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Amendment A Version 1 to RES 32204 - LEG Data Center Policy Development

Sponsor: Councilmember Kettle

Amend recitals and list of subjects for study in Section 1

Effect: This amendment would add two recitals regarding government, healthcare, education reliance on data centers and the existence of data centers in Downtown Seattle. It would also modify another recital to clarify that growth in the use of artificial intelligence has accelerated demand for “hyperscale” data centers. This amