents and businesses throughout every stage of the process. Public involvement should occur before major decisions are made, not after the project has effectively become inevitable.

Osher Farms is part of this community. We have invested our lives, labor, and resources here. We expect our home, farm, business, animals, guests, and future to receive serious consideration—not vague assurances.

Please enter this correspondence into the official public record and provide a written response explaining how these concerns will be investigated, addressed, enforced, and monitored.

Sincerely,

Stephanie McGough and Eugene McGough

Osher Farms

info@osherfarms.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of sarahjrohrs@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:10 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Sarah Rohrs
Your Email	sarahjrohrs@gmail.com
Your Phone	5035453159
Street	260 23rd St. NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	City of Salem Mayor and City Council members, This is Sarah Rohrs. I live in the NEN area. I'm writing to let you know that I am opposed to the proposed AI Data Center in Salem. I am extremely disturbed that the city entered into a NDA regarding this project which allowed city and company officials to discuss and make decisions about this project for one year outside the public eye. This is wrong. I am also strongly opposed to having such a center in any Salem neighborhood, even industrial areas. Such AI data centers produce exhaust containing carcinogens that can cause cancer, asthma and heart disease and, possibly, other diseases and conditions. AI Data Centers use enormous amounts of energy and water whichi will likely result in power outages and other electrical issues and probably rate increases, as well. For these reasons I join the many others in Salem opposed to \$5.1-billion Verrus ("Oakline") data center project at Salem's Mill Creek Corporate Center. Thank you for your consideration, Sarah Rohrs

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/27/2026.

Carl Hoffman

From: Sarah Rohrs <sarahjrohrs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:14 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to AI Data Center

City of Salem Mayor and City Council members,

This is Sarah Rohrs. I live in the NEN area. I'm writing to let you know that I am opposed to the proposed AI Data Center in Salem. I am extremely disturbed that the city entered into a NDA regarding this project which allowed city and company officials to discuss and make decisions about this project for one year outside the public eye. This is wrong.

I am also strongly opposed to having such a center in any Salem neighborhood, even industrial areas. Such AI data centers produce exhaust containing carcinogens that can cause cancer, asthma and heart disease and, possibly, other diseases and conditions.

AI Data Centers use enormous amounts of energy and water which will likely result in power outages and other electrical issues and probably rate increases, as well.

For these reasons I join the many others in Salem opposed to \$5.1-billion Verrus ("Oakline") data center project at Salem's Mill Creek Corporate Center.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Rohrs

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sarah Shadrick <smshadrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:12 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center Project

Dear Salem City Council Members,

My name is Sarah Shadrick, and I am writing to you not only as a Salem resident, but as a lifelong Oregonian, a mother, and someone who believes deeply in protecting the place I call home.

I was born and raised in Oregon. As a young adult, I moved away for over a decade, but about five years ago I made the decision to return home and raise my children here. I came back because Oregon has always represented something different. Clean air. Healthy forests. Rivers and farmland. A state where people have consistently fought to protect our natural resources instead of sacrificing them for short-term gain. I wanted my children to grow up in a place where protecting the environment isn't an afterthought but part of our identity.

That is why I am writing today.

After spending considerable time researching the proposed 75-acre closed-loop data center, I have come to the conclusion that I do not believe this project is the right fit for our community.

I recognize that the applicant has highlighted several benefits, including reduced water use through a closed-loop cooling system and approximately 75 permanent jobs. I appreciate those efforts, and I acknowledge that closed-loop cooling is an improvement over traditional water-intensive designs.

However, reduced water use alone does not resolve the broader concerns associated with a project of this scale.

The project will still require enormous amounts of electricity, backup diesel generators, extensive electrical infrastructure, continuous cooling equipment, and decades of industrial operation. These impacts deserve careful scrutiny, not only individually but also in terms of their cumulative effects on our environment, our public health, and the future character of Salem.

What concerns me most is that this project asks our community to permanently dedicate 75 acres of valuable industrial land to a facility that is expected to employ only about 75 full-time workers once construction is complete. Those jobs are important, and many will likely be well-paying technical positions. But I cannot help asking whether this represents the highest and best use of land that will likely never return to other economic uses during my lifetime or my children's lifetime.

Could those same 75 acres support industries that create hundreds of family-wage jobs? Could they provide opportunities for manufacturing, research, or businesses that strengthen our local economy while making better use of the land? Could this land be used to help solve other real crises our community faces such as houselessness? These are questions I believe deserve serious discussion before irreversible decisions are made.

I also worry about the precedent this project could establish.

If one 75-acre data center is approved today, what happens when the next proposal arrives? And the one after that?

At what point do we stop and ask whether Salem is becoming something very different from the community many of us chose to live in?

My concern is not about technology itself. Technology has an important place in our future. My concern is about balance.

Oregon has earned a national reputation for protecting its environment and carefully managing growth. I hope we continue to uphold those values by asking difficult questions before approving projects that will shape our community for generations.

I respectfully ask the City Council to carefully consider:

- Whether this project represents the highest and best use of 75 acres of industrial land.
- Whether the long-term environmental and infrastructure impacts have been fully evaluated.
- Whether the permanent employment benefits are proportional to the scale of the development.
- Whether cumulative impacts should be considered if additional data center proposals follow.
- Whether a formal Health Impact Assessment should be completed before final approvals are granted.

The decisions you make today will outlive all of us. They will determine what kind of Salem our children inherit.

I returned to Oregon because I believe in what this state stands for. I believe we can welcome economic development while also protecting the natural environment and quality of life that make Oregon special.

For those reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose this proposal as currently presented or, at a minimum, require additional independent review of its long-term environmental, public health, and community impacts before moving forward.

Thank you for your service and for considering my perspective. I will see you tonight at the city council meeting.

Respectfully,

Sarah Shadrick
Salem, Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sara <sarasue1407@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:45 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to the Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center Proposal

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I respectfully urge you to reject the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center.

While I support responsible economic development, this project raises serious concerns about its long-term impacts on our community. Data centers consume enormous amounts of electricity and water, create noise, increase traffic during construction, and provide relatively few permanent jobs compared to the strain they place on local infrastructure and resources.

Salem should prioritize development that creates lasting employment, protects our environment, and preserves our quality of life. Once a project of this scale is approved, its impacts will be felt for decades.

Please put the interests of Salem residents first by voting against this proposal.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Sara Wright

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tammy <aussiegirltc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:11 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center in Salem

I strongly oppose any data center in Salem or Marion county. There are too many issues with electricity , water use and noise in these centers.

Many cities have been devastated with issues like these. I want no part of living in south Salem and having extra noise pollution. I don't want water polluted or access reduced and the power rates are already too high and keep climbing.

No,no, no!!!

Tamara Chance

Sent from my iPhone

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Carl Hoffman

From: taylor hering <taylorhering72@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 5:07 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Regarding the Verrus data center

Hello,

I am reaching out as a resident of Salem to give my opinion on the construction of a multi-acre data center in South Salem. There is a chance I will be unable to make the city council meeting, but I wanted to ensure my opinion was voiced.

All data centers spike energy bills for those who live near them, create heat islands, are incredibly loud, and waste hundreds of thousands of gallons of water daily. I read the article published on the one that is being considered for construction and although it states that it will focus on conserving water, I find that vague and hard to trust.

As a resident, especially in this summer heat, I find the idea of constructing a data center in our home incredibly frustrating and misguided. We live in an apartment without air conditioning and summers in Oregon have already begun to grow too hot for that to be livable. Our energy bills are already too high in our attempts to cool it down to be affordable. I also read that the data center will create 75 permanent jobs but I believe that will come at both the physical and financial expense of all residents of Salem, whether we can afford it or not.

I urge you, as city councilors, to do everything you can to stop the construction of this data center.

Thank you for your time,

- Taylor Hering

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tara Perdue <twistoftara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:10 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Center!

To whom it may concern,

Data centers are moving into our communities with no concern for the irrevocable harm they have on local economies, people, and places. These data centers rely on public resources, but they cause harm to the very public they rely on. We are seeing residential electricity rates rise by nearly 50% while data centers pay less than half the rate per kilowatt-hour that households do, forcing families to subsidize corporate infrastructure.

Furthermore, the environmental toll is staggering, with large-scale facilities consuming as much as 4.5 million gallons of fresh water per day and creating heat islands that warm land by up to 16 degrees. The push for more data centers comes in the time of a global water bankruptcy. They contribute to the creation of PFAS—forever chemicals—that accumulate and make their way to families' food and water supplies. These chemicals create toxic effects throughout the body and even interrupt crucial biological processes.

Our schools are paying the price, too, due to data center tax abatements. These facilities generate among the lowest number of permanent jobs per acre of any industry, yet they are being given enormous tax breaks. This is not economic development—it's a giveaway.

Rising costs, availability of care and an uncertain future will impact the viability of Oregon for families, and ultimately its economy. These problems aren't unique to Oregon, but it is because of Oregon's uniqueness that we must protect our state. You have the chance to lead the fight to prioritize communities over corporations. The health of our communities, our schools, and our environment depends on your decisive action now.

No to data centers in Salem and everywhere else in Oregon!

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Tara Perdue

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tisha Skelton <tishaskelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 5:34 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Concerns Regarding Proposed Data Center Development by Verrus on Turner Road SE and Deer Park DR SE, proposed to be called Oakline at Mill Creek

Dear Mayor Julie Hoy and Salem City Council members,

As a homeowner and taxpayer in Salem Oregon, Marion County, I am writing to strongly oppose the planned data center development by Verrus on Turner Road SE and Deer Park DR SE, proposed to be called Oakline at Mill Creek.

Data centers are massive consumers of electricity and municipal water – they can use millions of gallons of water daily for cooling, exacerbating existing drought conditions and threatening local water tables. Additionally, the constant operation of cooling systems and emergency backup generators creates unacceptable noise and air pollution in residential areas.

This project threatens wetlands that contribute to our region's distinct character. Additionally, large data centers like this one require vast amounts of land but create very few permanent local jobs relative to their massive physical footprint.

From the website DataCenterMap's page of information on the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek:

"It is designed to be grid-interactive, capable of dynamically reducing energy consumption during peak demand to support regional grid reliability. The campus will employ a closed-loop cooling system to significantly reduce water usage compared to conventional data centers and will utilize lithium iron phosphate battery storage for primary backup power, aiming to lower emissions."

Verrus emphasizes Oakline's commitment to being a responsible neighbor, focusing on preserving on-site Heritage Oak trees, utilizing thoughtful architecture, and native landscaping. The project also aims to minimize noise and operate quietly, adhering to City of Salem noise standards."

From what I can tell when looking at Verrus, the company has several Data Centers in development but none operating so we, at this point in time, do not know if their data center system model works as safely as they say it will.

While we value economic progress, this project poses unacceptable long-term risks to our community, infrastructure, and natural resources.

The proposed Data Center site includes the 2021 Mill Creek Urban Renewal Area. There could be a catastrophic environmental impact on the recently-restored wetlands, the heritage oaks and other flora and fauna important to the ecosystem, a variety of nearby ponds and Mill Creek that passes through the area. There could be damage to Mill Creek and the underlying water table that, once unleashed, may not be known until it is too late to reverse. This has happened already in other communities in other parts of the country.

Data Centers are known to cause significant noise pollution which could lead to health concerns for people living and working in the area nearby, which include Corban University, Santiam Correctional Institution, OSCI, the Marion County Jail, the Oregon Humane Society, as well as many other business entities.

Before approving projects that permanently alter the livability of our City and County neighborhoods, we need comprehensive and independent studies on the long-term economic and environmental costs.

I urge you to reject this proposal and prioritize the well-being and affordability of your existing constituents.

Sincerely,
T. Skelton

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of ww64z@myctl.net
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 1:10 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Contact City Recorder
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Vonda Zirbes
Your Email	ww64z@myctl.net
Your Phone	5033624158
Street	6660 Continental Cir. SE, -----
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	Dear Salem mayor Hoy and city Manager, Please rethink the data center in Salem. This citizen is a NO! I am adamant for Livability in Salem. We have enough "box" buildings in SE Salem. Only 75 permanent jobs. Large use of water, electricity and noise. I do not believe the company's claim of less, for them. Three year tax perk. Lets keep Oregon Green. Where is a Tom McCall? Sincerely, Vonda Zirbes

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/26/2026.



CITY OF SALEM

585 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Written Testimony #1

City Council

Monday, July 27, 2026

6:00 PM

**Loucks Auditorium/
Salem Public Library**

Item 5.1 Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek

Add - Written Testimony.

Carl Hoffman

From: Shawn Engelberg <shawn.engelberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 11:44 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment in Support of the Proposed Next-Generation Data Center Project

Subject: Public Comment in Support of the Proposed Next-Generation Data Center Project

Speaker: Shawn Epping Engelberg, Trustee Larry and Jeanette Epping Family Foundation, Salem, Oregon. Salem First Citizen 2022.

Contact information: shawn.engelberg@gmail.com

Salem has a generational opportunity knocking at its door. This is our moment to showcase the next generation of data centers while we help Salem thrive economically and environmentally. I urge you to vote yes on this next-generation data center.

This next-generation data center project directly addresses the two biggest concerns opponents of large data centers have: power and water consumption.

First, it features a flexible power load design using battery storage. This system smooths out peaks and valleys on our electrical grid and utilizes excess power that would otherwise be wasted or curtailed. These batteries also replace dirty diesel generators for emergency backup, thereby reducing greenhouse gases.

When considering environmental impacts, note that locating this facility here is far better for the environment than drawing from higher-emission grids in other states. Furthermore, Oregon's POWER Act (House Bill 3546) ensures that large energy users pay directly for required grid growth, protecting Salem households from absorbing infrastructure costs.

Second, this facility uses an advanced closed-loop water cooling system. It consumes 99% less water than legacy evaporative cooling data centers. This is the design of the future and should be promoted by all of us.

This is Salem's moment to promote an innovative and sustainable new generation of data centers while building a thriving local economy. Salem needs this, our children need this, and our world needs this. Please be part of the solution and support this data center. Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Alexandria Hitchen <alexbhitchen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 6:15 PM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: Data Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hey there,

My name is Alex Hitchen and I am a resident here of Salem, in Ward 1.

I've been aware that we've had servers and server centers of smaller scales scattered throughout Salem for over a decade now, but Data Centers have a specific point of agitation to the community. In my lifetime here in Salem I've witnessed a decrease in our tree canopies, I've felt the ever increasing days exceeding 92° and I've endured the strains on our local water sources due to lack of snowfall.

How will a new data center be the solution to these issues? \$5 billion is nothing compared to the long term value of just leaving our shrinking wildlife alone.

Larry O'Neill, Associate Professor & Director of the Oregon Climate Service *CEOAS*, told Salem Reporter last summer that, "By the end of the century, we're expecting the snowpack will be about half of what it is now,". Therefore leaving Oregon's key natural reservoirs depleted and far less water available to use. Another major impact of this means an increase in severe drought which heightens the risk of wildfire in the valley.

We know that even the most sustainable data center, is in the end still NOT sustainable. Tech companies have already told the general public that they plan to spend \$700 Billion in 2026 alone to build out AI infrastructure.

We've been trained by the internet boom of the early 20's to think that the next "big thing" in tech, therefore equates to an investment. A study last year from MIT found that only 5% of AI businesses are successful - so why are we so committed to providing infrastructure to a system that seems to have very little benefit?

From an ecological standpoint, manufacturing IT hardware and building physical infrastructure leads to the generating of massive carbon emissions before the facility even operates. Server lifespans are relatively short, (especially when operating with a closed loop-operating system, like the center being proposed) so to reproduce, and dispose of the significant hazardous e-waste that requires specialized IT recycling, are the aspects of this project that will lead to long term issues for our environment, whether done with best practices or not.

Genuinely, I could go on and on about my feelings on this subject. Please reply if you want to engage in more conversation about this topic!

I urge you to please vote NO on allowing the building of a data center in our community.

Thank you,
Alex Hitchen

Carl Hoffman

From: A ORourke <aorourke18@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 9:42 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment on proposed Verrus data center - July 27, 2026 City of Salem Councilor Meeting

July 22, 2026

To: City of Salem Council Members
Re: Proposed 75-acre Verrus Data Center

I adamantly **oppose** the proposed 75-acre Verrus Data Center to be built near Oakline and Mill Creek in Salem, Oregon.

Verrus claims the three data center buildings will use a “closed-loop” cooling system that will require 90 to 99 percent less water than standard data centers. “Closed-loop” is a shorthand term for water-efficient data centers, but it has little to do with the data center’s actual water usage. Yes, the water can circulate for months even years before it needs to be flushed out, and that “waste water discharge” is very concerning. It is a major infrastructure that needs to be considered for environmental impacts, wildlife effects and contamination.

Prior to beginning operations, a data center must clean its “closed-loop” pipes. The process is known as “fill and flush,” where the water gets circulated through the pipes — sometimes with the addition of chemicals to prevent pipe corrosion — to remove bacteria and other impurities.

What’s left behind is wastewater with contents that City of Salem’s water treatment facility may not recognize. That estimated \$9 million a year in tax revenue from Verrus Data Center will hardly cover the cost to clean up future contaminated drinking water.

Bottomline, vote no or vote without prejudice and revisit in 2030 when more environmental studies, energy and water consumption data and information are available. Keep the Willamette Valley pristine!

A. ORourke - Ward 1
PO Box 2835
Salem, OR 97308

CC: Julie Hoy, Paul Tigan, Salem of City Recorder

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Carl Hoffman

From: Amy Pasetti <amypasetti@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 9:51 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers in Salem!

Statement to Salem City Mayor and City Council
Re: Opposition to Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center Proposal (Verrus)

Salem City Mayor and City Council,

My name is Amy Pasetti and I am a resident of the Morningside community, Ward 3, Salem, 97302. I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center campus.

My primary concern is water and electricity use. Data centers of this scale are resource-intensive and even a "closed-loop" cooling system requires a vast amount of water to fill and maintain, as well as a substantial ongoing electricity demand. Salem's water and power systems already serve a large and growing population. I'm not convinced our infrastructure can absorb a facility of this size, three buildings plus a dedicated utility substation, on a 75-acre site, without straining supply or driving up costs for residents.

I realize that the Oregon Public Utility Commission's new data center rate structure raises data-center rates by about 29%. While that's meant to shield residential customers, there is no way to know or guarantee that residents will be fully protected from any rate hikes or grid problems related to this project. While we are being told that just told that rates "shouldn't" increase, the reality is that in other locations, costs dramatically increase. According to Bloomberg News, wholesale electricity costs have gone up over 267% over the past five years in areas near data centers. Residents should not have to pay more for their energy consumption because data centers are moving in. Data centers should pay for added costs and infrastructure necessary to power their massive needs.

I'm also very concerned about the 24/7 noise and environmental impact for our city. Industrial cooling equipment and backup generators on this scale run continuously and can be disruptive to nearby neighborhoods.

For example, there is a phenomenon occurring in Virginia's data center corridor. Low frequency infrasound disturbances, undetectable with most decibel meters, can cause residents to have debilitating physical side effects such as headaches, nausea, ear pain, vertigo, hypertension, and insomnia. This is unacceptable. We must learn about these types of physical consequences before any more data centers are built.

Additionally, there are no independent, third-party noise or environmental studies available regarding the potential harm to our City and its residents... only the word of Verrus and their own 'data'. There are no protections for the heritage oak trees on site. Residents in cities with many data centers report that birds and other animals leave the area due to the low frequency humming of these facilities.

I recognize this project promises tax revenue and construction jobs. I don't dismiss that, but I have many concerns. The construction jobs will be gone once the facility is built, leaving a handful of locals employed. I am skeptical about what the city is getting out of this. Who is being enriched besides the ultra-rich behind the project? Why did the city sign an NDA with Verrus? Why was the zoning for this data center so secretive and why do they want to push this through last minute? This is alarming to me. Salem City residents should get a say, EVERY step of the way!

This would be Salem's first data center of this kind, and the precedent we set matters. I'm asking the Council to:

1. Follow New York's lead and place a moratorium on all new data centers. In the interim:
2. Require independent environmental, water, and noise impact studies, not developer-supplied data
3. Hold additional public hearings before any final land-use or utility decisions are made
4. Let Salem RESIDENTS have more information, more say in what is good for this city; Amend the 2006 city code to allow for public input regarding modern data centers

Thank you for your time and for taking these concerns seriously.

Sincerely,
Amy Pasetti
4870 Chauncey Street SE
7-15-2026

Amy Pasetti
Sent from my iPhone
Amy Pasetti
Sent from my iPhone

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Carl Hoffman

From: Bill Dixon <bill.r.dixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 12:15 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Vanessa Nordyke
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment Regarding Agenda Item 5.1, Update on Proposed Data Center

My name is Bill Dixon, and I am a resident of Ward 7. I urge the City Council to take two actions that would yield long-term benefits from the proposed data center and beyond.

First, implement a revised city operations fee that better balances its impact on different classes of accounts and increases revenue.

Second, adopt a policy that requires community benefits agreements for all proposed projects that require subsidies of any kind from the city.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

--

Bill Dixon, 608 Salem Heights Ave. S., Salem 97302

bill.r.dixon@gmail.com

503-602-1708

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Carl Hoffman

From: Brian Hines <brianhines1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 3:27 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment for agenda item 5.1 on 7/27 meeting

I support a fair and unbiased consideration of the Verrus proposal for a data center on the Mill Creek Corporate Center property. The instant opposition to the data center bothers me, as it is largely—and sometimes completely—untethered from the facts of this particular proposal. Note: particular.

Opponents conflate opposition to AI in general, and data centers in general, with the particular circumstances of the Verrus proposal. Naturally much work remains to confirm that the claims Verrus is making for a “kinder and gentler” data center (less noise, less water use, less electricity requirement, etc.) stand up under close scrutiny.

But attempts to paint the Oakline at Mill Creek with the broad brush of horror stories of poorly designed and sited data centers in other parts of the country ignore the unique characteristics of this particular proposal.

The AI genie is not going to be put back into a technological bottle. AI will continue to develop, in some ways positively, in some ways negatively. The computing resources needed to train and maintain AI models like ChatGPT and Claude may lessen over time, as Chinese models seem to have demonstrated. In that case it will be Verrus who will have overbuilt, and it will be Verrus who will absorb that financial burden.

However, Verrus seems to be wise in planning a second generation data center that is less costly to operate than first generation data centers. Opponents fret that so far Verrus hasn't built a data center akin to the one planned for Salem.

Well, we here in Salem should look upon this as an opportunity. If the design of Oakline at Mill Creek proves to be an advance, Salem will become a mecca of sorts for those looking to build similar data centers. We will have helped advance wise AI technology. So let's look forward optimistically to a review of the Verrus proposal, rather than rejecting it for spurious reasons.

Sincerely, Brian Hines

Brian Hines

Salem, Oregon USA

brianhines1@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/OregonBrian>

<https://www.facebook.com/StrangeUpSalem>

<https://www.facebook.com/SalemPoliticalSnark>

<https://www.facebook.com/SalemCanDoBetter>

<https://bsky.app/profile/oregonbrian.bsky.social>

www.hinesblog.com (blog)

www.churchofthechurchless.com (other blog)

www.salempoliticalsnark.com (other other blog)

www.brianhines.com (web site)

<https://brianhines.journoportfolio.com> (selection of my writings)

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Carl Hoffman

From: Brook Weir <brookaweir@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 3:30 PM
To: citycouncil; Salem Planning
Cc: Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; smathews@cityofsalem.net; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Request for Transparency and Community Input Regarding Potential Data Center Development

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I am a Salem resident concerned about the potential expansion of large-scale data center development in our community.

I recognize the importance of technology infrastructure and economic development, but I believe residents deserve transparency and meaningful opportunities for input before major land-use decisions are made.

I respectfully request information regarding any proposed data center projects in the Salem area, including anticipated impacts related to energy demand, water usage, noise, air quality, traffic, infrastructure capacity, and long-term effects on surrounding neighborhoods.

I also ask that the City ensure robust public engagement and independent review processes before approving developments of this scale.

Thank you for your service to our community. I appreciate your commitment to considering residents' concerns as Salem continues to grow.

Sincerely,
B. Weir

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Carl Hoffman

From: Colleen 'Cole' <orchaos@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 1:18 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment for July 27 City Council Meeting – Opposition to Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council,

My name is **Colleen Olivas**, and I am a resident of the Battlecreek neighborhood area. I am writing to formally submit my opposition to the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center campus. While I understand the city is facing a structural budget deficit, the severe long-term risks this industrial project poses to our local community vastly outweigh the projected financial returns.

I urge the Council to deny or heavily restrict this proposal based on the following critical concerns:

- **Incompatible Proximity to Vulnerable Senior and Memory Care Residents:** It is deeply concerning that this massive industrial campus is proposed just across the way from a zoned memory care facility and a senior retirement compound. Seniors, particularly those navigating cognitive decline, are highly susceptible to environmental stressors. Forcing vulnerable populations to live adjacent to an industrial zone—exposed to the ongoing anxiety of heavy construction traffic and the relentless, 24/7 low-frequency drone of cooling infrastructure—is entirely unacceptable and a failure of responsible city planning.
- **Water Resources and Local Watershed Pollution:** While the developer promises a closed-loop system, data centers historically generate highly concentrated, mineral-heavy industrial wastewater. I am deeply concerned about the long-term cumulative impact of discharging this concentrated wastewater into our municipal system, which risks leaking trace contaminants into local watersheds and straining our public treatment infrastructure.
- **PFAS and Hazardous Materials:** Heavy industrial cooling systems and backup power infrastructure frequently utilize PFAS ("forever chemicals") and other hazardous materials. The city must demand absolute transparency regarding what chemical compounds will be present on-site and what specific protections are in place to prevent localized runoff.
- **Proximity, Noise, and Traffic:** The southwestern edge of the Mill Creek Corporate Center sits less than a mile from dense residential zones. The 24/7 low-frequency hum from massive industrial cooling fans and substations represents a severe, continuous noise pollution issue that will directly degrade the livability of Battle Creek neighborhoods. Furthermore, the construction phase will bring heavy commercial traffic and congestion to our local roads.
- **Disproportionate Investment-to-Job Ratio:** A \$5.1 billion development that yields only around 75 permanent jobs is a remarkably poor return for local employment. This project consumes a massive footprint of our limited industrial land while contributing almost nothing to Salem's long-term workforce development.

- **Lack of Local Hiring Guarantees:** The developer has failed to clarify their workforce strategy. There are currently no binding commitments ensuring that the few operational positions created will be hired locally within Salem and Oregon, rather than contracted out to remote or overseas technicians.

The City of Salem should not compromise the environmental safety, quiet enjoyment, and resource security of its residential neighborhoods for a corporate development that brings high resource strain but minimal local employment. I ask that the City Council prioritize its constituents over non-disclosure agreements and corporate promises.

Thank you for your time and for entering these concerns into the official public record.

Sincerely,

Colleen Olivas
Foxhaven Dr SE,
Salem Oregon 97306
orchaos@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Ehe Nandayo <tootiredTOTYPE.jpg11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Julie Hoy; Shane Matthews; Mai Vang; Paul Tigan; Deanna Gwyn; Vanessa Nordyke; Linda Nishioka; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Micki Varney
Subject: Do not go through with the AI data center.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello, this is my formal request as a community member of Salem, as someone who has lived here their entire life, on the topic of the AI data center that you want to build on Turner RD and Deer Park DR.

I am asking you not to go through with it. We already have 125, yet you seem to want more and it is killing our planet, that means all of us go down with it. I'm not saying this as a threat but a simple fact.

AI data centers take up a LOT of water that we are rapidly running out of and are noise polluting pests to deal with, it's not just hurting us if you go through with it. Simply put, we do not care how low the noise is or how much water it uses. We do not want this filth to poison us more (quite literally), and by building it you only shoot yourself in the foot because you live here too.

I strongly suggest you don't go through, thank you for your time

Carl Hoffman

From: E N <enebzydoski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 6:24 AM
To: Julie Hoy; Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; smatthews@cityofsalem.net; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: Data City

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Members of the City Council,

I am going to do my best to attend the meeting July 27th; however, I also wanted to put my opposition to the data center into words.

I moved out to Salem 3 years ago as a travel pediatrician to help out a practice to better serve the community. Since then, I moved out here permanently and took a permanent position in the a non profit office focused on seeing the underserved. I moved to the area (from across the US) as I love how many outdoor activities there are to do in such a short distance away. Oregon is one of the most beautiful and diverse states. I love how open the state is to other cultures, ethnicities, etc as well. And I thought Oregon cared about the environment. Watching more trees being ripped down for developments and apartment complexes is heartbreaking enough. Now to potentially use water resources (I'm pretty sure I read about issues with the reservoir and it might needing draining last year before this center was even proposed <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Home/Components/News/News/2163/>), cause more pollution, and be an eyesore, I truly oppose a data center in our small city. We only get one planet. Our world is already trashing it enough as it is. I hope you do what's best for Salem and its resident by voting no on a data center.

Sincerely,

Emily M. Nebzydoski, MD
enebzydoski@gmail.com

Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Nishioka
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 5:49 PM
To: Holly Carter
Subject: Re: Please fight Verrus data center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms. Carter,

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns regarding the proposed Oakline Data Center. I appreciate hearing from residents on issues that are important to them, and I understand the depth of your concern.

Like many residents, I first learned about the proposed data center on Friday, July 10. I, too, have many questions and am actively seeking information so I can better understand the proposal, its potential impacts, and the City's role in the process.

I will be forwarding your email to City staff so they are aware of your concerns. As additional information becomes available, I expect it will be shared publicly so residents have the opportunity to review the facts and participate in the discussion.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda Nishioka
Salem City Councilor, Ward 2

Linda Nishioka (She/Her)

City Councilor - Ward 2

lnishioka@cityofsalem.net | 971-707-2112

From: Holly Carter <lynnedebrooke@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, July 17, 2026 at 5:06 PM
To: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Please fight Verrus data center

Dear Councilwoman Nishioka,

I'm writing today from a place of deep alarm at the recent news of the city's negotiations with Verrus to build a data center in our community's backyard. Apart from the obvious concerns about the impact such a deal would have on Salem's energy resources and precious water supply, I'm deeply concerned by the clandestine nature of the negotiations to date, including the NDA that put Verrus's interests above that of residents as well as the move to hide negotiations from the city council until just a few days ago. Neither of these moves signal good faith on behalf of Verrus OR whoever has been representing Salem in

negotiations to date. This deal is NOT in the best interests of our community, and I urge you to use your leverage on the Council to speak up on behalf of residents with valid concerns.

Thank you,
Holly Carter
Salem resident since 2007

Carl Hoffman

From: Inga Johnson <ingaj03@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 7:33 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center

For goodness sake, please do your homework and see all the horrible repercussions of putting in a data center at Mill Creek. Irreversible damage, all for the sake of temporary jobs for builders. Please STOP this project from going forward!

Inga Johnson

Concerned Citizen of Salem Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Julie Ford <jnford64@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: Opposition to the Data Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mayor Hoy,

Even though the proposed data center is said to use less resources and is quieter to run, the full environmental impact, including property values and quality of life, of a facility that of that type is a complete unknown.

A.I. is not a necessity. And the day it becomes one will be a very sad day for all of humankind. The fact that you, my elected official, would approve a project that risks the health and wellness of the people and environment you were elected to serve and protect, without allowing a public vote, is a massive disappointment.

No amount of funding is worth risking further environmental strain on an ecosystem that is already struggling.

It's not too late to start making better choices for Salem, its citizens and the planet we call home.

Sincerely,

Julie Ford

Wildwood Dr SE, Salem

Carl Hoffman

From: Jim Scheppke <jscheppke@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 12:09 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Testimony on Agenda Item 5.1 on the July 27, 2026 Agenda

City Recorder:

Please accept my testimony on Agenda Item 5.1 on the July 27, 2026 City Council Agenda.

Thank you,

Jim Scheppke

Ward 2

My Top Ten Reasons to Move Forward to Explore the Oakline Data Center Proposal

- 1) The development company Verrus states that they were “founded to reinvent the legacy data center model to serve as a better partner to communities, utilities and the environment.”
- 2) The proposed 75 acre site is not on farmland but on the eastern edge of the Mill Creek Corporate Center zoned for industry.
- 3) The site is adjacent to the site of the new 1.1 million square foot Dollar General warehouse and the 479,000 square foot Gensco warehouse and will not require extensive infrastructure development.
- 4) Verrus says they will preserve all of the healthy large Oregon white oaks on the site and will plant an additional 36 Oregon white oaks.
- 5) Unlike many data centers, the site is remote from homes and businesses – about a mile and a half from the nearest significant residential development to the west on the other side of I-5.
- 6) The project design features what is called “ultra lower water use” — far less than in a legacy data center. The innovative closed-loop cooling system is promised to use less water than the average golf course and about the same as a few sit-down restaurants.
- 7) Unlike legacy data centers, Oakline will be designed to be quiet, with low noise cooling equipment and battery backup instead of primary diesel backup.
- 8) Unlike legacy data centers that draw power continuously, Oakline will be designed to work collaboratively with Portland General Electric to use less energy when the grid is stressed and to contribute energy back to the grid from its batteries when needed.
- 9) The City has posted a timeline for project development that is slow and responsible and deliberate, with plan review and permitting extending to the 4th quarter of 2027 and including numerous opportunities for public input and engagement.
- 10)

Verrus is proposing to invest \$5 billion dollars in the project, eventually adding many billions to Salem's \$16.7 billion tax base. This, along with other revenue generating strategies (like reform of the City Operations Fee, hopefully this year) could solve the structural deficit problem that we have been living with since 1997 when Measure 50 was enacted. Maybe in my lifetime Salem could have well-funded libraries, parks, sheltering and services for the unhoused, and adequate emergency services. We should be grateful that Verrus has chosen Salem, and I hope we can work with them to carry out their innovative plan.

Jim Scheppke
Ward 2

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Carl Hoffman

From: J W <joyrwicks@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2026 8:29 PM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: No New Data Center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Julie,

I am a resident in South Salem and am reaching out to express my sincere disapproval of this proposed new data center. Data centers have been proven to be harmful to the people living around them as well as the environment (i.e.. water use, energy use, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution). I hope that you will use your voice to help Salem block this new data center. Thank you.

Joy Wicks
South Salem, OR

Carl Hoffman

From: kathy <kathy@avenuelarchitects.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Linda Nishioka; Vanessa Nordyke; Julie Hoy; SALEM Manager
Subject: Proposed Verrus data center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am writing to request information regarding a potential 75-acre data center development in south Salem.

1. Under what statutory authority is the City allowed to sign non-disclosure agreements with a property developer?
2. What other data centers has Verrus built and put into operation? Where are these projects located? If none (and I'm not finding any), what other major projects has Verrus developed and operated? Where are they located?
3. How much more demand (electric and gas) will be placed on the PGE system, vs existing capacity? What will be the data center's power source(s)? What percentage will be electric? What percentage will be natural gas? PGE's electricity is sourced 40% from natural gas, a polluting fossil fuel. So even if most of the data center's power will be sourced from electricity, 40% of that comes from gas.
4. Demonstrate how the increased electrical demand, sourced at least 40% from natural gas, will meet the Oregon Climate Protection Program. This State program mandates declining limits on fossil fuel's greenhouse gas emissions.
5. How many backup diesel generators will be installed?
6. How much water will be used for cooling? What is the water source? Does Salem have that existing capacity? What % of the water will be recycled and reused within the facility? In order to reuse the water, its heat must be released. How/where will the heat be released? Releasing heat into the atmosphere is not classified as a greenhouse gas, but it does cause local warming. How will that be mitigated?
7. Verrus touts a new data center system that allegedly has fewer adverse environmental impacts. At what other locations has this new engineering approach been installed? How long has it been in operation?
8. What sound will be emitted and at what times of day or night? What is the frequency/vibration of the sound? Please provide a specific answer, not just that it "will meet local ordinance." Other data centers emit a low frequency noise, 24 hours a day, that has resulted in demonstrable negative health impacts to surrounding communities.
9. How much exterior lighting will be installed? What type and what brightness? What hours of day and night will it be used? Describe how it will comply with State night sky mandate.
10. How many jobs will be created, *exclusive* of construction jobs to build the project? What types of jobs are these? Does Salem currently have the workforce with the needed skills?

Thank you for pursuing answers from Verrus. A project of this magnitude, potentially with major environmental and health impacts, needs to be carefully considered. Potential property tax dollars must not be the sole determinant.

Thank you.
Kathy Lingo
1755 Winter Street SE
Salem OR 97302
(303) 588-4626

Sent from my iPhone

Carl Hoffman

From: SALEM Manager
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 1:15 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Proposed Verrus data center

-----Original Message-----

From: kathy <kathy@avenuelarchitects.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 5:24 PM
To: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>; Vanessa Nordyke <VNordyke@cityofsalem.net>; Julie Hoy <JHoy@cityofsalem.net>; SALEM Manager <MANAGER@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Proposed Verrus data center

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Salem OR 97302
(303) 588-4626

Sent from my iPhone

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lucy Gillespie <lucykeas@proton.me>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:23 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Upcoming data center agenda item meeting 7/27/26

Good day,

I was informed that I may send my public comments to this email address for consideration.

1. The Oregon Heritage Tree Program, launched in 1996 as the nation's first state-sponsored program of its kind, is run by the Oregon Travel Information Council (a state agency created under ORS 377.835) and a volunteer committee. It reviews public nominations and designates trees with exceptional historical, cultural, ecological, or aesthetic value. Designated trees receive a plaque and public recognition, but designation requires the owner's consent and does not override local removal authority on private land. On state-owned property, designation creates preservation expectations for the managing agency. Local governments may adopt their own heritage-tree ordinances providing additional protection.

*It doesnt matter that Verrus plans to build "around" these protected trees. Waste water still needs to be routed and the construction will change runoff patterns, local habitat, and heat retention.

2. The closed loop cooling system means nothing because WASTE WATER still needs to be dispelled from the system and they will be dumping that directly into our waterways OR soil.

3. The larger environmental burden is usually the facility's round-the-clock power demand, which drives greenhouse gas emissions depending on the grid mix.

4. Even with LFP, you still need lithium, iron, phosphate, copper, aluminum, graphite, plastics, and electronics; mining and processing these materials create upstream emissions and habitat disturbance. The waste WILL NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE.

5. With their tax incentives for years to come it's like we're paying THEM to be here regardless of how many "jobs" they promise the city.

Thank you,

Lucy Gillespie

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July, 2026i

Salem city staff & City Councilors
Salem Planning Commission members

The Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association after hearing from Councilor Mayor Elect Vaneesa Nordyke, reviewing the information posted on the city website, reviewing the promotional website oaklineatmillcreek.com, hearing from a neighbor who has done lots of research on data centers built around the country and a neighbor who actually worked on several data centers, we have questions and concerns regarding the proposed Verrus Data Center at the Mill Creek Corporate Center

What will the mega wattage of this data center and where will the power lines be placed that feed this center? We understand that centers can warm the land, what does Verrus say about this issue? Even though the company touts a closed loop cooling system, what is the impact on our water system?

We know there will be batteries that will back up the data center in case of a power loss. How and where will these batteries be disposed of when they need to be replaced? Are there plans for generators as back up power?

In reading the information on the city website, it indicates that there appears to be room for only one data center, is this accurate or would there be room on the property for more? If this data center is approved, would it make it difficult to reject future data centers?

We know during the construction phase, lots of electricians and plumbers are employed. Will these be union jobs with hiring from IBEW Local 280 and 48 and Plumbers & Steamfitters Union 290? How many permanent jobs will there be once construction is complete? What will the traffic impact be especially with all the growth along the west side of Cordon Road north of Hwy 22 and the access to the businesses at the south end of Lancaster accessed from Kuebler/ Cordon Road? What will the response time for the fire department responding to a medical emergency on the site?

In checking the Verrus website, we discovered that they are a world wide company. but have only 6 data centers planned with the one being Salem and 5 are located in New Hudson Lyon Township Oakland County Michigan None of the data centers appear to be operating. What experience does Verrus have in building and operating data centers? We urge the city staff and the planning commission to contact and learn information from the data centers in Michigan

Thank you for listening to our concerns and finding answers to our questions.

Respectfully,
Linda Miller
Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association Secretary

Carl Hoffman

From: Laurie <brdgrl@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 4:03 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center in town? Or anywhere NO

It appears looking around town that this council is in the pockets of developers already. PLEASE DO YOUR RESEARCH on the horrendous effects being experienced from these data centers. Using human resources of water and electricity. Making people pay through the roof for these necessities and so much more. The sound vibrations are harmful to humans and wildlife. The wastewater is contaminating communities waterways. People all over are protesting these centers and winning against them! It must be stopped. Please do the right thing and prioritize quality of life and protect health. They also increase the temperature for miles around. Show you care!

Most sincerely,

Laurie B.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

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Carl Hoffman

From: mbhustoles@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 11:41 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: Salem Data Center comments, July 27, 2026 City Council Mtg

To the Salem City Council:

I won't pretend that I know all the science behind the technology and water demands of data centers. But I do know about transparency, about including the community in decision making, and about how investment bubbles most often result popped, with high costs to those who can least afford them.

There has been no transparency in the data center proposal. Relying on Verrus and their promises does not improve that transparency. Without real, substantive study of the energy costs, the heat and sound exposure to our community, and the actual expense of using a "closed-loop" water cooling system, both in water expenditure and the chemical pollution to our municipal water supply, no decisions about building a data center here should even be entertained. We have all heard of small towns that sorely regret the data centers that were pushed to completion on the failed promise of jobs and tax monies. The hubris of Verrus (and frankly our city manager) to assume that Salem would welcome anything that would endanger our environment, already at risk by past corporate decisions on a national level, for a promised carrot of \$6 million in taxes, is fairly stunning.

In regards to including the community in decision making, Jeff Bladen, Head of Energy for Verrus, was quoted by the Salem Reporter as saying, "the "No. 1 thing" for Verrus is to identify communities that want projects like its data center." If that is so, I hope he's watching and monitoring the responses he's receiving now that this plan has been unveiled. Certainly the information provided in the Verrus website, oaklineatmillcreek.com, hiding the water consumption and chemical pollution realities by comparing them with outdated systems, makes one question any statements the company makes.

AI may be an undeniable reality, but so is corporate greed, and the fact that corporations have jumped on the AI bandwagon, creating fortunes for themselves on the backs of communities desperate to provide basic services for their residents, is also undeniable. Salem can do better.

Sincerely,
Mary Beth Hustoles
Salem resident, Ward 2
Sent from my iPad

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Carl Hoffman

From: Emme Jay <emmejaydiary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 1:58 PM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Francys Veras
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: No Data Center, No Matter What

Please consider this email chain my written testimony for the upcoming meeting on July 27th. I ask that it be included as part of the public comment record.

Please don't wager our City's future on the lies of big tech. Like many of the other cities that fell pray to their tactics, it's the people who will pay the price.

Allowing a data center in Salem is a huge mistake.

Nathan Owens
Ward 6

On Tue, Jul 21, 2026, 9:36 AM Emme Jay <emmejaydiary@gmail.com> wrote:
Thank you for your response.

Please consider this article (linked below) regarding the lie of closed loop cooling systems. The water burden isn't reduced, it's just shifted elsewhere. Regardless, the consequences will fall on residents.

No data center, no matter what.

Article:
<https://gneuton.com/the-illusion-of-waterless-ai-how-closed-loop-data-centers-shift-the-fresh-water-burden-to-power-plants>

Thank you for your consideration.

Nathan Owens
Ward 6

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026, 3:19 PM Francys Veras <fveras@cityofsalem.net> wrote:

[Mayor and Councilors bcc'd]

Good afternoon Mr. Owens,

Thank you for sharing your feedback regarding the proposed data center in the City of Salem. Councilors and City staff are in receipt of your comments.

Residents are encouraged to review the recently published Frequently Asked Questions relating to the [proposed Verrus Mill Creek Data Center Project](#) available on the City's website. Additional information about the project can be found on the company's website at oaklineatmillcreek.com.

We appreciate you taking the time to provide your input.

Best,

Francys Veras

Constituent and Government Affairs Manager

City of Salem | City Manager's Office

Find us at the Parkway Building, [440 Church Street SE, Suite 400](#)

P.O. Box 14300

Salem, Oregon 97309

fveras@cityofsalem.net | (971) 493-8761

From: Emme Jay <emmejaydiary@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2026 10:13 AM

To: citycouncil <citycouncil@cityofsalem.net>

Cc: Mai Vang <mvang@cityofsalem.net>

Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers in Salem

City Council,

I recently discovered several paragraphs in SEDCOR's annual report indicating that several data centers are under negotiation in Salem Oregon. Many of them intended for Mill Creek, which means they can draw on grant subsidies funded by our tax dollars. Data centers are necessary to a degree, but we should be increasingly selective and impose considerable oversight on developments within Salem. You have a duty to protect your constituents from special interests that would shift their burden onto the public without following public process.

SEDCOR is under contract with the City to promote economic growth in the area. Those tax dollars are meant to benefit Salem at large. There's considerable evidence to suggest a pattern of data centers profiting on the backs of working class people through higher priced utilities and major environmental impacts, all while receiving massive tax breaks and subsidies without adhering to public process.

The Boardman Oregon City Council was recently busted for signing NDAs that shield data center developments from Public inquiry. Please do not fall prey to this same tactic. It's apparent that SEDCOR already has.

You have a duty to serve all of Salem, especially the working class citizens that lack the resources to stand against special interests. Please take this duty seriously by admonishing SEDCOR for its attempt to skirt public input on projects that do not serve the greater good.

Thank you.

Nathan Owens

Ward 6

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Carl Hoffman

From: Orchid Asher <orchid.asher@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 12:29 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers In Salem

Hello, City Council.

My name is Orchid Asher. I am a young adult living in Salem. I have lived here for over a decade, and the future of my home city is very important to me.

I am strongly against the construction and operation of data centers in Salem for these reasons:

1. The lack of transparency. As a long-time resident of Salem, I would like to know when big changes happen that will impact me, my family, and my community. The city of Salem signed a non-disclosure agreement with Verrus through SEDCOR in March of 2025. We, the public, members of your city, did not hear about it until this month. Sixteen months is too long. I find this unacceptable in its own right.
2. Noise pollution and ill health effects. Data centers run all day, every day. During normal operation, they have been shown to emit a constant, low hum that has lead people to report headaches, vertigo, ear pain, and other disturbances. Residents of Salem deserve peace. They should not be subjected to constant, dangerous low frequency noise.
3. The construction may bring some jobs, but it will not maintain enough permanent positions to justify its other consequences. The number of jobs offered by the construction of a data center is largely temporary. Once the construction is complete, those jobs mostly disappear. About 75 permanent positions will remain, but even some grocery stores have more employees-- over 100 in some larger ones. One Walmart Supercenter, for example, employs about 300 people.
4. Water and power. Though Verrus has promised closed-loop cooling and a grid-friendly design, specific figures for those resources have not been released. A facility the size of a data center will cause significant strain on water and electric power in our home region. Communities that once welcomed data centers now suffer from polluted water and expensive electric bills, which is especially dangerous in hot summers.

In conclusion, I urge you to cease any plans to construct and operate a data center in the Salem area. The harm outweighs the benefits for my community.

Thank you for considering my input.

Best regards,
Orchid T. Asher.

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Carl Hoffman

From: paula nania <nania.paula@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:49 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Vote NO on the proposed data center

A massive date center in Southeast Salem will be a detriment to the quality of life for the residents of Salem because of environmental and health issues
Vote NOT to approve !

Thank you

Paula Nania
2252 Wildwood Drive SE
Salem

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Carl Hoffman

From: Rodney Cuda <rodney.cuda@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 3:57 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No data center in Salem!

I strongly oppose allowing a data center to be developed in Salem.

A project of this scale will have significant impacts on our community, infrastructure, natural resources, and quality of life. The fact that the initial planning appears to have taken place without meaningful public awareness or involvement is especially concerning. A proposal this controversial should be handled with full transparency, public notice, and ample opportunity for residents to provide input before any decisions are made.

I urge the City Council to reject this proposal and prioritize the long term interests of Salem residents.

Sincerely,

A Salem resident who does not support data center development in our city

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Carl Hoffman

From: Ray Quisenberry <rayquisenberry@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 1:57 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on agenda item 5.1, proposed data center

Mayor and city councilors

My name is Ray Quisenberry. I live in Ward 1.

I am writing in opposition to the proposed data center by the Verrus company. My understanding is that it may not be possible to stop this project since the company meets the city zoning requirements for the site, which is such a shame. So I strongly urge the city to correct the zoning to prohibit any future data centers from coming to our city.

From my reading about data centers in other communities, the promised benefit of job creation is generally overblown, the environmental impacts of water usage and power consumption is always understated, and the back up power used during outages is very polluting. The costs to our community will outweigh any benefits.

It's also very much the case that, once again, we are willing to destroy our environment for increased convenience, and to put money in the pockets of the already wealthy. Don't you think it's time we stop doing that?

Please do what you can to stop this project since, or at the very least, make sure it never happens again.

Thank you

Ray Quisenberry
Sent from my iPad

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Carl Hoffman

From: rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 12:01 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: DATA CENTER

might want to play this....

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/18eeQKMjaK/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

On Thu, Jul 23, 2026 at 12:00 PM rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com> wrote:

I MOTION MY MOTION ALL RESIDENTS GET \$1000 A MONTH DIRECTLY FROM ANY DATA CENTER COMPANY RESIDENTS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME BE PUT TO A VOTE TO SALEM RESIDENTS.

PLEASE BEING THIS UP AT THE MEETING.

thank you

ms walker

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

On Thu, Jul 23, 2026 at 11:56 AM rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com> wrote:

NO THERE **MUST BE A \$1000 A MONTH PAYMENT TO EVERY SALEM RESIDENT FROM THE DATA CENTER COMPANY BEGINNING AT GROUND BREAKING THAT SALEM RESIDENTS WILL HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE THAT AMOUNT FROM TIME TO TIME AS REQUIRED.

THE NDA's MUST DISCLOSE WHAT & WHY AN NDA WAS NECESSARY TO BEGIN WITH.

ms walker

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

On Mon, Jul 20, 2026 at 6:09 PM rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com> wrote:

THERE SHOULD BE A BILL OF \$1000 A MONTH PAID TO EVERY SALEM RESIDENT FROM THE DATA CENTER THAT SALEM RESIDENTS WILL RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME SHOULD UTILITY BILLS SKYROCKET or NO DATA CENTER IN SALEM.

will a nuclear energy be involved is also an important question.

rosemary walker
1111 waller street se
salem or 97302

catbelt.com
pussycatarian.com
factshowandtell.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: rosemary <bigrosemary@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 12:00 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: DATA CENTER

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factshowandtell.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: shawn@eagleaccounting.com
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 4:29 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Center in Salem

Hello,

I am emailing you to let you know that I am strongly against having a Data Center in Salem.

They use too much water that we need to survive, not to mention the strain they will put on the electricity grid. They are destroying our planet, and we need to save what is left for future generations. We also need to preserve the water that all life needs to survive and not let the data keep using it all up trying to keep their systems.

Please do not allow this to happen to Salem. We need to protect our city.

Shawn Haddon

Licensed Tax Preparer
Eagle Accounting, Inc.
Phone: 503-365-7214
Office Cell Phone: 971-707-8361
Fax: 503-365-7188
Backup E-Mail: eagleacctinginc@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sarah King <sarah.king0908@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2026 6:03 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Salem Data Center

Hello,

I'm writing to express concern about the Verrus Mill Creek Data Center Project. I am greatly concerned that the city went about setting up this project without citizen knowledge and that the information was by accident.

Data centers have consistently shown to be more of a drain on cities and their people than a benefit. They are reliant on large quantities of water which is something Salem already struggles with due to the inconsistencies of Detroit Lake. This is not a project for the people and I'm greatly opposed. Do the right thing. Don't build a data center.

Thank you.

Sarah.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tealah Meyer <tealgreen21@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 4:18 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data centers

To whom it may concern:

Data centers are NOT needed at all in Oregon. This is a huge safety concern and we don't want it! This poses a giant threat to our water supply and it's completely unnecessary. We the people say no! There is no need for it! We did not vote for this!

-Tealah, a resident of Salem, Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Woodworth, Whitney <wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2026 1:46 PM
To: Julie Hoy
Subject: Comment on data centers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon,
I am working on a story about the data center proposed for Mill Creek and am reaching out to see how elected leaders feel about it. Would you support a data center? Do you have any concerns?
Thank you,
Whitney

Whitney Woodworth
Reporter



wmwoodworth@statesmanjournal.com

Phone: 503-910-6616

Twitter: @wmwoodworth

Carl Hoffman

From: Adolfo de la Garza-Cano <503lucha@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:25 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No DATA CENTERS IN SALEM OREGON

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a Salem resident writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. We cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Salem residents will pay for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is not rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,

Adolfo Garza-Cano
Salem resident 97301

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From: [Alyssa Cokinis](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Paul Tigan](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Shane Matthews](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Mai Vang](#); [Dr. Irvin M Brown](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [SALEM Manager](#); [Julie Hoy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Testimony: No Data Center
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:32:16 AM

Members of City Council, Mayor Hoy, and City Manager Krishna Namburi,

My name is Alyssa Cokinis, and I reside in Ward 1. Not only am I concerned about your recent amendments where the Presiding Officer is allowed to suspend public comment with a majority vote of City Council (against the rules of the First Amendment much?) and the fact you can contain public comment to 30 minutes (again, your job is to listen to your constituents), I am also concerned about the proposed data center run by Verrus in the Mill Creek area.

While the City Manager was making plans to announce potential layoffs to library, parks, and Center 50+ staff, she and the City entered into an NDA with Verrus. While planning to gut important jobs that were only saved due to an increase in property taxes due to the Livability Levy, she and the City entered into an NDA with Verrus. While 50+ people were about to get a notice that could potentially change their life should the levy not pass, she and the City entered into an NDA with Verrus to make plans to make money off of a data center. The NDA was signed by the City on March 27, 2025, and the NDA was executed by both parties on April 10, 2025--one day after the layoff notices came.

This is insidious. I would like to thank Councilor Varney who has a backbone, whose two motions tonight are a step in the right direction. Thank you for your hard work, Councilor, and I'm sorry that you also didn't know about this until the previous meeting. Other Councilors, please support her motions which would make this process of data centers or any larger tech companies seeking land more transparent.

As we await the drawdown from Detroit Lake, I beg Councilors and the City Manager to consider what affect that will have on our local drinking water if we *also* must account for the water consumption the Verrus data center would require.

I'd like to draw attention to this part of the agenda:

The company's investment would be taxable, and after the first three years, those tax revenues would flow to the City's General Fund to help pay for City services like Police, Fire, and other services — as well as the Community Services Levy. Because the City is no longer collecting property tax increment revenue at the Mill Creek Urban Renewal Area, all property taxes collected from this development will be distributed to taxing districts such as the Salem-Keizer School District, Marion County, and Salem Area Mass Transit District (Cherriots).

If the City is no longer collecting property tax revenue from the Mill Creek Urban Renewal Center, then please explain how those property taxes would assist with the "Community Services Levy," which is based on property taxes. How will that money be distributed?

Verrus has asked in their pre-application questions of the City, *"We understand there is existing 18" watermain available in Turner and Deer Park Drive. Can the City provide the water pressure and available capacity of both mains?"* Does this mean the City of Salem will need to consult the City of Turner? Will tapping into this affect the water pressure of the

communities around this area?

If, as per the City's Use Classification chapter SRC 400.110(e), *"Facilities may or may not be regularly staffed by employees on-site,"* does that mean that the jobs Verrus promises for the community could actually go to people who do not reside in the City of Salem at all?

I could go on and on, but you have hundreds of residents tell you that they oppose the new AI data center. I also oppose this new AI data center. We, *including the City*, should not be encouraging the reliance on AI anymore. We should not be entering into NDAs about AI data centers or anything else that will greatly affect the local population. Even Verrus's claim of a "closed-loop" cooling system does not have sufficient evidence that its water consumption will not affect our local population. AI data centers are energy guzzlers; please consult the science brought about in many of the testimonies sent ahead of this meeting.

Do not allow what happened with Avelo and the airport to happen with Verrus and Mill Creek. They want to exploit our community. Are you going to listen to your constituents, or are you going to cave?

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of andreafoust@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:07 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Andrea Foust
Your Email	andreafoust@gmail.com
Your Phone	5038813396
Street	565 Leslie St. SE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	Dear City Council Members, I am writing to you about the proposed data center. If this project is truly such a benefit for Salem, why did discussions proceed under a nondisclosure agreement and without meaningful public involvement? Environmental advocate Erin Brockovich recently stated: "Datacentre developers often enter into nondisclosure agreements with local officials, so it is not possible to see why they were approved without environmental-impact assessments or input from residents. I am getting reports from people where their local leaders are changing zoning laws for this to happen." That raises an important question for our community: Why was the public excluded from conversations about a project that could have lasting impacts on Salem? I do not support the construction of this or any other large-scale data center in Salem or Oregon without a comprehensive public review. At a minimum, I urge the City to adopt a moratorium on new data center development until there has been a thorough assessment of the environmental, economic, and community impacts, along with meaningful public participation. Decisions of this magnitude deserve transparency and careful long-term planning. My concerns include the following: Water As climate change continues to affect Oregon through more frequent drought conditions and declining snowpack, water is becoming one of our most valuable and limited resources. Large data centers require substantial amounts of water for cooling. Before approving projects with significant water demands, the City should fully evaluate their long-term impact on Salem's water supply. Power and Climate Large data centers require enormous amounts of electricity, placing additional demands on the power grid. Communities that host these facilities have expressed concerns about increased infrastructure costs and higher electricity rates. Expanding energy demand without careful planning could also increase greenhouse gas emissions, which appears inconsistent with Salem's Climate Action Plan and our shared commitment to reducing emissions. Jobs and the Local Economy While data centers are often promoted as economic development, they generally create relatively few permanent jobs once construction is complete. At the same

time, the rapid expansion of AI infrastructure is contributing to changes in the workforce across many industries. Highly trained professionals, artists, writers, designers, and other creative workers are already experiencing displacement as AI technologies become more widespread. This broader economic impact deserves serious public discussion. Noise and Quality of Life Industrial-scale cooling systems and backup generators can produce continuous noise that affects nearby neighborhoods, wildlife, and overall quality of life. These impacts should be carefully studied before any approvals are granted. Property Values and Community Character Many residents choose Salem because of its neighborhoods, natural beauty, and quality of life. The construction of large industrial data centers has the potential to alter community character and may affect nearby property values. These concerns should not be dismissed. Short-Term Revenue vs. Long-Term Costs I understand that the City is considering the financial benefits this project may bring. However, any short-term revenue must be weighed against the long-term costs to our water resources, electrical infrastructure, environment, neighborhoods, and quality of life. Once these facilities are built, their impacts can last for decades. Salem is at an important crossroads. I respectfully ask the City to halt this project or, at the very least, join the dozens of municipalities across the United States that have adopted temporary moratoriums while they fully evaluate the impacts of large-scale data centers. Finally, I hope any nondisclosure agreement entered into with Verrus or any other data center developer does not prevent the City from acting in the best interests of Salem's residents. Public trust depends on transparency, accountability, and meaningful community participation. I urge you to put the long-term well-being of Salem ahead of short-term financial incentives. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Andrea Foust

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/27/2026.

From: [Adolfo de la Garza-Cano](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No DATA CENTERS IN SALEM OREGON
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:25:46 PM

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a Salem resident writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. We cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Salem residents will pay for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is not rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,

Adolfo Garza-Cano
Salem resident 97301

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Carl Hoffman

From: H., A. <hale5288@pacificu.edu>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 6:32 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]RE: Data Center

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Salem city, county, and council work for the people of Salem. The people need to trust that staff and council will listen to the evidence and the people to make decisions that are sound and hold companies accountable not only for the codes and ordinances but for the impact and well-being of the community. The current codes and ordinances are not written for the data center that Verrus is proposing. I am asking for a moratorium until the [impacts](#), with details and evidence, are understood and accountability regulations are in place. Please also consider the impact of the AI and data center bubble bursting, especially since Oregon is one of the [top 10 states](#) with the most data centers.

Additionally, the [Data Center Advisory Committee](#) will have recommendations at the end of September; although, if they are in line with the Governor's Prosperity Roadmap, they will likely favor taking more money from the budget for the mostly out-of-state 1% in the race to the bottom of business incentives and natural resources. Oregon imports energy, and our [hydro power is decreasing with droughts](#). DEQ already has thousands of [environmental cleanups](#) just in Salem.

Although Verrus is part of Alphabet (GOOGLE), this will be Verrus' [first data center build](#) since it was established in [2023](#) as a Limited Liability Company formed in [Delaware](#). It is [funded by Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan \(OTPP\) and private infrastructure fund StepStone Group](#) (STEP).

Here are a few of Verrus' promises or claims about their 3-two story data centers [emphasis added]:

-
-
- To use “**less**
- **water than an 18-hole golf course**, or about as much as just a few sit-down restaurants...**comply**
- **with all applicable** City of Salem noise standards, including nighttime thresholds”
-
-
-
- To use “a
- **battery-first**
- backup design...to **reduce**
- the routine operational air emissions associated with the diesel generators”.
-
-
-
- To be a data center company that “closely coordinates with its utility partners to
- **reduce**
- strain during peak demand and make
- better
- **use of the existing systems”.**
-
-

-
- That they commit to “**NDA-free**
- **relationships with local governments** and agencies” even though they had the city manager sign an NDA.
-

They also claim “they will be a long-term capital investment in Salem’s economy”. These are risky claims as they have not demonstrated the willingness or ability. Furthermore, we may be in an AI bubble and a data center glut.

Ed Zitron in “[The Subprime Data Center Crisis](#)” compares Data Center SPVs (data center debt deals) to collateralized debt obligations (CDOs) from the Great Recession. Will the AI bubble burst? Ed Zitron is not the only one who believes this is possible. Many think so, including: [Michael Burry](#), [Cory Doctorow](#), and [Gary Marcus](#). Annie Lowery of *The Atlantic* writes that, “[The AI Bubble is No Ordinary Bubble](#)”. I wonder how Oregon state and cities will manage with 93 [Oregon data centers](#) and the 32 planned Oregon data centers after the bubble bursts. The belief that data center money will feed the city and state is a gamble.

People make high-risk financial decisions because they believe they will pay off. They listen to the hype and worry about missing the boat. They make bets; they invest in collateralized debt obligations (mortgage-backed securities), bitcoin, cryptocurrency, or a start-up company. They gamble. Throughout history, this tendency has led to financial crises, panics, depressions, and recessions. More recently, it led to the Savings and Loan crisis, the Dot-com bubble, and the Great Recession. Today, high-risk financial decisions are being made in AI and data centers.

How will the city protect us?

Sincerely,

A. Hale

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From: [Amanda Holley](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]City Council Meeting 7/27/2026 - 5.3 - NO Data Centers in Salem!!
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:59:15 AM

Hello,

As a lifelong resident of Salem, I've watched this community grow and develop and seen things change and grow, some for good and some not so much. But nothing has drawn my attention or my ire as much as the discovery that there was a motion to build a data center in the heart of downtown Salem. The first reaction I had was, why didn't we, as citizens and voters, find out about this until now? Apparently, this was approved in 2025 and only came to light in 2026 now that the NDAs had cleared, which feels incredibly wrong because it seems like you've already made your decision without asking us, the people.

We have been told that we have to just 'accept' these data centers as an inevitability and to just grin and bear it, or we'll be left behind. That's disingenuous, to say the least. What reports have shown throughout this country is that time and time again, the people have stood up against these things and made their voices heard. Nobody wants these in their communities. No one wants these built. **No one wants AI**; no one has asked for it, and we can live without it. Now for the reasons why:

The Noise: The noise pollution of data centers is 'a constant hum', as reported by some. And according to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), "When operating, data centers emit sounds from the humming of cooling systems and air chillers, the rumbling of diesel generators, and the whirring of fans. Together, these sounds can be heard for hundreds of feet around the facilities. Data center neighbors have reported headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disturbances, ear pain, and hypertension....Data centers are becoming noisier as developers stack more information technology (IT) equipment and servers into smaller spaces. While individual servers are not especially loud, the compounding effect of thousands or tens of thousands of servers in a computing warehouse can raise noise levels to 96 decibels. This is a problem because some data centers are close to where people live, sometimes within 50 feet of homes" ([Link to the Article](#))

Water Use: It is claimed that this is a 'closed-loop' System, and this is

supposed to be preferable to the alternative. But data centers use a LOT of water. For example, "Google, which operates Oregon data centers at The Dalles, resisted disclosing its water use, paying \$100,000 for the city's lawsuit against The Oregonian, had filed a public records request for the data. When the suit was dropped, Google's water-use totals were public: 355.1 million gallons, a quarter of the city's annual water use in 2021." ([Link to Article](#))

In addition, the water is supposed to be recirculated and reused in the 'closed loop' system, yet after being reused, the wastewater is supposed to go somewhere. Where is the now-toxic water, full of pollutants and hazardous materials, supposed to go? The risk to our surrounding rivers, lakes, and groundwater is far too great. In addition, it requires additional water to be refilled; where would the replacement water come from? We already are in drought-like conditions, and it's expected to get worse every summer. As of July 24th, 2026, we have **140 wildfires** across the state.

Electricity Use: These data centers are going to use an exorbitant amount of energy, causing increased strain on grids that were never meant to handle this level of intense draw, especially during the hot summer months when more people want to use their AC units. That could result in a blackout. According to the Department of Energy, "data centers consumed about **4.4% of total U.S. electricity in 2023** and are expected to consume approximately **6.7 to 12% of total U.S. electricity by 2028**. The report indicates that total data center electricity usage climbed from 58 TWh in 2014 to 176 TWh in 2023 and estimates an increase between **325 to 580 TWh (Terawatt-Hours) by 2028**." ([Link to Article](#)) That is a MASSIVE increase, considering the average usage in the typical American home is **10,500 kWh (kilowatt-hours)** per year ([Link to Article](#)).

In addition, who is expected to pay for the additional cost of this data center? Us. The citizens of this community, who were never told about this project in the first place. Our energy costs are going to be rising as a result of this proposed data center because we are all going to have a strain on our energy costs.

Light Pollution: These large data centers will have to have lights on 24/7 to run and for security, which "disrupts the natural (circadian) rhythms of the body, including melatonin production (the hormone that regulates

sleep) and sleep-wake cycles. Light pollution is also disturbing migration patterns and habitat development among birds, butterflies, bats, cats, and turtles—to name only a handful.

The long-term impacts of both noise and light pollution include hearing loss, stress, insomnia, and decreased quality of life. ([Link to Article](#)).

There are so many other reasons not to support the proposed data center here in Salem. The risks are far too great for any possible 'benefit' to our community. We do not need AI. We do not need it here now, or ever. We must think not just for our immediate gratification, but for our future, our children's future, and our children's children's future. Our planet deserves better.

We and Salem deserves better.

Thank you,
Amanda Holley

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Carl Hoffman

From: Arielle White <arielle.white@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:18 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment: Oakline Data Center Proposal

Hello,

I would like to express my thoughts on the proposed Verrus data center: I am **not** in favor of this, and the majority of folks I've seen discussing it via Nextdoor are also against it. I've spoken with a few of my neighbors directly as well, and they are also against this.

We've been dealing with ongoing drought and other substantial loss to our water supplies, as you are aware. Water for people, animals, and agriculture is a definite need, with proven benefits since we all came into being. I'd rather *any* amount of water go toward growing apples than even one cup go toward a data center. The proponents of data centers keep trying to sell us on the *possible* good data centers can do, while pushing our focus away from the fact that we all definitely and immediately NEED water and definitely benefit from it. Any day of the week, I'm in favor of someone having water to drink over "maybe somewhere, somebody has made a silly animated video of a cat that 27 people will laugh at."

While I have heard that this proposed data center would use a closed-loop system and thus not require continuous access to our water, where is the water coming from initially? I very highly doubt they'd be sourcing it from somewhere distant, pay the cost to transport it, when it's more cost effective to just take it from us, closer to where this data center would be. Even if they'd use this close-loop system and the same water for a time, eventually it needs to be replaced. Where does this now-unsuitable-for-drinking water go? This is such a poor use of water that people, animals, and our crops require. The data center proposal specifies 75 permanent jobs after the construction - what about the potential loss of jobs in agriculture or related food services if we simply do not have enough water to continue producing food locally? One of the great things about living here is how much of the food is grown locally and feeds people locally.

I hope the city will put the needs and interests of the people living here and making this community what it is first. The tech millionaires and billionaires do not need more, they have enough. We, however, need water to survive.

Best,
Arielle White

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From: [Barb Spane](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center comments
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:28:51 AM

I've lived in Salem for over 45 years and have seen MANY changes to our city. Most of those changes have been for the good!

When outsiders ask me what I love most about Salem my answer is always a resounding "our city parks!"

It has taken a long time for Salem to become a beautiful place to live and I credit our past leadership in moving us forward.

My concern with the Data Center is first and foremost noise and water consumption. It's been stated that Verrus is a "low water/noise" operation... but that's very subjective! We need decible comparisons and water volume comparisons.

People, livestock, and agriculture water consumption must ALWAYS come first!

We have longer hotter and drier summer conditions than ever before... this must be considered when discussing giving our water away (even if we're being financially compensated for it).

AI means absolutely nothing if living beings are suffering from drought!

barb Spane

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Carl Hoffman

From: Brook Weir <brookaweir@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 3:30 PM
To: citycouncil; Salem Planning
Cc: Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; smathews@cityofsalem.net; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Request for Transparency and Community Input Regarding Potential Data Center Development

Dear Salem City Council Members,

I am a Salem resident concerned about the potential expansion of large-scale data center development in our community.

I recognize the importance of technology infrastructure and economic development, but I believe residents deserve transparency and meaningful opportunities for input before major land-use decisions are made.

I respectfully request information regarding any proposed data center projects in the Salem area, including anticipated impacts related to energy demand, water usage, noise, air quality, traffic, infrastructure capacity, and long-term effects on surrounding neighborhoods.

I also ask that the City ensure robust public engagement and independent review processes before approving developments of this scale.

Thank you for your service to our community. I appreciate your commitment to considering residents' concerns as Salem continues to grow.

Sincerely,
B. Weir

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Carl Hoffman

From: cb@claudiaburton.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:05 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Shane Matthews; SALEM Manager
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment regarding proposed data center for meeting July 27, 2026
Attachments: Burton_City_Council_comments_7-27-26.pdf

Attached are my written comments regarding the data center. I would appreciate it if all councilors were provided this information ahead of tonight's meeting. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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From: [Cheri Hawkins-Weltz](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Please stop the data center from coming to Salem and Oregon
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:20:28 AM

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed construction of an AI data center in the City of Salem, Oregon. The prospect of such a facility raises serious questions regarding its impact on our environment, our drinking water, and the well-being of all the animals living in our local ecosystem.

From the outset, it seems clear that a project of this scale could potentially disrupt the delicate balance of nature in Salem. The environmental risks—ranging from increased energy consumption to the strain on our water resources—are far too significant to overlook. Not only could our drinking water be put at risk, but the lives of countless species that call Salem home might also be jeopardized.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge you not to allow the development of the AI data center to proceed until comprehensive research has been conducted into its long-term effects on both our population and the environment. We owe it to ourselves, future generations, and the wildlife in our community to ensure that every possible impact has been thoroughly investigated and addressed.

Please take these issues seriously and prioritize the health and safety of Salem's residents and its natural surroundings. Thank you very much for your attention to this urgent matter.

Best regards,

Cheri Hawkins-Weltz
6164 Kite Court N
97303
503-930-3266

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Christopher Lopez <christopher.lopez@mwvcaa.org>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:50 AM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: jimmy.jones@mwvcaa.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment (Agenda Item 5.1) Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek Corporate Center
Attachments: MWVCAA- Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek Corporate Center Public Testimony.pdf

Dear City Recorder,

Please accept the attached written public comment on behalf of Jimmy Jones, Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), regarding Agenda Item 5.1, the proposed data center at Mill Creek Corporate Center, for this evening's Salem City Council meeting. Jimmy is a Salem resident, and MWVCAA is headquartered in Salem.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Christopher

Christopher Lopez (he/him)
Director of Advocacy
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Direct: 541.829.9133
www.mwvcaa.org



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25 July 2026

Mayor Hoy and Members of the Salem City Council
City of Salem
555 Liberty Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Proposed Data Center at Mill Creek Corporate Center – Neutral Position

Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council:

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA), headquartered in Salem. Across Marion, Polk, and nine other Oregon counties, MWVCAA administers more than \$80 million annually in services and direct assistance supporting housing stability, homelessness response, early learning, energy assistance, nutrition, workforce development, and other essential needs for tens of thousands of Oregonians. In Salem, we work alongside the City, schools, health systems, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to meet immediate needs, connect systems, and strengthen the pathways that help residents move toward long-term stability.

MWVCAA remains neutral on whether the proposed data center at Mill Creek Corporate Center should move forward. We recognize that the City is considering a complex project shaped by state land-use law, existing industrial zoning, infrastructure demands, and Salem's long-term fiscal needs. We also recognize the scale of the economic opportunity the project may present.

Our interest is in how Salem defines and protects a public return that improves life for residents across the whole community.

Large economic development projects can create substantial public value, but their clearest financial benefits often remain with large corporate and financial interests. For most residents, the promise is more distant and may never translate into lower costs, stronger public services, or greater financial stability. Salem should not leave that outcome to chance. A defined and protected public commitment will ensure that part of the project's value reaches the whole community in lasting and visible ways.

Part of the project's value should show up in the daily lives of Salem residents. It should help families remain in their homes, prevent people from falling into homelessness, reduce pressure from rising household costs, and expand access to housing people can afford. The City can protect that commitment by placing a defined share of new project revenue into a protected community investment that will endure across future councils and budget cycles.

The public commitment should be clear, enforceable, and transparent from the beginning. Residents should know how the revenue is calculated, where it goes, who oversees it, and how the City measures its impact. Those safeguards will protect the purpose of the investment as leadership, budgets, and community needs change.

Henrico County, Virginia, is an example of this visionary approach. In 2024, the county created the Henrico Affordable Housing Trust Fund with \$60 million in data-center revenue and established an ongoing connection between new economic development and affordable homeownership. Rather than allowing growth to remain an abstract promise, Henrico converted it into a lasting support for residents facing the greatest barriers to stability.

Salem should join the communities shaping this next generation of economic development. A dedicated public trust or similar structure can turn part of the project's value into a durable asset, directing the greatest benefit to residents with the fewest resources while strengthening stability and opportunity across the community.

The lasting value of the project will depend on what the City chooses to build from its public return. Salem can define this project by more than whether it is approved or denied. A protected community investment will turn future revenue into stronger families, greater stability, and a community better prepared for the future. Economic development should not only generate revenue. It should strengthen the community that makes it possible.

Respectfully,



Jimmy Jones
Executive Director

Additional Resources:

Henrico County: Affordable Housing Trust Fund

<https://henrico.gov/revit/affordable-housing-trust-fund/>

Henrico County: "Henrico to Create Trust to Enhance Access to Affordable Homeownership"

<https://henrico.gov/news/2024/05/henrico-to-create-trust-to-enhance-access-to-affordable-homeownership/>

Urban Institute: "Turning Data Center Revenues into Affordable Homes"

<https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/turning-data-center-revenues-affordable-homes>

TIME: "Data Center Cash Is Powering an Affordable Housing Experiment"

<https://time.com/article/2026/03/11/data-centers-affordable-housing/>

Carl Hoffman

From: Carly Parker <mamacjparker@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 10:21 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Written comment for City Council Meeting Monday July 27, 2026

City Council and Mayor Julie Hoy,

Hello, my name is Carly Parker and I am a resident of Salem. I am writing to express my opposition to the Oakline at Mill Creek proposal.

Data centers have been proven to be more harmful to the communities they occupy than they are helpful. The small amount of jobs they create do not make up for the water and noise pollution data centers produce. These corporations are not investing in our city, they would be draining our resources and making millions off of it.

Please do not allow this or any other data centers to be built in our city.

Thank you,
Carly Parker

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Carl Hoffman

From: Cody Tesch <jdog209@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:13 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Input for the city meeting July 27th 2026 topic: data center proposal

To the Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed data center on the 75-acre site near Turner Road SE and Logistics Street SE.

I support responsible economic development and understand that this area is intended for industrial use. However, I do not believe a data center is the best use of such a large piece of industrial land.

Data centers occupy significant amounts of land and infrastructure while providing relatively few permanent jobs after construction is complete. If Salem is going to dedicate 75 acres to a major development, I believe it should be for a project that creates more long-term employment opportunities and delivers greater benefits to the local economy.

This decision is not just about one project. It is about how we choose to use valuable industrial land for decades to come. Once this land is developed as a data center, that opportunity is gone. I hope the City Council carefully considers whether this project represents the best long-term value for Salem and its residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to deny the proposed data center.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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From: [Cody Tesch](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Input for the city meeting July 27th 2026 topic: data center proposal
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:13:11 PM

To the Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed data center on the 75-acre site near Turner Road SE and Logistics Street SE.

I support responsible economic development and understand that this area is intended for industrial use. However, I do not believe a data center is the best use of such a large piece of industrial land.

Data centers occupy significant amounts of land and infrastructure while providing relatively few permanent jobs after construction is complete. If Salem is going to dedicate 75 acres to a major development, I believe it should be for a project that creates more long-term employment opportunities and delivers greater benefits to the local economy.

This decision is not just about one project. It is about how we choose to use valuable industrial land for decades to come. Once this land is developed as a data center, that opportunity is gone. I hope the City Council carefully considers whether this project represents the best long-term value for Salem and its residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to deny the proposed data center.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of Cody_titus@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:44 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Cody Titus
Your Email	Cody_titus@yahoo.com
Your Phone	541-514-1571
Street	1395 Jefferson St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	I'm writing in regards to the proposed data center in Salem. The people of Salem do not want AI data centers! They mentioned that the data center will be a closed loop water center and uses less water that way. Data centers don't need to use water to cool. There is a whole list of other ways that they can cool their systems, it's just water is the cheapest. Using water period, close loop or not, takes from the community. Ever other place that data centers have cropped up it has been nothing but negative for the people around. I do not think AI data centers have been researched enough for them to know a energy efficiency way to operate them. The actions that I am see here are the actions of people that do not care about the people of Salem but rather care about their wallets. I think you know this is the wrong choice to make for the people that's why you signed an NDA with the company making the data center so the people of Salem wouldn't be able to stop you. To quote a friend of mine "Building a data center is a desperate act of a dieing town in the middle of nowhere to bring in revenue that doesn't work and instead they end up on 60 minutes with Erin Brockovich representing them because the brown water runs at a trickle, the electricity doesn't work, and everyone has vertigo, migraines, and asthma. We are the capital city of Oregon, let's act like it." The people of Salem are done with this sort of behavior. We do not forget and we will remember when it comes time to vote.

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/27/2026.

Carl Hoffman

From: Christine Vesper <cdhansen.802@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:28 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Verrus' data center proposal public comment

July 27, 2026

City of Salem Planning Division

Re: Public Comment Regarding Verrus' Proposed Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding Verrus' proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center development in southeast Salem.

I recognize that data centers play an increasingly important role in our modern economy and that responsible economic development benefits our region. My concern is not with data centers as a concept, but with this specific location given its proximity to existing neighborhoods and the families who call this area home.

I live in this community because I value its quiet character, open space, and quality of life. Decisions made today will shape this area for decades, and I respectfully ask the City to place the interests of existing residents alongside the potential economic benefits of this proposal.

Before approving a project of this magnitude, I urge the City to require comprehensive, transparent, and independently reviewed studies addressing:

- Long-term noise from cooling equipment and mechanical systems operating 24 hours a day. This noise may not exceed the decibel level but it will affect animals and our neurodivergent community, both of whom are affected by these types of noise.
- Traffic impacts during both construction and ongoing operations.
- Air quality impacts from backup diesel generators and emergency power systems.
- Water use and long-term sustainability, particularly during periods of drought.
- Electrical infrastructure demands and any effects on the broader community.
- Stormwater management and impacts to nearby natural resources and wildlife habitat.
- Light pollution and visual impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.
- Potential cumulative impacts as additional data center development occurs in the future.

I am also concerned that a development of this scale may permanently alter the character of southeast Salem. Residents purchased homes and invested in this community with the expectation that future development would remain compatible with nearby neighborhoods. The City has an obligation to carefully consider how this proposal will affect quality of life, neighborhood character, and homeowners who have made long-term investments here.

Economic development is important, but so is thoughtful planning. Once a project of this size is approved and constructed, its impacts cannot easily be reversed. I respectfully ask the City to proceed cautiously and require that every potential impact be fully evaluated before any approvals are granted.

Given the documented negative effects experienced by other communities, I ask that the City deny this proposal if all concerns cannot be effectively mitigated.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your careful consideration of the concerns raised by members of our community.

Respectfully,

Christine Vesper

6095 Pear Tree Ln SE

Salem, OR 97317

Green Hills East

cdhansen.802@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Cheri Hawkins-Weltz <cherihawk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:20 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Please stop the data center from coming to Salem and Oregon

Hello,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concerns about the proposed construction of an AI data center in the City of Salem, Oregon. The prospect of such a facility raises serious questions regarding its impact on our environment, our drinking water, and the well-being of all the animals living in our local ecosystem.

From the outset, it seems clear that a project of this scale could potentially disrupt the delicate balance of nature in Salem. The environmental risks—ranging from increased energy consumption to the strain on our water resources—are far too significant to overlook. Not only could our drinking water be put at risk, but the lives of countless species that call Salem home might also be jeopardized.

Given these concerns, I strongly urge you not to allow the development of the AI data center to proceed until comprehensive research has been conducted into its long-term effects on both our population and the environment. We owe it to ourselves, future generations, and the wildlife in our community to ensure that every possible impact has been thoroughly investigated and addressed.

Please take these issues seriously and prioritize the health and safety of Salem's residents and its natural surroundings. Thank you very much for your attention to this urgent matter.

Best regards,

Cheri Hawkins-Weltz
6164 Kite Court N
97303
503-930-3266

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Cindy Wignot <cbwiggy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:10 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; Shane Matthews; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Extremely concerned RE: proposed DATA CENTER

Hello,

I want to express my extreme concern about the proposed Data Center in South Salem.

I'm actually shocked & very disappointed that Salem City Council, the Salem government as a whole and even Oregon state government would even consider allowing a HUGE data center inside Salem, given the well-documented reports of the damage and danger these facilities are bringing to other communities around the U.S.

I understand and support the desire / need to bring in more tax dollars to Salem, but this id definitely NOT the way to do it.

Please register my comment as a "NO to this development."

Thank you,
Cynthia L. Wignot
400 Doaks Ferry Rd. NW
Salem, OR 97304

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Carl Hoffman

From: Dianne Greenlee <dianne.greenlee@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:36 PM
To: Mai Vang; citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center Questions

Hello, Verrus promises not to substantially compromise the electrical grid by - in part - using batteries to contribute to the data center operations. .

*By reducing reliance on traditional generators and incorporating **intelligently orchestrated batteries** and other distributed energy resources, our active energy management system can balance between high-availability and interruptible workloads, optimize for carbon-free energy procurement, and provide critical relief to the electric grid.*

Some current questions/concerns are:

1. Do these batteries need to be regularly replaced? If the answer to this is yes (which I assume it is) how are these batteries disposed of? Where will they go? To a landfill somewhere?
2. What does "Intelligently Orchestrated Batteries" actually mean?
3. A written agreement between Verrus and the City of Salem should, step-by-step, stipulate the management of the data center over time to ensure that the environmentally-friendly operations (per Verrus) continue. Will this agreement be publicly available?
4. Verrus claims that the data center in Salem will add 75 jobs. Will other jobs within the area be compromised by the data center?

Please be transparent with this project. It is disappointing that the Salem City Council did not share this information earlier with Salem residents.

Thank you,

Dianne Greenlee
Ward 6

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Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Nishioka
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 5:49 PM
To: Holly Carter
Subject: Re: Please fight Verrus data center

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Ms. Carter,

Thank you for taking the time to write and share your concerns regarding the proposed Oakline Data Center. I appreciate hearing from residents on issues that are important to them, and I understand the depth of your concern.

Like many residents, I first learned about the proposed data center on Friday, July 10. I, too, have many questions and am actively seeking information so I can better understand the proposal, its potential impacts, and the City's role in the process.

I will be forwarding your email to City staff so they are aware of your concerns. As additional information becomes available, I expect it will be shared publicly so residents have the opportunity to review the facts and participate in the discussion.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda Nishioka
Salem City Councilor, Ward 2

Linda Nishioka (She/Her)

City Councilor - Ward 2

lnishioka@cityofsalem.net | 971-707-2112

From: Holly Carter <lynnedebrooke@gmail.com>
Date: Friday, July 17, 2026 at 5:06 PM
To: Linda Nishioka <LNishioka@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Please fight Verrus data center

Dear Councilwoman Nishioka,

I'm writing today from a place of deep alarm at the recent news of the city's negotiations with Verrus to build a data center in our community's backyard. Apart from the obvious concerns about the impact such a deal would have on Salem's energy resources and precious water supply, I'm deeply concerned by the clandestine nature of the negotiations to date, including the NDA that put Verrus's interests above that of residents as well as the move to hide negotiations from the city council until just a few days ago. Neither of these moves signal good faith on behalf of Verrus OR whoever has been representing Salem in

negotiations to date. This deal is NOT in the best interests of our community, and I urge you to use your leverage on the Council to speak up on behalf of residents with valid concerns.

Thank you,
Holly Carter
Salem resident since 2007

From: [Hai Nguyen](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Testimony on Data Center
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:22:16 AM

Good evening, Mayor and City Councilors.

My name is Hai Nguyen, and I am a small business owner here in Salem. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I ask the City Council to carefully consider the long-term impacts before approving a large-scale data center in our community.

While data centers bring investment during construction, they often create relatively few permanent local jobs compared to the amount of land, infrastructure, and resources they consume. Once operational, many facilities employ only a limited number of full-time workers.

I am also concerned about the strain on our city's infrastructure. Large data centers can require enormous amounts of electricity and, depending on their cooling systems, significant amounts of water. As Salem continues to grow, we should prioritize infrastructure that supports housing, local businesses, manufacturing, and industries that create a larger number of long-term family-wage jobs.

Another concern is the opportunity cost. Seventy-five acres of industrial land is a valuable resource. Once it is committed to a data center, that land is no longer available for businesses that may employ hundreds or even thousands of local residents. We should ask ourselves whether this is the highest and best use of this property.

I also encourage the Council to consider the environmental impacts, including increased energy demand, backup generator emissions, noise, and the potential effects on nearby neighborhoods and wildlife. These issues deserve careful study and public discussion.

I am not opposed to technology or economic development. I support responsible growth that benefits Salem residents. However, I believe any project of this size should clearly demonstrate that the long-term public benefits outweigh the costs to our community.

I respectfully ask the City Council to slow this process, require a thorough public review, fully evaluate the impacts on infrastructure and natural resources, and ensure Salem residents have every opportunity to be heard before any final decision is made.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our community.

Hai Nguyen

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Carl Hoffman

From: James Douglas <jamest.douglas18@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:05 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]July 27 Agenda item 5.1 comments

Good morning Mayor and Council.

I am writing today in opposition to data centers. While many reasons could be discussed, the current situation requires a focus on the following.

1. The City of Salem is currently unprepared for the additional strain on municipal utilities and resources demanded by this industry. Insufficient information exists in fact finding to understand whether or not current city resources and infrastructure can handle the demands of a new data center. Even with sufficient information, the lead time to increase water and wastewater services is not adequate. Boom and bust technology such as data centers require significant investment in public infrastructure and eventually leave the community holding the bill.
2. The City of Salem has not explored all options for ensuring citizens are adequately compensated for large industrial impacts of data centers within the jurisdiction. In my opinion data centers the cost benefit of data centers being built in Salem is not there. However, should mayor and council decide to move forward, they should first consider additional requirements and levers to ensure they are providing the most potential benefit for the constituents they serve. Across the nation, other municipalities have discovered that through impact fees, development fees, tiered water usage rates, and other locally controlled levers the building of data centers can provide a significant source of funds to ensure community benefit. These strategies have been used to fund everything from E-bike rebates to tree planting, to additional infrastructure upgrades. If the construction of data centers in the community is inevitable it is the responsibility of Mayor and council to ensure the city outlines a plan forward. This should include more creativity in negotiating the terms in which large industrial operations may exist in Salem.
3. Maintaining municipal control of utilities to prioritize human health and the environment. While the exact water use of this data center is not known or willing to be shared, the city of Salem should maintain a practical and proactive stance to utility control. In utility connection agreements with large users please consider a built in "off switch". During times of extreme drought or emergencies where human health is impacted, our limited resources should not be going to cool data processing. In addition, and as mentioned above, water rate structures that accomodate for high usage industries should be put in place to ensure the cost of infrastructure and resources are allocated accordingly. The community of Salem deserves a level of prioritization and security of resources from leadership when it comes to these large industrial operations.

For the purposes of this week's meeting I will leave this list at three examples. I appreciate your time and energy in reading this input. I hope that as the leadership of our community, you will continue to have our best interests in mind.

Thank you.

James Douglas

Ward 8

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Carl Hoffman

From: Joe <elderemo321@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:14 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center

Hi, I'm an oregon resident near the Salem area. Just heard the news about a zoning contract with some California company called Verrus. I know that they intend to take up 75 acres of land for a data center. I highly oppose this idea. Ever since open AI has made it's way into the hands of the public, these data center's have been popping up left and right. Polluting people's water sources. Spiking up their electricity bills. Not to mention the amount of heat it generates could likely end up causing more harm than good. I ask you, to take into consideration, not just what's best for these big tech companies but for the people of Salem. Deny the application for a data center. We really don't need anymore industrialization of AI.

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Carl Hoffman

From: julieerick <julieerick@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:41 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]OPPOSE the Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center Proposal

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I urge you to reject the proposed Oakland at Mill Creek data center. This project raises serious concerns about increased noise, strain on our water and power infrastructure, and a lack of transparency in the approval process. While construction jobs are temporary, Salem residents will live with the long-term impacts for decades.

PLEASE PRIORITIZE the health, quality of life, and interests of Salem residents over this project. I respectfully ask you to OPPOSE the proposal and require a more transparent process with meaningful public input.

I hope that extensive research has been done to see the negative and devastating effects this has on communities without having much of a positive outcome. The damage cannot be undone!!! Perhaps this is why the planning stages have been kept secret!!!!

Thank you for your consideration,

Julie Erickson

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From: [Susan Graves / Lloyd Chapman](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Agenda Item 5.1 - Data Center
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:34:07 PM
Attachments: [Mill Creek Data Center.doc](#)

Please find attached a summary of one South Salem neighborhood's concerns regarding the proposed Mill Creek Data Center and include it in the city council packet for July 27, 2026.

Thanks,

Jody Kishpaugh
Stanley Lane Neighbors

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Say No to Data Centers

We live on Stanley Lane and several other streets in our South Salem neighborhood.

We address you as an established neighborhood originating in the 1950s. Collectively and collaboratively we are opposed to the proposed Mill Creek Data Center.

At a brief neighborhood meeting on July 22 2026 the following concerns were raised:

- First and foremost, the lack of local government transparency re: Verrus and the proposed data center;
- The impact on utility usage and the cost to the community
- Potential depletion impact on the community water supply
- Potential impact on Salem's finite water system and electrical system;
- The impact on our community with re: 24-7 disruptive noise with unknown impact on neighbors and wildlife in the vicinity;
- Lack of a cost benefit analysis re: Verrus; how does the community actually benefit from this endeavor. We understand that Verrus has not previously built a data center and question whether commitments they make will be upheld. after construction and with the end user.

We are proposing an immediate halt to the action.

Thank you for your attention to these important community issues.

Sincerely,

Joanna Kishpaugh, Jerolyn Miner, Madeline Mulhern, Jeff and Denise Robers, Nicole Kielsmeier, Art and Veronica Cocker, Michael Miner, Jennifer Carley, Bruce and Lorie Fontaine, Lloyd Chapman, Susan Graves

Joanna Kishbaugh
kishpaughjody@gmail.com

3753 Stanley Lane S.

Carl Hoffman

From: Jessica McLane <jessicanmclane@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:28 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to Proposed Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" Data Center

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council,

I am writing as a local resident to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" data center in southeast Salem.

While I understand the desire for economic investment, I am deeply concerned about the long-term strains this massive project will place on our community's infrastructure. Data centers require immense amounts of electricity and water to operate, which risks driving up utility costs and straining resources for local households. Furthermore, these facilities generate minimal permanent jobs relative to their massive physical footprint and high resource consumption.

Southeast Salem deserves development that prioritizes community well-being, environmental sustainability, and local neighborhoods over high-impact industrial operations. I urge the City Council to thoroughly scrutinize this proposal's long-term impacts on our grid, water supply, and local environment before moving forward with any approvals.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to listening to the voices of Salem residents.

Sincerely,

Jessica McLane

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From: [Jessica McLane](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to Proposed Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" Data Center
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:28:42 PM

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council,

I am writing as a local resident to express my strong opposition to the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus "Oakline at Mill Creek" data center in southeast Salem.

While I understand the desire for economic investment, I am deeply concerned about the long-term strains this massive project will place on our community's infrastructure. Data centers require immense amounts of electricity and water to operate, which risks driving up utility costs and straining resources for local households. Furthermore, these facilities generate minimal permanent jobs relative to their massive physical footprint and high resource consumption.

Southeast Salem deserves development that prioritizes community well-being, environmental sustainability, and local neighborhoods over high-impact industrial operations. I urge the City Council to thoroughly scrutinize this proposal's long-term impacts on our grid, water supply, and local environment before moving forward with any approvals.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to listening to the voices of Salem residents.

Sincerely,

Jessica McLane

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jennifer Price <jenbered@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:05 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment on the Proposed Oakline at Mill Creek Project (Verrus)

Date: July 27, 2026

To: City of Salem City Council / Planning Commission

Regarding: Public Comment on the Proposed Oakline at Mill Creek Project (Verrus)

Submitted By:

Jennifer Ann Price

4851 WB Post Drive NE

Salem, OR 97305

To the Members of the Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my professional and personal objections to the 75-acre development plan submitted for the Mill Creek Corporate Center. My perspective is shaped by the information regarding this project I could find online, my residency in Salem, my bachelors of science degree in environmental engineering, and my extensive career background as a hydrologist and electric utility project manager. Because of this background, I recognize serious logistical flaws and community resource threats in the current proposal that standard reviews might overlook.

I request that municipal leaders closely evaluate seven primary technical, legal, and economic flaws before moving forward with this approval:

1. **Zoning Non-Compliance:** The developer intends to implement an industrial power production footprint capable of generating up to 768 megawatts on-site. Salem's existing advanced manufacturing zoning framework specifically excludes heavy power plants from this designation. Granting an exception for an active generation facility of this size ignores the explicit intent of local land-use laws.
2. **Unaddressed Grid Infrastructure Corridors:** Integrating a multi-hundred-megawatt industrial user into the local grid demands far more than localized wiring. It requires the physical establishment of a new high-voltage transmission corridor to supply the proposed substation. The municipality must mandate a thorough geographical and ecological review of this upcoming right-of-way, including its broad visual disruptions, potentially necessary clear-cutting, and property easements.
3. **The Thermal Efficiency Trade-off:** The applicant's marketing heavily emphasizes a reduction in water consumption through a closed-loop mechanical framework. From a utility management standpoint, bypassing fluid evaporation creates an immense thermodynamic energy penalty. The

design appears to merely swap water usage for unprecedented grid strain, demanding a massive amount of electricity simply to operate the necessary cooling machinery.

4. Simultaneous Disruption to Twin Watersheds: The 75-acre project area sits directly on top of the hydrologic ridge dividing the Pringle Creek Watershed and the Mill Creek Watershed. Stripping natural topography to build massive concrete pads and roofs creates an immediate stormwater hazard. High-velocity runoff and changed absorption patterns will alter the baseline hydrology of two independent local creek ecosystems at the exact same time.
5. Erosion of Public Oversight via Non-Disclosure Agreements: The prolonged enforcement of an economic non-disclosure agreement kept local citizens completely unaware of the immense scale of this project for well over a year. While legitimate proprietary trade secrets deserve legal protection under established state statutes, these confidential contracts are instead being used to hide the true scale of community utility consumption. Public resources should never be negotiated under conditions of enforced municipal silence.
6. Zero-Sum Resource Allocation and Urban Forestry Threats: Because this is Salem's first proposed data center development, the city has an obligation to protect our local water table before setting a dangerous precedent. Committing baseline municipal water capacity to automated server infrastructure during a period of increasing regional drought is an unsustainable risk to our citizens. Furthermore, paving over the majority of 75 acres of permeable terrain eliminates natural aquifer recharge. This localized groundwater drawdown directly threatens the survival of Salem's native tree canopy and the very heritage oak groves on-site that the applicant promises to protect.
7. Negligible Employment Yield Relative to Scale: The application projects the creation of only 75 long-term positions across this massive 75-acre campus. This represents an incredibly low density of exactly one job per acre. Traditional industrial use of this land would provide hundreds of varied jobs for local families. Sacrificing a vast portion of Salem's infrastructure capacity is a poor trade for an automated facility run by a skeleton crew, especially when the external burden of long-term grid maintenance falls on public utility crews rather than the developer's payroll.

Because the applicant has failed to provide transparent figures regarding maximum utility draw and precise grid-tie routes, I urge the city to pause all voting and approvals. The Planning Commission should require a fully independent engineering audit regarding zoning, transmission corridors, and dual-watershed stormwater impacts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for entering this testimony into the official record.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Ann Price

4851 WB Post Drive NE

Salem, OR 97305

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jane Somerville <jane.somerville2015@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:32 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment- data center

Counselors,

As a long time resident of Salem, I urge you to stop the Verrus data center project. The only entity that will benefit from the data center is Verrus itself. As I'm sure you've heard, data centers all over the country have harmed the environment and infrastructures of the communities they're built in. Verrus has promised that this one will be different- quieter, cleaner, friendlier than all the rest. For the sake of argument, let's assume they're right and that this particular data center could have a minimal impact on the neighborhood.

Even if that is true, I still do not want it. I do not want any of my city's resources going to a data center. I don't want these insidious corporations to have more resources and power than they already do. I don't want the ancestral lands of the kalapuya to be used to support unnecessary artificial intelligence.

The city of Salem has an opportunity to avoid the harms that data centers are causing throughout the country. Please, stop all negotiations with Verrus NOW.

Jane Somerville

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Carl Hoffman

From: J Stembridge <stembrij@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 3:24 AM
To: Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney; Mai Vang; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn; CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Testimony for 7/2726 City Council Meeting

Dear Mayor Hoy and City Council,

I encourage you to approve Agenda items 5.2 and 5.3

However neither agenda item impacts the Verrus proposal to develop a data center in SE Salem. Therefore I strongly urge the Salem City Council to do the following regarding the Verrus proposal:

1. Research other communities that have active data centers developed and managed by Verrus. How are those communities doing?
2. If Verrus has no active data centers operating there is no way to verify Verrus will develop a data center that they say will have low water usage, low noise pollution, low air pollution, high quality job creation and community support.
3. Do not proceed with Verrus unless and until the City of Salem creates a panel of scientists and public health care practitioners who visit other active data centers, study the Verrus proposal, and then recommend approval of the Verrus proposal.

Thank you for your public service and your efforts to create a healthy vibrant community for all residents.

Sincerely,

Joan Stembridge

48 resident of Salem

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jean W <jean.waring@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:31 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]NO to Data center

I am writing to voice opposition to the proposed Varus data center based on the noise pollution, water table injury, negative job growth compared to other opportunities, and degradation of the environment from back-up diesel generators.

Jean Waring
780 Waldo ave SE, Salem, OR 97302

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From: [James](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data centers
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:54:48 PM

With the current climate of this administration and the lack of trust in both political parties, why should Salem as a community allow a Data center, which in my opinion will be used against the community as a whole to be built in our back yard.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Jose <joeym2882@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:15 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center

Hi, I'm an oregon resident near the Salem area. Just heard the news about a zoning contract with some California company called Verrus. I know that they intend to take up 75 acres of land for a data center. I highly oppose this idea. Ever since open AI has made it's way into the hands of the public, these data center's have been popping up left and right. Polluting people's water sources. Spiking up their electricity bills. Not to mention the amount of heat it generates could likely end up causing more harm than good. I ask you, to take into consideration, not just what's best for these big tech companies but for the people of Salem. Deny the application for a data center. We really don't need anymore industrialization of AI.

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From: [kristin gwyn](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Subject: proposed data center in SE Salem
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:46:42 PM

DATA CENTER MEETING

July 27, 2026

- Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council,

My name is Kristin Gwyn.

I was born, raised, and continue to live in South Salem. As a lifelong resident, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus data center campus at the edge of South Salem.

While I understand this project is in its early planning stages, the recent expiration of a 16-month non-disclosure agreement (NDA) raises profound questions about transparency. Keeping a project of this magnitude hidden from the public for over a year erodes community trust. A development that demands so much from our local environment should never be negotiated behind closed doors, away from the citizens it will directly impact.

I fear our infrastructure cannot support a project of this scale. Salem is not a massive metropolis; our systems are already strained. While the new housing developments on our outskirts are necessary, local prices have far outpaced local wages, and homelessness has reached a crisis level. Given these financial hardships, the possibility of this data center driving up our utility costs is startling. Despite promises of closed-loop cooling and peak-shaving batteries, if this facility's massive electricity and water consumption strains our local capacity, our most vulnerable, low-income residents will bear the financial burden.

Furthermore, I am deeply worried about the threat of contamination to Mill Creek and the destruction of our protected heritage oak trees. Introducing a massive industrial consumer next to Mill Creek is an unnecessary risk, especially while the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing plans regarding Detroit Lake leave our foundational water supply in a fragile state.

Finally, we must address an issue plaguing data center neighbors nationwide: the high level of continuous, low-frequency noise. Across the country, residents living in proximity to these facilities suffer from constant acoustic pollution that degrades quality

of life, lowers property values, and harms mental health. Bringing this severe disruption directly to the edge of our residential community is unacceptable.

I ask the City Council to prioritize the people who have built their lives in Salem over outside tech corporations. Please thoroughly scrutinize this project and consider the cumulative impacts of the hidden 16-month NDA, infrastructure strain, environmental risks, and unlivable noise levels.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Kristin Gwyn
with James Gwyn
and Kaitlin Gwyn

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Carl Hoffman

From: kristin gwyn <keygwyn@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:47 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Subject: proposed data center in SE Salem

DATA CENTER MEETING

July 27, 2026

- Mayor Hoy and Members of the City Council,

My name is Kristin Gwyn.

I was born, raised, and continue to live in South Salem. As a lifelong resident, I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed \$5.1 billion Verrus data center campus at the edge of South Salem.

While I understand this project is in its early planning stages, the recent expiration of a 16-month non-disclosure agreement (NDA) raises profound questions about transparency. Keeping a project of this magnitude hidden from the public for over a year erodes community trust. A development that demands so much from our local environment should never be negotiated behind closed doors, away from the citizens it will directly impact.

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I ask the City Council to prioritize the people who have built their lives in Salem over outside tech corporations. Please thoroughly scrutinize this project and consider the cumulative impacts of the hidden 16-month NDA, infrastructure strain, environmental risks, and unlivable noise levels.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Kristin Gwyn
with James Gwyn
and Kaitlin Gwyn

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From: [Katie Hawk](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data centers in Salem
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 4:37:16 AM

Data centers consume vast amounts of water & we already face some issues with our water supply. They use astronomical amounts of electricity & even if they provide some upgrades to our system we cannot trust that our personal electric bills won't increase as has happened in other states. Another issue is the soil becomes contaminated from data centers. The sound emitted causes headaches & other health issues in humans, I'm not certain what effects if any on wildlife. The bright light emitted impacts any living nearby as well as migratory birds. Data centers go against everything Oregonians love & want for our state. Keep our state beautiful & healthy, do not allow more data centers in Oregon. It's terrible we are in the group of states with the second highest number of data centers in the nation & the US has 43 to 46% of all data centers in the world. These have far reaching negative impacts. Please stand with Oregonians Against Data Centers.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely, Katie Hawk

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Carl Hoffman

From: Kimberly Hawk <kahawk23007@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 3:19 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Centers

Good afternoon,

This email is to confirm that we DO NOT want data centers in or near Salem or the surrounding communities or anywhere within the state of Oregon.

Data centers have been proven to be harsh on the environment and water shelf of the communities close to these centers.

With much of the world on literal fire right now, we need to be better stewards of our city, county, community, state, region, country, and world.

No Data Centers in Oregon.

Thank you,
Kim (they/them)
[Why Pronouns Matter](#)
kahawk23007@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Kristen Kessler <kess4652@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:42 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Proposed data center

Dear Salem City Council,

I don't live in Salem, but have visited several times, and am considering moving there when I retire. I am distressed and saddened by the proposed data center, and the fact that the city entered into an NDA about this project.

Salem is a lovely town. Its natural beauty is what draws visitors like myself. If this project goes through, I doubt I will want to visit Salem in the future. I want to plant the seed that data centers are not good for tourism. Please do not go through with this project.

Thank you,
Kristen Kessler
Ventura, CA

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Carl Hoffman

From: Karla Spence <spencekarla@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:27 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Mill Creek Data Center

NO NO NO!!!! Me and my family and friends are a resolute NO! It's too big a drain on our precious natural resources, especially water, creates very few jobs after initial construction and displaces ecosystems. Don't do it!!

Karla Marks
Salem
503-931-1049

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Carl Hoffman

From: LJ Anderson <ljanderson120@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 5:47 PM
To: CityRecorder; Julie Hoy; Micki Varney; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on Salem City Council agenda on July 27, 2026

Dear City Council members:

I'm very concerned about the potential for a data center to be constructed in Salem, OR, and want to express my deep opposition to this plan. The proliferation of data centers in communities across America is one of the most contentious issues in our country right now. According to legitimate polling, over 70% of Americans are opposed to these centers--for a multitude of troubling factors which adversely affect their health, safety, and quality of life. And no matter what the developers "promise" to the city initially and "what a good neighbor" they will be, there are no certitudes about the functioning of these centers.

For example, in February 2026 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, as reported by *The Guardian*, bacteria-contaminated water was flushed into the public sewer system by a contractor for Meta's AI data center. How would you feel if that happened here? Circumstances such as this and many others are being reported by US residents, by whistleblowers, environmental activists and investigative reporters, among others. The health of Salem residents should be of utmost importance in approving any project--so that something like this never happens.

Also of concern is the lack of transparency as news of this project was basically dumped on the residents after an NDA had already been signed. Over the past several years, residents have had to pay for the severance of a city manager who was let go under non-transparent circumstances, and then there were ethics violations and the tedious process that went into that. To suddenly read that local government officials knew and had signed this NDA was startling and disheartening to say the least. The residents whose health and quality of life would be affected by this were the last to know.

I would also like to encourage the City Council to adopt/approve Micki Varney's two motions, Agenda items 5.2 and 5.3.

Thank you for your service.

(Ms) LJ Anderson
Resident, Ward 2

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Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Baehr <msbaehr@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 6:45 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Vanessa Nordyke; Paul Tigan; Linda Nishioka; Shane Matthews; Deanna Gwyn; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Mai Vang; Julie Hoy
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No data Center, Don't sell us out!

Dear City Council,

Please don't sell us out for data center. I am tired of all the sellouts in this country and I thought Oregon was better than that/

I live in Salem, Oregon, a community that prides itself on its natural resources, community, and local businesses. However, our city is under threat due to the proposal for a new data center development in SE Salem Mill Creek area. This data center will consume mass amounts of natural water and power, not to mention the noise pollution these centers produce. All while contributing little to the community it would reside in.

Data centers across the country have caused water shortages, power grid failures, and loss of community. One data center can use as much power as an entire city. Salem prides itself on its natural resources like Mill Creek and the Willamette River, all of which are in jeopardy should this data center be built.

Contrary to popular belief, data centers do not provide substantial amounts of jobs for the community. The initial construction jobs it provides are short-lived. The 75-acre data center would provide 75 new jobs. Jobs that could be invested in our local community instead of private corporations.

We have the power to invest in projects that align with Salem's community values like renewable energy or supporting local businesses that employ our community members. We can support Salem in investing in a future for our people, not in investing for the complete use of all of our resources we rely on. This goes beyond taking a stance on a single project. This is for the betterment of Salem and the community as a whole to reach for a future that is better for all of us. I encourage you to join me in saying NO to the Verrus Data Center development in Salem.

Together we can stand strong against big corporations using the resources we value most.

Linda Baehr
Salem, OR

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Carl Hoffman

From: Leanne Cruikshank <leannecruikshank@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:23 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center Written Comment

City Council,

This written comment is to inform you I, Leanne Cruikshank, am against building the Verrus Data Center in Salem. This would cause a disruption in our local environment, power grid, and water resources. Not to mention traffic during construction, the noise and effects a data center has on the people of this great city. Listen to the people and say "no" to data centers in Salem.

Thank you,
Leanne Cruikshank

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sonic <sonic.tiktok@proton.me>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:41 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Tonights factual point list regarding Verrus data center

Good morning,

These are just some of the factual items addressing Verrus statements regarding their intentions for the build. I understand that the docket is overwhelmed with opposition on this line item, but I would appreciate these facts being mentioned and distributed.

1. The Oregon Heritage Tree Program, launched in 1996 as the nation's first state-sponsored program of its kind, is run by the Oregon Travel Information Council (a state agency created under ORS 377.835) and a volunteer committee. It reviews public nominations and designates trees with exceptional historical, cultural, ecological, or aesthetic value. Designated trees receive a plaque and public recognition, but designation requires the owner's consent and does not override local removal authority on private land. On state-owned property, designation creates preservation expectations for the managing agency. Local governments may adopt their own heritage-tree ordinances providing additional protection. It doesn't matter that Verrus plans to build "around" these protected trees. Waste water still needs to be routed and the construction will change runoff patterns, local habitat, and heat retention.
2. The closed loop cooling system means nothing because WASTE WATER still needs to be dispelled from the system and they will be dumping that directly into our waterways OR soil.
3. The larger environmental burden is usually the facility's round-the-clock power demand, which drives greenhouse gas emissions depending on the grid mix. 4. Even with LFP, you still need lithium, iron, phosphate, copper, aluminum, graphite, plastics, and electronics; mining and processing these materials create upstream emissions and habitat disturbance. The waste WILL NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE.
5. With their tax incentives for years to come it's like we're paying them to be here regardless of how many "jobs" they promise the city.

Thank you kindly for your time,

Lucy Gillespie
Ward 3
97306

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lucy Gillespie <lucykeas@proton.me>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:23 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Upcoming data center agenda item meeting 7/27/26

Good day,

I was informed that I may send my public comments to this email address for consideration.

1. The Oregon Heritage Tree Program, launched in 1996 as the nation's first state-sponsored program of its kind, is run by the Oregon Travel Information Council (a state agency created under ORS 377.835) and a volunteer committee. It reviews public nominations and designates trees with exceptional historical, cultural, ecological, or aesthetic value. Designated trees receive a plaque and public recognition, but designation requires the owner's consent and does not override local removal authority on private land. On state-owned property, designation creates preservation expectations for the managing agency. Local governments may adopt their own heritage-tree ordinances providing additional protection.

*It doesnt matter that Verrus plans to build "around" these protected trees. Waste water still needs to be routed and the construction will change runoff patterns, local habitat, and heat retention.

2. The closed loop cooling system means nothing because WASTE WATER still needs to be dispelled from the system and they will be dumping that directly into our waterways OR soil.

3. The larger environmental burden is usually the facility's round-the-clock power demand, which drives greenhouse gas emissions depending on the grid mix.

4. Even with LFP, you still need lithium, iron, phosphate, copper, aluminum, graphite, plastics, and electronics; mining and processing these materials create upstream emissions and habitat disturbance. The waste WILL NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE.

5. With their tax incentives for years to come it's like we're paying THEM to be here regardless of how many "jobs" they promise the city.

Thank you,

Lucy Gillespie

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Carl Hoffman

From: LARRY GLASSOCK <lglassock@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 3:47 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Verrus Data Center
Attachments: Verrus.docx

See attached letter.

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LARRY GLASSOCK
2000 MANORVIEW CIRCLE NW
SALEM, OR 97304

July 25, 2026

Re: Verrus Data Center

There is a lot of negative hoopla over social media about the proposed Data Center at the Mill Creek Industrial Park.

There is something odd about their objections to this development. First, they seem to copy the same letter time after time. Are these original thoughts? Second, they have no idea of the proposed water or kilowatt usage at the Verrus complex.

Remember that Salem at one time had a great number of food processers using millions of gallons of water every month and discharging an enormous amount of organic material to our sewer plant. Do the opponents to the data center know the precise water demand the center may have on Salem's water system? I suspect the city of Salem would welcome the additional revenue without added burden on the sewer plant. Let's get the facts before reacting!

Do the opponents to the Verrus data center know the precise electrical demand the center might use. Do they know if that usage will negatively impact the grid or our electrical rates? Let's get the facts before reacting!

The opponents cite carbon pollution and global warming. Precisely what is the Verrus development contributing to the carbon situation or global warming. If the State of Oregon was completely eradicated from the global map, it would never be noticed.

Let's get the facts before reacting!

Larry Glassock

From: [Len Lingo](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [Julie Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Mai Vang](#); [Linda Nishioka](#); [Paul Tigan](#); [Shane Matthews](#); [Dr. Irvin M Brown](#); [Deanna Gwyn](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]I Support Agenda Items 5.2 and 5.3
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:23:19 AM

I support Councilor Varna's motions for the Council meeting July 27, 2026, and urge City Council to adopt and approve agenda items 5.2 and 5.3.

Leonard Lingo
1755 Winter Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
303-482-5090

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Carl Hoffman

From: L. A. Miller <liseanne27@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:21 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment for Salem City Council meeting 7/27/26

I am submitting a comment to the Salem City Council for tonight's meeting regarding the proposed data center at Mill Creek Corporate Center, future data center proposals and whether the Salem city council should sign NDAs regarding data centers.

My name is Lisa Miller and I live in ward 7. Data centers provide little to the communities in which they reside and have been shown via multiple studies by universities and other state governments that they cause more harm than good. Washington State Department Of Ecology, Cambridge University and the University Of Chicago are three examples that have run such studies. The University of Chicago and The WA department of ecology outline the impacts of data centers on air, water, and ground around the sites. The impacts include diesel air pollution, water extraction and pollution, chemical runoff that affects water and soil, hazardous waste disposal, and surges in use of the power grid which can greatly increase power costs in the area. There are also several incidents where data centers have not been truthful about their potential pollution, potential temperature increases, local infrastructure needs, and other negative impacts to an area. There are university studies from Cambridge as well as others on data centers in Europe and Central America which have had anomalous temperature increases, likely due to the data centers in the area, of 3.6 degrees on average and can span 6 miles or more. In Oregon alone, data centers have cost millions of dollars in taxes in such areas as Hillsboro and Prineville according to local news outlets. Because of these losses and harmful practices, it is necessary for there to be public input on data centers entering the area, this includes the potential data center in Mill Creek. It is also necessary for city council members to remain transparent in their dealings with companies such as Verrus and not sign NDAs. If a company will be controversial and have such great impacts on an area of Salem, we should be able to comment on and understand fully what is happening in conversations between city council and the company. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Lisa Miller

--

Lisa Miller
1017 Hermitage Way S
Salem Or 97302
liseanne27@gmail.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: Laura Norbury <norburylaura@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:27 PM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Verrus Data Center

Members of the City of Salem City Council,

I am writing to express my opposition to the Verrus Data Center.

I have lived in Salem since 1994, and live in the Court Chemeketa Historic District.

One of my concerns with this, and any other data centers that might be built in Salem, is the impact to the water supply for the current residents. Verrus says that they will use "less than the water needed for 1 golf course", but is this a one time use, or will they need more over the life of the data center. They mention that they will be using a closed-loop cooling system, but I find it hard to believe that they will not be needing water on a regular basis. If there is a water emergency that limits the water supply for the city (like another algae bloom in Detroit Lake), who will have precedence on water - the residents or the data center?

I'm also concerned about the impact on the power grid. How much will this increase our current electric rates? Again, who will be impacted first if there is a surge to the power grid during the heat of the summer - the residents of the data center?

Data Centers are known for the noise that they create. This impacts nearby residents, business, and also, the wildlife. Since this data center is planned for a location near Corbin University, how will the noise impact the students as they are studying or sleeping? Also, what will be the overall impact to Corbin in the future? Will students not go because of the nearby data center?

Studies have also shown that data centers increase the temperature of the surrounding area due to the heat generated by running all of the equipment. We don't need any additional heat in the valley.

For three years, the city will not receive any property taxes from Verrus. This is at a time when Salem is struggling due to the fact that numerous properties within the city limits are owned or leased by governmental entities and are exempt from property taxes. So the property owners within the city will be expected to cover the costs of additional city services provided to Verrus. I don't believe that this will go over well with property owners the next time they are faced with an increase in their property taxes.

All of these negatives for 75 permanent jobs. To me this isn't worth it - to the city or to the residents.

I strongly encourage each of you to NOT support this project. I will be watching how my city council member votes, and I will remember the vote at the next election.

Thank you.

Laura Norbury

260 18th St NE
Salem, OR

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lindsay Pirelli <lpirelli28@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:41 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Paul Tigan
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Verrus data center

Hello,

My name is Lindsay and I live in Ward 1. I'm writing to oppose the development of a Verrus data center in SE Salem.

Verrus and the city council have already broken the trust of Salem citizens by signing an NDA. If this development was as beneficial as Verrus claims, there would be no reason to sign an NDA and hide those negotiations from the public.

We should not be bringing in a data center at a time when Salem's drinking water is already at risk from the planned drawdown of the Detroit reservoir this year. That aside, Verrus' closed loop system would introduce anti-corrosion chemicals into our water supply when they flush their system. As we saw during the toxic algae bloom in 2018, Salem's infrastructure is not equipped to deal with these kind of threats to our water system.

In addition, the Verrus build wouldn't bring as much impact to Salem's job market as promised. The build itself is short-term and once constructed, would only add 75 new jobs; which is around 0.0004% of Salem's population. Verrus has also applied for a three year tax abatement, so they would not be contributing to the city's funds either.

Finally, Verrus is owned by Alphabet, which is the parent company of Google. Google has already shown a track record of questionable decisions around privacy and data collection in recent years. We cannot be complicit in the building of architecture for a surveillance state.

Please reconsider and vote to stop the Verrus data center in Salem. I also ask that the City of Salem ends its practice of signing NDAs with private corporations.

Thank you,
Lindsay Pirelli,
Ward 1

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Carl Hoffman

From: Linda Silvestri <linda@tresgatos.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 7:15 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - Proposed Verrus Data Center

Greetings Mayor and Councilors,

My name is Linda Silvestri, a resident of Salem,

Regarding the proposed Verrus Data Center in Salem, I strongly urge you to slow this process and insist on greater transparency, which has been lacking thus far, before moving forward. Decisions with impacts lasting generations should not emerge after more than a year behind closed doors.

First, I feel we must carefully evaluate the project's demands on our community's water and electrical systems. Although they claim to use much less than other data centers, they have not disclosed how much usage exactly. The resources needed for this data center belong to our entire community, and any project of this scale deserves thorough public review of its long-term impacts before commitments are made, regardless of the property being already appropriately zoned.

Second, we must acknowledge the very real impacts that data centers have on neighboring communities. These facilities operate around the clock, every day of the year. Residents living near data centers across the country have reported constant noise that has led to headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disruption, ear pain, elevated blood pressure, and diminished quality of life. Much of this comes from low-frequency sound and infrasound—noise that can be felt throughout the body even when it is difficult to measure using standard decibel meters. This makes enforcement of traditional noise ordinances extremely difficult.

This decision is about more than one development proposal. It is about whether our community values transparency, meaningful public participation, and careful stewardship of our shared resources. I demand the Council do whatever it can to pause this process, require full public disclosure, and ensure residents have a genuine opportunity to understand and weigh in on a project that will affect our city for decades to come.

Thank you for your time and your consideration,
Sincerely, Linda Silvestri

2198 Joplin Street
Salem, Oregon 97302

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Carl Hoffman

From: LCT <lacthornton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 5:12 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center - NO!!

I am against a data center in Salem Oregon. I am especially concerned that the public does not have a say in this plan or a VOTE in this plan. My understanding is the that cost of data center to the public does not outweigh the benefit, and that the public's electricity rates are at risk of going up and there is concern that adequate power to the city is at risk. This is a decision that should be well thought out then rejected. Data centers need to be fully funded by those putting the center up (or preferably not built at all) and should not be in largely populated places.

Lorri Thornton
Salem Oregon resident.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelllex@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 6:14 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Micki Varney; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; dgdgwyn@cityofsalem.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL]072726 Public Comment – NON Agenda item 8

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My name is Lynelle Wilcox and I live and work in Ward 1.

I am writing because the City's FY2026/27 budget includes ZERO funds for Inclement Weather services. Inclement weather includes warming centers, cooling centers, fire/smoke situations, and any weather conditions that put people at risk.

LIFE-SAVING services: Protecting people during dangerous weather is a public obligation. Community Action and the City of Salem have partnered to provide those life-saving emergency management services for more than a decade.

Budget implications: Budgets reflect funding decisions AND budgets also have a corollary purpose or result of reflecting our priorities. Budgeting ZERO dollars for a life-saving program implies a shift in values, and a shift in emergency management priority, even if that is not the intent.

Disconnect: The city's annual belonging survey and the Bloomberg/Harvard project reflect our city's stated values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL. Omitting funds for inclement weather emergency services creates a disconnect from our stated priorities and values.

Request:

- Please consider issuing an OVERT statement that the omission reflects balancing our limited resources, and is NOT a change in priority or support of these life-saving emergency services. Please state that an emergency grant or other funding option will be implemented asap for inclement weather emergencies, if needed. These necessary services save hundreds of lives.

Bridging the gap: Those statements reflect the reality of limited funds AND reflect humanity, common ground, and unity on the values of belonging, inclusion, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynelle Wilcox, Ward 1

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynellx@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:11 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Micki Varney; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 072726 Public Comment – Agenda item 2 Data center considerations

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

My name is Lynelle Wilcox and I live and work in Ward 1.

I am writing to strongly support Councilor Varney's two motions: 5.2 and 5.3, regarding data center non-disclosure agreements, and creating a data center task force, respectively. Please support these motions so Salem moves forward with transparency, and with more conversations and research to make data-informed decisions regarding data centers in Salem.

Beyond approving those motions, there is so much more to consider...

Pros and cons: Data centers are controversial – they create jobs to build and maintain the centers, and they create a revenue stream to the city. Yet data centers also have a history of creating constant noise, high needs for water and electricity, unknown risks to people and animals, and they take a toll on the environment. A Task Force is a valuable and necessary step for transparency, public conversations, and researching and balancing pros and cons and tangible and intangible costs of building a new data center in Salem.

Accountability: Public comment at the 7/14/26 City Council meeting included testimony that this data center will operate differently – with minimal noise, a design for recirculating water, and power generators to reduce electricity needs. A Task Force enables valuable and necessary due diligence to identify if the company has effectively constructed a data center with those lower impacts to people, water and electricity resources, the community, and the environment. A Task Force might also identify possible consequences if the project doesn't deliver on promises they make.

Homeless crisis: The City has been operating on a tight budget, with many reductions and program cuts. Yet they found ways to expand the Homeless Services Team, and to create and fund a Clean Team and the new REACH team. Even with a focus of building relationships and connecting people to services, the overall concept of those teams is enforcement of "you can't be here". (Or here. Or there. Or here either.)

Tangible gaps: Even with years of increasing shelter beds, permanent supportive housing programs, and more "affordable" housing, there are hundreds more unsheltered individuals than there are places for them to be. And along the way, they still need places to go to the bathroom, places to charge their phones, places and/or services to dispose of their trash, places to sleep and live safely, and affordable housing that is affordable even for people who only receive SSI, which is

\$994/month for 2026. We've been talking about those diverse gaps and needs for years, yet there is never enough support or money.

Intangible, but very real gaps: People experiencing homelessness also experience ongoing discrimination – often daily, and occasional targeted violence. They are often perceived as drug addicts and as dangerous criminals, yet national data reflects that people experiencing homelessness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violence against a stranger.

The city's annual belonging survey and the current Bloomberg/Harvard project reflect our city's stated values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL. Yet our programs, services, behaviors, and opinions towards and about unsheltered individuals often fall far short of living those values.

New revenue stream: If Salem moves forward with the data center, we have opportunities to align more with our stated values and to create more lasting stability for the people experiencing poverty and homelessness.

As one creative example, Henrico County in Virginia established an affordable housing trust, with \$60 million from data center revenue to make homeownership possible for more of the area's workforce.

- <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/turning-data-center-revenues-affordable-homes> “Rather than relying on scarce federal dollars, Henrico County made an appropriation of \$60 million in previously unbudgeted data center revenues to launch its Affordable Housing Trust Fund.”
- <https://time.com/article/2026/03/11/data-centers-affordable-housing/> “...it could serve as a template for how to turn a highly-controversial industry into a community benefit.”
- <https://henrico.gov/news/2024/05/henrico-to-create-trust-to-enhance-access-to-affordable-homeownership/>
- <https://pharva.com/henrico-launching-60m-housing-trust-fund-with-revenue-from-data-centers/>

Request: If Salem moves forward with a data center, please allocate some of the data center revenue towards more utility assistance, more eviction prevention and Rapid Rehousing services and funds, more Permanent Supportive Housing, more shelters and shelter beds, more truly affordable housing - for people who only receive \$994/month SSI, and other essential services to meet basic human needs: restrooms, cell phone charging stations, funding Inclement weather services for life-saving warming and cooling centers, places or services for people to dispose of their trash, and more places for people to BE.

Benefits: Each of those programs and services benefit the individuals served AND benefits all of Salem by:

- Reflecting humanity and more equity as we enable more basic human needs to be met.
- Creating stability for individuals who are falling through the cracks and gaps in the system.

- Enabling more economic growth as more people develop stability.
- Reflecting more alignment with our city's stated priorities and values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynelle Wilcox, Ward 1

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Carl Hoffman

From: M. Cleary <mcmbebs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 11:55 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment

Hello,

I would like to submit comments regarding the proposed Data center in the area. I was raised in Salem, still live in the vicinity, and have a vested interest in property that would be directly impacted by this decision. For now and in the future, I think you need to keep several things in mind.

One of the first things is our fragile Northwest grid, which is currently at risk of failing; this is without adding the extra pressure of supporting another massive data center. As OPB reported in relation to the Amazon Data Center in Umatilla, the center has not only changed the landscape for the negative, it has also spiked the tax on our electrical grid. Oregonians face higher electric bills each year, and as we have seen from other data centers, it's the local people that pay the cost. At the same time, there are negative impacts on the air quality in and around data centers. This directly impacts the health and wellness of all living things in the area. (<https://www.opb.org/article/2026/07/22/data-center-eastern-oregon-air-quality-umatilla-basin/>)

In an article recently published in the *Portland News*, research has also shown that unchecked growth in this area will likely lead to us failing in our commitment to offset climate change in our area. Along with the tax on electricity, there will be a higher strain on the water supply, which could increase drought conditions. (<https://portlandnews.com/portland-data-centers-environmental-costs/>).

Oregon Live has also reported that our climate commitments cannot be met if we continue to strain our systems with these centers. Umatilla Electric Cooperative has been responsible for 1.8 million tons of carbon emissions. Making one of the smallest counties one of the biggest polluters, the impacts of which are felt all over Oregon. It leads us to question why anyone would believe adding to this already strained system is a good idea. (<https://www.oregonlive.com/silicon-forest/2024/02/one-of-oregons-smallest-utilities-is-suddenly-among-the-states-biggest-polluters-why-amazon-data-centers.html>)

Going off of the other data centers already in Oregon, it's known that they not only increase the cost of living for everyday Oregonians (in electricity and water bill spikes) but also in our ability to enjoy the land. This includes the impact on all local wildlife. Building any of these facilities includes laying transmission lines and creating a cooling infrastructure, which displaces habitats. We have seen this happen with *each* data center built. There is no defense in destroying local habitats for such short term menial gain. Building these centers does not guarantee Oregonians will benefit from any long term jobs in these areas. It also doesn't guarantee that the people who take control of the land will mitigate environmental costs. We have seen corporations with billions repeatedly choose to take a fine over committing to clean energy and ensuring they have little to no negative impact on the environment. That leaves the local community to deal with the pervasive, often expensive, environmental impacts; an unfair burden to say the least.

The city should not approve building data centers in our community when it has been proven that they strain resources, lead to us failing in our climate commitments, pass costs to everyday Oregonians (who have clearly come out to say that they are NOT in favor of the project), hurt local habitat and ruin the quality of life in the local community and Oregon in general.

Beyond this, I hope it is understood that there are real consequences for our current leaders who choose to install these centers against the public's wishes. We are tired of leaders who create short term plans that lack the foresight to see the devastating long term impacts of their decisions. Especially members who are unwilling to be transparent or who have signed NDAs in regards to decisions that will have widespread effects on so many. We need leaders who listen to the will of the people. If we cannot trust someone to do that, they should not be in a position of power.

Please, rethink these projects until we have the appropriate infrastructure and planning in place to prevent the hefty negative toll these centers have on local communities. The facts clearly show that building another data center would not be a positive decision for Salem or for Oregon.

Thank you for your time,
Megan Cleary

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Carl Hoffman

From: Missy Melissa <melissa.elijah@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 11:40 AM
To: CityRecorder; citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]I am asking you to hold the Oakline at Mill Creek data center to a real standard

To the Salem City Council,

My name is Melissa Gauger and I live at 614 Browning Ave SE in Salem. I'm writing to formally oppose the Oakline at Mill Creek data center proposed by Verrus, and to ask the Council to support Councilor Varney's motions on NDAs and a resident task force at Monday's meeting.

Verrus is not a proven company. It was founded in 2024 and has not completed a single operational data center anywhere. Oakline would be its first.

Verrus's other project, Lyon Township, Michigan ("Project Flex"), shows the pattern I'm concerned about repeating here. In May 2026, after the township's Board of Trustees denied an easement Verrus needed for a stormwater project, Verrus's attorney warned the township it would pursue legal action, including injunctions and damages, if approval was further delayed. Source: WXYZ Detroit, "Lyon Township residents push back on data center as developer threatens lawsuit," June 2, 2026 (<https://www.wxyz.com/news/data-centers/lyon-township-residents-push-back-on-data-center-as-developer-threatens-lawsuit>). CBS News Detroit reported the same threat and included Verrus's own statement defending the project (<https://www.cbsnews.com/detroit/news/residents-oppose-data-center-lyon-township/>).

That same Michigan project's site plan calls for diesel generators as backup power, in addition to batteries — which sits in direct tension with Verrus's pitch to Salem that battery storage eliminates the need for generators. I would ask Verrus to clarify, in writing, whether Oakline will or will not include diesel backup generation.

Noise is a real and documented risk with this industry, not a hypothetical one. In Wisconsin, Microsoft has publicly acknowledged that its Mount Pleasant data center's noise traveled farther than expected, even while the facility met local noise limits on paper. A Heatmap News reporter who personally visited a similar Vantage data center in Sterling, Virginia described "an all-encompassing, monotonous whoosh accompanied by a low rumble you can feel in your body... like a jet engine that never stops running," clearly audible from a resident's driveway across the street. Source: Heatmap News, Jael Holzman, "Why Data Centers Are Turning People Against Renewables," April 24, 2026 (<https://heatmap.news/plus/the-fight/spotlight/data-centers-renewables-opposition>). In Southaven, Mississippi, over ten thousand residents filed a federal class-action lawsuit this June against xAI over gas turbine noise from a nearby data center.

I recognize Oregon's new POWER Act rate structure means Salem residents will not see higher electricity bills because of this project — PGE's data center customers now pay 29.7% more while residential rates drop 1.3%. Source: OPB, "Oregon approves PGE's 29.7% rate hike for data centers under landmark law," July 7, 2026 (<https://www.opb.org/article/2026/07/07/oregon-data-center-general-electric-rate-hikes/>). I

am not asking the Council to act on a false electricity-cost claim. But water and traffic remain completely unaddressed: as of the city's own reporting this week, Verrus has submitted no engineering analysis, no water use estimate, and no traffic study for this project.

This is not an isolated local concern. At least 14 states are currently considering bans or moratoriums on new data center construction, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, as reported by Newsweek (<https://www.newsweek.com/map-data-centers-being-banned-us-12140864>). Aurora, Illinois adopted binding regulations after its own moratorium, requiring generators and chillers to sit 1,000 to 1,500 feet from homes, banning rooftop generators outright, and reclassifying data centers as conditional uses requiring public hearings and council approval for every future project. Source: Daily Herald, "Aurora restricts where new data centers can be built, limits noise and water and electricity usage," March 25, 2026 (<https://www.dailyherald.com/20260325/news/aurora-restricts-where-new-data-centers-can-be-built-limits-noise-and-water-and-electricity-usage/>).

I am asking the Council to:

1. Support Councilor Varney's motion to look into banning NDAs with companies proposing data centers in Salem.
2. Support Councilor Varney's motion to establish the 9-member resident task force to set policy before any future data center project moves forward.
3. Commit, on the record, to denying any future application — including from Verrus — that does not fully answer the water, traffic, and environmental questions with verified, engineered numbers, not promotional language.
4. Adopt a binding noise standard now, before an application arrives, modeled on Aurora's ordinance.

Salem does not owe an unproven company the benefit of the doubt. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Melissa Gauger

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Carl Hoffman

From: Mitchell Jones <mitchellajones@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 1:02 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center

Hello,

I'm writing to you as a community member, a homeowner, and a business owner. I'm deeply concerned with the idea of Salem getting a data center. There have been so many studies so far that show how awful they are for the cities they are in, and it's only just begun. There are many studies that show that they always increase the strain on the electrical grid so dramatically, that no matter what there are increased costs to the surrounding areas. That the water being used is effectively filled with so many chemicals and later dumped into the grounds that it poisons wells of nearby areas and puts a strain on the entire community's resources. They drive away wildlife, significantly harm nearby farmers (there are several farmers nearby where the proposal is for the data center.). The ambient noise increase also causes harm to civilians.

This is all readily and easily available just from quick research of the topic. Not to mention, the data center would employ a minor amount of people, and generally they employ less than they quote in the first place. This would help Salem economically in the very short term, and then be a stain on the entire city for decades. There is a reason cities are moving to put a permanent moratorium on data centers in their areas. I urge you to do the same.

Here are some of the articles that I have found regarding this topic.

[The AI Data Center Boom Is Coming for Farmers](#)

[A loophole leaves Oklahoma data center water consumption largely untracked - Investigate Midwest](#)
[Confronting and addressing rising energy bills linked to data centers | Brookings](#)

[Data Center Power Demands Are Contributing to Higher Energy Bills | Article | EESI](#)

<https://www.gatech.edu/news/2026/07/09/data-centers-are-booming-who-benefits#:~:text=In%20areas%20where%20the%20researchers%20can%20cleanly,the%20increased%20cost%20of%20electricity%20isn%27t%20straightforward.>

[How Many Jobs Does a Data Center Create? \(2026 Data\)](#)

<https://www.theinvadingsea.com/2026/06/18/data-centers-ai-electricity-demand-air-water-noise-pollution-health-land-use-energy-costs/#:~:text=Noise%20pollution.%20Data%20centers%27%20continuous%20operation%20means,40%20and%2059%20decibels%20on%20residential%20property.>

[Nashville Zoo vs. a Data Center: 5 Ways Wildlife Loses - A-Z Animals](#)

It's your job to steward Salem and make sure that we grow in a way that supports its residents, not drive them away. <https://time.com/article/2026/07/22/community-backlash-ai-data-centers/>

Please consider doing what is best for the city of Salem in the long term, don't just look at the short term dollars and cents.

Thanks,

Mitchell Jones

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Carl Hoffman

From: Worth Mathewson <slpress@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 5:03 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]data center

The Statesman Journal article on the proposed data center was somewhat favorable in regard to innovations made to address common objections.

Notable was the use of battery power rather than diesel generators to address pollution, noise, and heat generation. Also water recycling for cooling. It would be a pity for this to be tarred with the same brush as conventional data centers without in depth consideration.

Protection of heritage trees will be a problem for any construction on this site. It is to be hoped that there will not be another performance gesture of moving mature trees in adverse weather, dooming them.

Margaret Thompson

2047 MVC NW, Capital Manor

Salem, OR 97304

503 843 2767

Ward 8

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My email has been changed to slpress@comcast.net

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Carl Hoffman

From: SALEM Manager
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:49 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: FW: Contact City Manager's Office
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net <noreply@cityofsalem.net> **On Behalf Of** trobaughnicole@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:20 AM
To: SALEM Manager <MANAGER@cityofsalem.net>
Subject: Contact City Manager's Office

Your Name	Nicole Trobaugh
Your Email	trobaughnicole@gmail.com
Your Phone	503-569-8963x00
Street	1385 Jefferson St NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	I'm writing in regards to the proposed data center in Salem. Salem does not want a data center. Oregon is known for outdoor activities. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center in Salem we took most of our calls from California and they would always talk about how Oregon is where they go to vacation. They would talk about snow activities, hiking, camping, backpacking, kayaking, etc. Our airport has trees in it! This what Oregon is about! How can we continue to be that Oregon if all of the wild ares are data centers? Oregon is also known for great food and wine. How are we supposed to be producing those quality products if the land is taken up by the data centers. I understand the data center in Salem is set to be built in an already industrial area but as we have seen in other parts of Oregon once one is built more start emerging. A data center takes more jobs than it creates. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center we already had AI answering phones with us and that was 2 years ago. And I am not talking about an automated system, I am talking about an AI that even adds in ums and ahs into the sentence so you can't tell at all. That is someone's job that AI was taking away. The more data centers we build the better AI will be and the more jobs like that we will lose. I have already watched commercials that are painfully AI. Those commercials could have gone to Oregon's Film Industry. Data centers only bring profit to a select few not Salem as a community. Everyone is sick of their data being collected and sold. And now your personal pictures that you post online are being collected as data. It's creepy. It's creepy to be talking about needing new glasses and then you get ads for glasses. Data centers increase the ability to collect our data and sell it. They mentioned that the data center will be

a closed loop water center and uses less water that way. Data centers don't need to use water to cool. There is a whole list of other ways that they can cool their systems, it's just water is the cheapest. Using water period, close loop or not, takes from the community. Talk to the farmers or the wine industry and you will know we get less and less rain each year. Our rivers and lakes get lower and lower each year. Our fire season gets worse and worse each year. We cannot afford to give up a finite resource like water to something that does not even need it. Data centers run 24/7, and communities across the country that welcomed them are now living with the consequences. Residents near data centers report headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disturbances, ear pain, and hypertension a constant hum they can hear day and night. Much of it is low-frequency sound and infrasound — noise so low you feel it in your body rather than hear it, and it often doesn't even register on standard decibel meters, making local noise ordinances nearly impossible to enforce. In Virginia's data center corridor, neighbors describe sealing windows and sleeping with earplugs just to get through the night. Once it's built, you can't unbuild it. Data centers create light pollution. Other cities report never seeing the dark of night again. This creates many sleep disorders in those communities. Salem's infrastructure couldn't even handle an ice storm. Is it really going to be able to handle a data center? PGE is saying the extra cost is going to go to the data center at the same time they have already raised the prices even though cost of living is so high. What is there to stop them from raising the prices again and just saying it's not because of the data center? The growing demand for artificial intelligence could push the annual public health burden of U.S. data centers' air pollution from over \$6 billion in 2023 to more than \$20 billion in 2028, according to reserch from the University of California. The air pollution from data centers could contribute to about 600,000 asthma symptom cases and 1,300 premature deaths by the same year. What we should be investing in instead is the people of Salem. Getting people outside of their house to meet their neighbors. For example, the cherry blossoms or state fair. These are things that bring Salem together and invite people to visit. Something Portland has started doing in January is a light art show. It brings Portland and surrounding areas into the downtown area celebrating their local artists. They do many of these events to rejuvenate their downtown by bringing people together to celebrate their community. Growing our Saturday market is another example. Introducing more people to the farmers around them and growing the farmers profit as well. Monmouth's trolly public transit is another example of investing in the community while making it inviting to people to visit. The people around you is why you choose to move to a place and stay. Investing in Salem becoming a community that knows each other better and grows together is how you make a city livable. A data center only creates temporary construction jobs, 75 specialized jobs, unbearable noise pollution, water loss, strain on the infrastructure, land use loss, light pollution, air pollution, and living costs to go up. None of that makes people want to move here or visit here. None of that invests in Salem. None of that makes Salem livable. Building a data center is a desperate act of a dieing town in the middle of nowhere to bring in revenue that doesn't work and instead they end up on 60 minutes with Erin Brockovich representing them because the brown water runs at a trickle, the electricity doesn't work, and everyone has vertigo, migraines, asthma, and sleep disorders. We are the capital city of Oregon, let's act like it.

From: [Nicole Trobaugh](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment
Date: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:10:27 AM

I'm writing in regards to the proposed data center in Salem. Salem does not want a data center.

Oregon is known for outdoor activities. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center in Salem we took most of our calls from California and they would always talk about how Oregon is where they go to vacation. They would talk about snow activities, hiking, camping, backpacking, kayaking, etc. Our airport has trees in it! This what Oregon is about! How can we continue to be that Oregon if all of the wild ares are data centers?

Oregon is also known for great food and wine. How are we supposed to be producing those quality products if the land is taken up by the data centers. I understand the data center in Salem is set to be built in an already industrial area but as we have seen in other parts of Oregon once one is built more start emerging.

A data center takes more jobs than it creates. When I worked at the T-Mobile call center we already had AI answering phones with us and that was 2 years ago. And I am not talking about an automated system, I am talking about an AI that even adds in ums and ahs into the sentence so you can't tell at all. That is someone's job that AI was taking away. The more data centers we build the better AI will be and the more jobs like that we will lose. I have already watched commercials that are painfully AI. Those commercials could have gone to Oregon's Film Industry. Data centers only bring profit to a select few not Salem as a community.

Everyone is sick of their data being collected and sold. And now your personal pictures that you post online are being collected as data. It's creepy. It's creepy to be talking about needing new glasses and then you get ads for glasses. Data centers increase the ability to collect our data and sell it.

They mentioned that the data center will be a closed loop water center and uses less water that way. Data centers don't need to use water to cool. There is a whole list of other ways that they can cool their systems, it's just water is the cheapest. Using water period, close loop or not, takes from the community. Talk to the farmers or the wine industry and you will know we get less and less rain each year. Our rivers and lakes get lower and lower each year. Our fire season gets worse and worse each year. We cannot afford to give up a finite resource like water to something that does not even need it.

Data centers run 24/7, and communities across the country that welcomed them are now living with the consequences. Residents near data centers report headaches, vertigo, nausea, sleep disturbances, ear pain, and hypertension a constant hum they can hear day and night. Much of it is low-frequency sound and infrasound — noise so low you feel it in your body rather than hear it, and it often doesn't even register on standard decibel meters, making local noise ordinances nearly impossible to enforce. In Virginia's data center corridor, neighbors describe sealing windows and sleeping with earplugs just to get through the night. Once it's built, you can't unbuild it.

Data centers create light pollution. Other cities report never seeing the dark of night again.

This creates many sleep disorders in those communities.

Salem's infrastructure couldn't even handle an ice storm. Is it really going to be able to handle a data center?

PGE is saying the extra cost is going to go to the data center at the same time they have already raised the prices even though cost of living is so high. What is there to stop them from raising the prices again and just saying it's not because of the data center?

The growing demand for artificial intelligence could push the annual public health burden of U.S. data centers' air pollution from over \$6 billion in 2023 to more than \$20 billion in 2028, according to research from the University of California. The air pollution from data centers could contribute to about 600,000 asthma symptom cases and 1,300 premature deaths by the same year.

What we should be investing in instead is the people of Salem. Getting people outside of their house to meet their neighbors. For example, the cherry blossoms or state fair. These are things that bring Salem together and invite people to visit. Something Portland has started doing in January is a light art show. It brings Portland and surrounding areas into the downtown area celebrating their local artists. They do many of these events to rejuvenate their downtown by bringing people together to celebrate their community. Growing our Saturday market is another example. Introducing more people to the farmers around them and growing the farmers profit as well. Monmouth's trolley public transit is another example of investing in the community while making it inviting to people to visit. The people around you is why you choose to move to a place and stay. Investing in Salem becoming a community that knows each other better and grows together is how you make a city livable. A data center only creates temporary construction jobs, 75 specialized jobs, unbearable noise pollution, water loss, strain on the infrastructure, land use loss, light pollution, air pollution, and living costs to go up. None of that makes people want to move here or visit here. None of that invests in Salem. None of that makes Salem livable.

Building a data center is a desperate act of a dying town in the middle of nowhere to bring in revenue that doesn't work and instead they end up on 60 minutes with Erin Brockovich representing them because the brown water runs at a trickle, the electricity doesn't work, and everyone has vertigo, migraines, asthma, and sleep disorders. We are the capital city of Oregon, let's act like it.

Nicole Trobaugh

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Carl Hoffman

From: Phil Carver <philiphcarver@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:04 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on Agenda Item 5.1 City Council meeting 7/27/2026

Data Center Proposal
Agenda Item 5.1 July 27, 2026
City Council Meeting
Phil Carver, 1007 Newport Dr. SE, 97306

I worked 37 years as a senior economist and senior policy analyst for the Oregon Dept. of Energy and the Public Utility Commission. These are my personal opinions.

City staff and Councilors understand the process for this and other development proposals. If the application satisfies rules and procedures when a formal proposal is filed, the Council must approve it. That is the rule of law. While the Verrus proposal may be reasonable, pending details, the next proposal might not be.

The City needs to revise its rules to make sure the next data center proposal can be rejected if it is not appropriate for the city. Criteria might include the level of water use or type of cooling system. Other criteria might include a minimum level of battery backup and pollution control standards for any diesel generators. If the City does not have authority to make these and other requirements, it should seek appropriate remedies from the 2027 Legislature.

Google AI notes this about available industrial-zoned land in Salem assuming the Verrus proposal is completed:

Turner Road Development (Lot 2): A massive **72-acre industrial land parcel** located at [5465 Turner Road SE](#) is currently listed for **\$6,800,000**, positioning it right in the same logistics and employment hub as the data center project. [\[1\]](#)

The 388-Acre Turner Road Project: Directly adjacent to the Mill Creek Corporate Center and Corban University, a developer holds a **388-acre multi-lot developable parcel** inside city limits. This massive tract includes Industrial General (IG) and Industrial Commercial (IC) zoning parameters, making it the single largest urban development site currently on the market in any Oregon city.

The City should declare an immediate moratorium on further data centers in the city and develop a comprehensive policy on data centers. This policy should include an assessment of other land that could be zoned industrial. **Because data centers provide few jobs per acre, the City should have a long-term plan about what kind of facilities it wants on the limited amount of potential industrial lands.**

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Carl Hoffman

From: paula nania <nania.paula@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2026 8:49 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Vote NO on the proposed data center

A massive date center in Southeast Salem will be a detriment to the quality of life for the residents of Salem because of environmental and health issues
Vote NOT to approve !

Thank you

Paula Nania
2252 Wildwood Drive SE
Salem

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Carl Hoffman

From: Ryan <ryanjamesallm@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 3:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment — Verrus data center (Turner & Deer Park)

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a Salem resident writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. We cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Salem residents will pay for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is not rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,
Ryan Allm
Proud resident of Salem Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Rachael Atchison <occupyrachael@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 7:25 AM
To: citycouncil; CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Fwd: Proposed data center

Below is a letter regarding the data center boondoggle that I sent to my councilor that I do not believe was submitted for inclusion into the public record.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rachael Atchison <occupyrachael@gmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Subject: Proposed data center
To: Shane Matthews <smatthews@cityofsalem.net>
Cc: "morningside@salemneighbors.org" <morningside@salemneighbors.org>, Leia <leia.salemmna@gmail.com>

Councilor Matthews,

I want to voice my concerns about both this proposed Verrus data center and the way it was presented to Salem residents on Monday night. You were not at the city council meeting but city manager Namburi spoke during the councilor comment period and introduced the data center plan that you've been discussing with the Alphabet/Google backed company for the past 15 months. While the information she presented was brand new to us, there was a large group of folks who had obviously been informed earlier that this announcement was going to take place. They arrived with prewritten comments in support of the plan and one person apparently even came from Nebraska to give his prepared testimony! We were told there was a PGE representative in the auditorium as well. It appeared to be an orchestrated PR stunt. None of this had been on the agenda.

I am very suspicious of the claims being made on the project website as they attempt to greenwash this plan. They are trying to sell it as environmentally responsible because it uses less water for active cooling than other centers and that it will be quieter because it will use battery rather than generator backup. There is no mention of the exorbitant power requirements that will surely use up our precious water upstream for increased hydroelectric demand. No verbiage that diesel generators will not be used, only that they'll use batteries "first". No mention of the potentially toxic wastewater expelled by the flushing of their proposed system. No assurance that they will not max out our grid, only that they could decrease power use in times of high demand.

While I am very much in favor of the creation of jobs in Salem and understand the allure that a large infusion of money holds for a cash strapped city, I hope that you will look more critically at this proposal. The roll out of information to the public on Monday had no semblance of impartiality and combined with statements from the head of energy for Verrus that "ultimately, we are actually going to build it" I am concerned that Salem residents have been given no say in the future health of our community.

While I have lots of concerns about AI in general, that would be more of an essay than a letter. Right now my hope is that this development will not be fast tracked without solid independent research and thorough consideration of the long term implications for Salem.

Rachael Atchison
Ward 3

--

Rachael

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From: [Rayce Conner](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Cc: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:10:41 PM

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council, my name is Rayce Conner, and I'm a Salem resident.

I'm writing to ask for a thorough and transparent review of the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center. Specifically, please ensure clear public analysis of electrical capacity, water use, backup generation, noise, lighting, traffic, and any impacts on nearby neighborhoods and natural resources. I respectfully ask that no approvals be granted until it is clear the project meets all standards while protecting the public interest.

Thank you for your time and service.

I'll be on vacation 7/16 - 7/23

Rayce Conner
Taylor Metal Products
Rayce.conner@taylormetal.com
Cell: 503-930-9495
Office: (503) 581-8338
www.taylormetal.com



Quality products, exceptional service.

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Carl Hoffman

From: Rayce Conner <rayce.conner@taylormetal.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:10 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public Comment - Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center

Dear Mayor and Members of the Salem City Council, my name is Rayce Conner, and I'm a Salem resident.

I'm writing to ask for a thorough and transparent review of the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center. Specifically, please ensure clear public analysis of electrical capacity, water use, backup generation, noise, lighting, traffic, and any impacts on nearby neighborhoods and natural resources. I respectfully ask that no approvals be granted until it is clear the project meets all standards while protecting the public interest.

Thank you for your time and service.

I'll be on vacation 7/16 - 7/23

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Carl Hoffman

From: Ray Mcmillin <raymondmcmillin@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 6:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment Regarding 7/27 Meeting Regarding Mill Creek Data Center
Attachments: Albubble.JPG

Others have likely noted the environmental impacts of data centers, so, as a pro-tech, pro-business resident, I'd like to address the economic impact on Salem, since financial incentive seems to be the only argument in favor of allowing a data center in our backyard.

While data centers are not exclusively used for AI, discussing the wine market is important when considering a new grape field. Salem is not known as "grape juice country," even though we have several "grape centers." Our grape fields rely on the wine industry for profit. On the same token, we must discuss the AI market when considering a new data center, as generative AI companies serve as the primary customer for the data center being proposed in Salem.

Here is a quote regarding the current economics of the AI industry:

"Data centers are considered a bubble due to massive speculative debt-financed overbuilding, severe electrical grid constraints, and an unproven path to profitability for generative AI. Major tech firms are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on physical infrastructure that risks becoming underutilized if AI monetization stalls."

The source of this quote? AI. Specifically, Google AI, used by Alphabet, which is the parent company of Verrus, the company seeking a data center in Salem. The company itself knows it's in a market bubble. A screenshot of this search result is attached.

So, one of the following must be true: either the AI information on AI being a bubble is false, in which case it's a bad product, or, the AI result is true, in which case the technology we are investing in is literally telling us that it's an unwise investment.

We cannot tax businesses that are going bankrupt and defaulting on loans. We cannot create jobs if we know that said jobs are not going to last. Imagine building a housing development at the peak of the 2008 bubble, or investing heavily into Lazerdiscs and VHS tapes a few years before Netflix introduced streaming. Data centers are in debt and currently losing money, so there's nothing to tax. What I'm asking, is that the council demonstrate how and when a profit will actually be made. What I'm scared of, is seeing Salem go into debt because we banked on tax revenue from the worst investment in decades.

AI as a larger technology exists, and we should invest in it if and when appropriate. My mother recently beat cancer because the Salem Hospital was able to use AI for early detection. However, the AI used by the hospital uses localized, in-house data and computing power that is on par with that of a smartphone. On the contrary, the specific AI product that serves as the primary customer for data centers is for generative search results, cheating on exams and "art" in gigantic quotes (please use air quotes if reading this out loud).

AI companies need around 20 trillion dollars worth of customer-driven profit to get out of current debts, and we should not pass on these debts onto Salem residents who are seeking jobs at the data center, nor should we allow our city to bank on tax revenue that will never happen. The ripple effect of the AI bubble popping will affect us all, I just ask that we not invite the source of said collapse to have a home in Salem. And, if anyone thinks this still seems like a good investment after knowing the risks, I am currently selling tulips, Dogecoin and shares of the South Sea Company to interested parties.

- Ray McMillin, Salem resident, business owner, tech nerd and capitalist.

--

Ray McMillin
503.839.5624

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Data centers are considered a bubble due to massive speculative overbuilding, extreme debt-financed spending by tech giants, and a severe mismatch between high costs and unproven AI revenues. This dynamic mirrors the late-1990s dot-com telecom boom, threatening overcapacity if software profits fail to materialize.  YouTube · ColdFusion +4

Financial and Speculative Risks

- **Debt-fueled spending:** Major tech firms are shifting from pure cash reserves to heavy borrowing and complex financing partnerships to fund hundreds of billions in infrastructure.  YouTube · ColdFusion +1
- **Circular dependency:** Interlocking supplier and customer deals among AI developers and hardware makers create an inflated ecosystem vulnerable to a single point of failure.  CNBC
- **Unproven monetization:** The path to turning multi-billion dollar compute clusters into sustainable profits remains narrow, risking long-term asset devaluation.  LinkedIn · Louis Sessions +1

Physical and Resource Bottlenecks

- **Power grid strain:** Facilities require massive electricity loads rivaling small cities, forcing tight grid constraints and delayed or canceled projects.  Coface +3
- **Supply chain limits:** Critical hardware like specialized transformers and high-end chips face international bottlenecks and shortages.  YouTube · ColdFusion +1
- **Rapid obsolescence:** Speculative physical real estate risks becoming obsolete or underutilized if hardware design or computing requirements shift quickly.  LinkedIn · Louis Sessions +1

If you'd like, I can:

- Compare this buildout to the **1990s telecom and fiber-optic bubble**
- Detail the **local power and community grid impacts** of nearby facilities
- Analyze the **financial exposure** of specific tech companies

Let me know how you would like to proceed.

Carl Hoffman

From: Sandra <crissandra.stephen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 3:40 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Regarding the AI facility, or any AI facility, in Salem.

To the City of Salem Council people addressing the AI facility matter for Salem.

Im a resident of Salem. I formally object to the building or permitting of any AI facility in salem or Marion County. The negative long term effects outweigh any short term benefits. I object for the following reasons.

- AI facilities are a major threat to the environment and anything that depends on water, soil, or the environment to survive.
- AI facilities promote short-term, temporary job opportunities to create a foundation for longer term, sustained job losses.
- AI facilities act as an unchecked, poorly regulated, or unregulated, science experiment at the cost of human and environmental wellness.
- Poor transparency for this proposed plan with non-disclosure agreements made far before this meetings suggest mal intent or backroom deals- a fix that has something to hide or unfair gains to a targeted few.
- There are other ways to raise funds for public services.

Sandra Stephen
Salem, OR 97305
503-312-8842

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Carl Hoffman

From: Susan Graves / Lloyd Chapman <susanlloyd@peak.org>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 8:33 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Agenda Item 5.1 - Data Center
Attachments: Mill Creek Data Center.doc

Please find attached a summary of one South Salem neighborhood's concerns regarding the proposed Mill Creek Data Center and include it in the city council packet for July 27, 2026.

Thanks,

Jody Kishpaugh
Stanley Lane Neighbors

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Say No to Data Centers

We live on Stanley Lane and several other streets in our South Salem neighborhood.

We address you as an established neighborhood originating in the 1950s. Collectively and collaboratively we are opposed to the proposed Mill Creek Data Center.

At a brief neighborhood meeting on July 22 2026 the following concerns were raised:

- First and foremost, the lack of local government transparency re: Verrus and the proposed data center;
- The impact on utility usage and the cost to the community
- Potential depletion impact on the community water supply
- Potential impact on Salem's finite water system and electrical system;
- The impact on our community with re: 24-7 disruptive noise with unknown impact on neighbors and wildlife in the vicinity;
- Lack of a cost benefit analysis re: Verrus; how does the community actually benefit from this endeavor. We understand that Verrus has not previously built a data center and question whether commitments they make will be upheld. after construction and with the end user.

We are proposing an immediate halt to the action.

Thank you for your attention to these important community issues.

Sincerely,

Joanna Kishpaugh, Jerolyn Miner, Madeline Mulhern, Jeff and Denise Robers, Nicole Kielsmeier, Art and Veronica Cocker, Michael Miner, Jennifer Carley, Bruce and Lorie Fontaine, Lloyd Chapman, Susan Graves

Joanna Kishbaugh
kishpaughjody@gmail.com

3753 Stanley Lane S.

Carl Hoffman

From: Sergey Lyubinetzky <5171189@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 6:17 PM
To: CityRecorder
Cc: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Public comment — Verrus data center (Turner & Deer Park), July 27 meeting

Mayor and Councilors,

I'm a former Salem resident with continuing ties to the community, writing to oppose the Verrus data center project at Turner Rd and Deer Park Dr SE, and to ask Council to vote no on Monday, July 27. Even from outside Salem, the impacts of this project extend statewide, which is why I'm weighing in.

My concerns are specific:

1. Water. The project is projected to use roughly 150,000 gallons a day. Council voted the same night to sue the federal government over the Detroit Reservoir drawdown. Salem cannot credibly claim a water emergency and simultaneously commit this volume to a single private facility.
2. Jobs. Roughly 75 permanent positions is not a public benefit that offsets the cost. Hillsboro's TikTok data center runs on 11 employees and pulls approximately \$5.6 million a year in Oregon tax breaks. That's the pattern across the state, and it will be the pattern here.
3. Electricity rates. Data center demand has already driven a 29% PUC-approved rate hike for Oregon households under HB 3546. Every Oregonian, including those of us outside Salem, pays for this infrastructure on our monthly bills whether we use the facility or not.
4. Process. A 16-month NDA on a \$5 billion project in a residential-adjacent area is not how land use decisions should be made in this city. The public was cut out of the front end. The least Council can do is NOT rubber-stamp the back end.

I'm asking you to vote no on Monday, or at minimum table the vote until there is a full public review with binding water, power, jobs, and tax commitments in writing.

Thank you,

Sergey Lyubinetzky

Formerly of Salem, OR (currently residing in Pendleton, OR)

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Carl Hoffman

From: Info Osher Farms <info@osherfarms.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 4:54 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Extreme Concern Regarding the Proposed Data Center

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Osher Farms to express our extreme concern regarding the proposed data center near our property.

We are not distant observers of this project. We are local residents, business owners, and farm owners who live just up the street from the proposed site. The decisions made about this development could directly affect our home, our agricultural operations, our animals, our guests, our property value, and the long-term character and livability of our community.

Our concerns include, but are not limited to:

- The potential strain on local water supplies and whether agricultural and residential users will be protected during shortages or periods of increased demand.
- Continuous noise from cooling equipment, generators, electrical infrastructure, construction, and truck traffic—particularly low-frequency noise that may travel well beyond the project boundary.
- Increased traffic, road damage, construction disruption, dust, lighting, and impacts on emergency access.
- The effect of industrial development on nearby farms, livestock, wildlife, rural businesses, tourism, and neighboring homes.
- Whether promises made by the current developer will be legally binding, independently monitored, and enforceable if the project is expanded, transferred, or sold to another company.
- The lack of confidence created by limited transparency, nondisclosure agreements, and the appearance that affected neighbors were not given complete and timely information.

This project is being presented as an economic opportunity, but the costs and risks appear to be concentrated on the people who already live, farm, and operate businesses here. Those impacts cannot be treated as secondary simply because they are difficult to quantify.

Before any approval is granted, we strongly urge the responsible officials to require independent studies of water use, noise, traffic, environmental impacts, emergency preparedness, and cumulative effects. The public should be given access to the underlying data—not merely summaries prepared by the applicant or its consultants.

Any commitments involving water limits, noise limits, operating hours, generator use, expansion, road improvements, community benefits, or environmental protections must be written into binding and enforceable conditions that remain attached to the property regardless of a future sale or change in ownership.

We also request meaningful notice and participation for nearby residents and businesses throughout every stage of the process. Public involvement should occur before major decisions are made, not after the project has effectively become inevitable.

Osher Farms is part of this community. We have invested our lives, labor, and resources here. We expect our home, farm, business, animals, guests, and future to receive serious consideration—not vague assurances.

Please enter this correspondence into the official public record and provide a written response explaining how these concerns will be investigated, addressed, enforced, and monitored.

Sincerely,

Stephanie McGough and Eugene McGough

Osher Farms

info@osherfarms.com

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of sarahjrohrs@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:10 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Contact City Council
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Sarah Rohrs
Your Email	sarahjrohrs@gmail.com
Your Phone	5035453159
Street	260 23rd St. NE
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97301
Message	City of Salem Mayor and City Council members, This is Sarah Rohrs. I live in the NEN area. I'm writing to let you know that I am opposed to the proposed AI Data Center in Salem. I am extremely disturbed that the city entered into a NDA regarding this project which allowed city and company officials to discuss and make decisions about this project for one year outside the public eye. This is wrong. I am also strongly opposed to having such a center in any Salem neighborhood, even industrial areas. Such AI data centers produce exhaust containing carcinogens that can cause cancer, asthma and heart disease and, possibly, other diseases and conditions. AI Data Centers use enormous amounts of energy and water whichi will likely result in power outages and other electrical issues and probably rate increases, as well. For these reasons I join the many others in Salem opposed to \$5.1-billion Verrus ("Oakline") data center project at Salem's Mill Creek Corporate Center. Thank you for your consideration, Sarah Rohrs

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 7/27/2026.

Carl Hoffman

From: Sarah Rohrs <sarahjrohrs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 7:14 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to AI Data Center

City of Salem Mayor and City Council members,

This is Sarah Rohrs. I live in the NEN area. I'm writing to let you know that I am opposed to the proposed AI Data Center in Salem. I am extremely disturbed that the city entered into a NDA regarding this project which allowed city and company officials to discuss and make decisions about this project for one year outside the public eye. This is wrong.

I am also strongly opposed to having such a center in any Salem neighborhood, even industrial areas. Such AI data centers produce exhaust containing carcinogens that can cause cancer, asthma and heart disease and, possibly, other diseases and conditions.

AI Data Centers use enormous amounts of energy and water which will likely result in power outages and other electrical issues and probably rate increases, as well.

For these reasons I join the many others in Salem opposed to \$5.1-billion Verrus ("Oakline") data center project at Salem's Mill Creek Corporate Center.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Rohrs

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sarah Shadrick <smshadrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 10:12 AM
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data Center Project

Dear Salem City Council Members,

My name is Sarah Shadrick, and I am writing to you not only as a Salem resident, but as a lifelong Oregonian, a mother, and someone who believes deeply in protecting the place I call home.

I was born and raised in Oregon. As a young adult, I moved away for over a decade, but about five years ago I made the decision to return home and raise my children here. I came back because Oregon has always represented something different. Clean air. Healthy forests. Rivers and farmland. A state where people have consistently fought to protect our natural resources instead of sacrificing them for short-term gain. I wanted my children to grow up in a place where protecting the environment isn't an afterthought but part of our identity.

That is why I am writing today.

After spending considerable time researching the proposed 75-acre closed-loop data center, I have come to the conclusion that I do not believe this project is the right fit for our community.

I recognize that the applicant has highlighted several benefits, including reduced water use through a closed-loop cooling system and approximately 75 permanent jobs. I appreciate those efforts, and I acknowledge that closed-loop cooling is an improvement over traditional water-intensive designs.

However, reduced water use alone does not resolve the broader concerns associated with a project of this scale.

The project will still require enormous amounts of electricity, backup diesel generators, extensive electrical infrastructure, continuous cooling equipment, and decades of industrial operation. These impacts deserve careful scrutiny, not only individually but also in terms of their cumulative effects on our environment, our public health, and the future character of Salem.

What concerns me most is that this project asks our community to permanently dedicate 75 acres of valuable industrial land to a facility that is expected to employ only about 75 full-time workers once construction is complete. Those jobs are important, and many will likely be well-paying technical positions. But I cannot help asking whether this represents the highest and best use of land that will likely never return to other economic uses during my lifetime or my children's lifetime.

Could those same 75 acres support industries that create hundreds of family-wage jobs? Could they provide opportunities for manufacturing, research, or businesses that strengthen our local economy while making better use of the land? Could this land be used to help solve other real crises our community faces such as houselessness? These are questions I believe deserve serious discussion before irreversible decisions are made.

I also worry about the precedent this project could establish.

If one 75-acre data center is approved today, what happens when the next proposal arrives? And the one after that?

At what point do we stop and ask whether Salem is becoming something very different from the community many of us chose to live in?

My concern is not about technology itself. Technology has an important place in our future. My concern is about balance.

Oregon has earned a national reputation for protecting its environment and carefully managing growth. I hope we continue to uphold those values by asking difficult questions before approving projects that will shape our community for generations.

I respectfully ask the City Council to carefully consider:

- Whether this project represents the highest and best use of 75 acres of industrial land.
- Whether the long-term environmental and infrastructure impacts have been fully evaluated.
- Whether the permanent employment benefits are proportional to the scale of the development.
- Whether cumulative impacts should be considered if additional data center proposals follow.
- Whether a formal Health Impact Assessment should be completed before final approvals are granted.

The decisions you make today will outlive all of us. They will determine what kind of Salem our children inherit.

I returned to Oregon because I believe in what this state stands for. I believe we can welcome economic development while also protecting the natural environment and quality of life that make Oregon special.

For those reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose this proposal as currently presented or, at a minimum, require additional independent review of its long-term environmental, public health, and community impacts before moving forward.

Thank you for your service and for considering my perspective. I will see you tonight at the city council meeting.

Respectfully,

Sarah Shadrick
Salem, Oregon

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Carl Hoffman

From: Sara <sarasue1407@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 8:45 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Opposition to the Oakline at Mill Creek Data Center Proposal

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I respectfully urge you to reject the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek data center.

While I support responsible economic development, this project raises serious concerns about its long-term impacts on our community. Data centers consume enormous amounts of electricity and water, create noise, increase traffic during construction, and provide relatively few permanent jobs compared to the strain they place on local infrastructure and resources.

Salem should prioritize development that creates lasting employment, protects our environment, and preserves our quality of life. Once a project of this scale is approved, its impacts will be felt for decades.

Please put the interests of Salem residents first by voting against this proposal.

Thank you for your time and your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Sara Wright

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tammy <aussiegirltc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:11 AM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Data center in Salem

I strongly oppose any data center in Salem or Marion county. There are too many issues with electricity , water use and noise in these centers.

Many cities have been devastated with issues like these. I want no part of living in south Salem and having extra noise pollution. I don't want water polluted or access reduced and the power rates are already too high and keep climbing.

No,no, no!!!

Tamara Chance

Sent from my iPhone

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Carl Hoffman

From: taylor hering <taylorhering72@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 5:07 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Regarding the Verrus data center

Hello,

I am reaching out as a resident of Salem to give my opinion on the construction of a multi-acre data center in South Salem. There is a chance I will be unable to make the city council meeting, but I wanted to ensure my opinion was voiced.

All data centers spike energy bills for those who live near them, create heat islands, are incredibly loud, and waste hundreds of thousands of gallons of water daily. I read the article published on the one that is being considered for construction and although it states that it will focus on conserving water, I find that vague and hard to trust.

As a resident, especially in this summer heat, I find the idea of constructing a data center in our home incredibly frustrating and misguided. We live in an apartment without air conditioning and summers in Oregon have already begun to grow too hot for that to be livable. Our energy bills are already too high in our attempts to cool it down to be affordable. I also read that the data center will create 75 permanent jobs but I believe that will come at both the physical and financial expense of all residents of Salem, whether we can afford it or not.

I urge you, as city councilors, to do everything you can to stop the construction of this data center.

Thank you for your time,

- Taylor Hering

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tara Perdue <twistoftara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 9:10 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]No Data Center!

To whom it may concern,

Data centers are moving into our communities with no concern for the irrevocable harm they have on local economies, people, and places. These data centers rely on public resources, but they cause harm to the very public they rely on. We are seeing residential electricity rates rise by nearly 50% while data centers pay less than half the rate per kilowatt-hour that households do, forcing families to subsidize corporate infrastructure.

Furthermore, the environmental toll is staggering, with large-scale facilities consuming as much as 4.5 million gallons of fresh water per day and creating heat islands that warm land by up to 16 degrees. The push for more data centers comes in the time of a global water bankruptcy. They contribute to the creation of PFAS—forever chemicals—that accumulate and make their way to families' food and water supplies. These chemicals create toxic effects throughout the body and even interrupt crucial biological processes.

Our schools are paying the price, too, due to data center tax abatements. These facilities generate among the lowest number of permanent jobs per acre of any industry, yet they are being given enormous tax breaks. This is not economic development—it's a giveaway.

Rising costs, availability of care and an uncertain future will impact the viability of Oregon for families, and ultimately its economy. These problems aren't unique to Oregon, but it is because of Oregon's uniqueness that we must protect our state. You have the chance to lead the fight to prioritize communities over corporations. The health of our communities, our schools, and our environment depends on your decisive action now.

No to data centers in Salem and everywhere else in Oregon!

Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Tara Perdue

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Carl Hoffman

From: Tisha Skelton <tishaskelton@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 5:34 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Concerns Regarding Proposed Data Center Development by Verrus on Turner Road SE and Deer Park DR SE, proposed to be called Oakline at Mill Creek

Dear Mayor Julie Hoy and Salem City Council members,

As a homeowner and taxpayer in Salem Oregon, Marion County, I am writing to strongly oppose the planned data center development by Verrus on Turner Road SE and Deer Park DR SE, proposed to be called Oakline at Mill Creek.

Data centers are massive consumers of electricity and municipal water – they can use millions of gallons of water daily for cooling, exacerbating existing drought conditions and threatening local water tables. Additionally, the constant operation of cooling systems and emergency backup generators creates unacceptable noise and air pollution in residential areas.

This project threatens wetlands that contribute to our region's distinct character. Additionally, large data centers like this one require vast amounts of land but create very few permanent local jobs relative to their massive physical footprint.

From the website DataCenterMap's page of information on the proposed Oakline at Mill Creek:

"It is designed to be grid-interactive, capable of dynamically reducing energy consumption during peak demand to support regional grid reliability. The campus will employ a closed-loop cooling system to significantly reduce water usage compared to conventional data centers and will utilize lithium iron phosphate battery storage for primary backup power, aiming to lower emissions."

Verrus emphasizes Oakline's commitment to being a responsible neighbor, focusing on preserving on-site Heritage Oak trees, utilizing thoughtful architecture, and native landscaping. The project also aims to minimize noise and operate quietly, adhering to City of Salem noise standards."

From what I can tell when looking at Verrus, the company has several Data Centers in development but none operating so we, at this point in time, do not know if their data center system model works as safely as they say it will.

While we value economic progress, this project poses unacceptable long-term risks to our community, infrastructure, and natural resources.

The proposed Data Center site includes the 2021 Mill Creek Urban Renewal Area. There could be a catastrophic environmental impact on the recently-restored wetlands, the heritage oaks and other flora and fauna important to the ecosystem, a variety of nearby ponds and Mill Creek that passes through the area. There could be damage to Mill Creek and the underlying water table that, once unleashed, may not be known until it is too late to reverse. This has happened already in other communities in other parts of the country.

Data Centers are known to cause significant noise pollution which could lead to health concerns for people living and working in the area nearby, which include Corban University, Santiam Correctional Institution, OSCI, the Marion County Jail, the Oregon Humane Society, as well as many other business entities.

Before approving projects that permanently alter the livability of our City and County neighborhoods, we need comprehensive and independent studies on the long-term economic and environmental costs.

I urge you to reject this proposal and prioritize the well-being and affordability of your existing constituents.

Sincerely,
T. Skelton

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Carl Hoffman

From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of ww64z@myctl.net
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2026 1:10 PM
To: CityRecorder
Subject: Contact City Recorder
Attachments: ATT00001.bin

Your Name	Vonda Zirbes
Your Email	ww64z@myctl.net
Your Phone	5033624158
Street	6660 Continental Cir. SE, -----
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97306
Message	Dear Salem mayor Hoy and city Manager, Please rethink the data center in Salem. This citizen is a NO! I am adamant for Livability in Salem. We have enough "box" buildings in SE Salem. Only 75 permanent jobs. Large use of water, electricity and noise. I do not believe the company's claim of less, for them. Three year tax perk. Lets keep Oregon Green. Where is a Tom McCall? Sincerely, Vonda Zirbes

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Carl Hoffman

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 12:30 PM
To: CityRecorder; Dianne Rush
Cc: Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Micki Varney; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Re: 072726 Public Comment – Agenda item 2 - on behalf of Dianne Rush

Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

My name is Dianne Rush and I work in Ward 1.

I am writing to strongly support Councilor Varney's two motions: 5.2 and 5.3, regarding data center non-disclosure agreements, and creating a data center task force, respectively. Please support these motions so Salem moves forward with transparency, and with more conversations and research to make data-informed decisions regarding data centers in Salem.

- **Value of a Task Force:** A Task Force is a valuable and necessary step for transparency, public conversations, and researching and balancing pros and cons and tangible and intangible costs of building a new data center in Salem.
- **Accountability:** A Task Force's research can identify if the company can meet its claims of effectively constructing data centers with lower impact to people, animals, water and electricity resources, the community, and the environment.
- **Homeless crisis:** The City's Homeless Services Team, Clean Team, and the new REACH team focus on building relationships and connecting people to services, yet the overall concept of those teams is enforcement of "you can't be here".
- **Tangible gaps:** There are hundreds more unsheltered individuals than there are places for them to be. And along the way, they still need places to go to the bathroom, places to charge their phones, places and/or services to dispose of

their trash, places to sleep and live safely, and affordable housing that is affordable even for people who only receive SSI, which is \$994/month for 2026. We've been talking about those diverse gaps and needs for years, yet there is never enough support or money.

- Intangible, but very real gaps: People experiencing homelessness also experience ongoing discrimination – often daily, and occasional targeted violence. They are often perceived as drug addicts and as dangerous criminals, yet national data reflects that people experiencing homelessness are more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violence against a stranger.
- City's stated values: The city's annual belonging survey and the current Bloomberg/Harvard project reflect our city's stated values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL. Yet our programs, services, behaviors, and opinions towards and about unsheltered individuals often fall far short of living those values.
- New revenue stream: If Salem moves forward with the data center, we have opportunities to align more with our stated values and to create more lasting stability for the people experiencing poverty and homelessness.
-

Henrico County in Virginia established an affordable housing trust, with \$60 million from data center revenue to make homeownership possible for more of the area's workforce.

- <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/turning-data-center-revenues-affordable-homes> “Rather than relying on scarce federal dollars, Henrico County made an appropriation of \$60 million in previously unbudgeted data center revenues to launch its Affordable Housing Trust Fund.”
- <https://time.com/article/2026/03/11/data-centers-affordable-housing/> “...it could serve as a template for how to turn a highly-controversial industry into a community benefit.”

- <https://henrico.gov/news/2024/05/henrico-to-create-trust-to-enhance-access-to-affordable-homeownership/>
- <https://pharva.com/henrico-launching-60m-housing-trust-fund-with-revenue-from-data-centers/>

Request: If Salem moves forward with a data center, please allocate some of the data center revenue towards more utility assistance, more eviction prevention and Rapid Rehousing services and funds, more Permanent Supportive Housing, more shelters and shelter beds, more truly affordable housing for people who have no income, or for people who only receive \$994/month SSI, and other essential services to meet basic human needs: restrooms, cell phone charging stations, funding Inclement weather services for life-saving warming and cooling centers, places or services for people to dispose of their trash, and more places for people to BE.

Benefits: Each of those programs and services benefit the individuals served AND benefits all of Salem by:

- Reflecting humanity and more equity as we enable more basic human needs to be met.
- Creating stability for individuals who are falling through the cracks.
- Enabling more economic growth as more people develop stability.
- Reflecting more alignment with our city's values of inclusion, belonging, community-ness, and safety and livability for ALL.

Thank you.

Dianne Rush

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From: [Kristen Kessler](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Comment on items 5.2 and 5.3 for July 27 city council meeting
Date: Friday, July 24, 2026 4:45:34 PM

Dear Councilmembers,

I urge you to support motions 5.2 and 5.3, The city never should have entered an NDA agreement with the data center developer. Residents have every right to know when a project, especially one of this magnitude, is proposed. It should not be legal for the City to enter into any future NDAs.

I also support motion 5.3 to form a task force of various stakeholders to be in effect BEFORE the Verrus proposal can move forward.

I am very disappointed in the City for keeping residents in the dark about this project. I do not live in Salem but have vacationed there several times. I believe that data centers are everyone's problem, no matter where they live. For me, a data center would make Salem a less desirable place to visit.

Please support motions 5.2 and 5.3.

Thank you,
Kristen Kessler
Ventura, CA

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Carl Hoffman

From: kathy <kathy@avenuelarchitects.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 25, 2026 7:42 AM
To: CityRecorder; Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn
Subject: [EXTERNAL]I support Agenda items 5.2 and 5.3

I urge City Council to adopt and approve Councilor Varna's motions, Council meeting July 27, 2026, agenda items 5.2 and 5.3.

Thank you.

Kathy Lingo
1755 Winter St SE
Salem OR 97302
303-588-4626

Sent from my iPhone

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Carl Hoffman

From: Len Lingo <len.lingo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 27, 2026 6:23 AM
To: CityRecorder; Julie Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Mai Vang; Linda Nishioka; Paul Tigan; Shane Matthews; Dr. Irvin M Brown; Deanna Gwyn
Subject: [EXTERNAL]I Support Agenda Items 5.2 and 5.3

I support Councilor Varna's motions for the Council meeting July 27, 2026, and urge City Council to adopt and approve agenda items 5.2 and 5.3.

Leonard Lingo
1755 Winter Street SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
303-482-5090

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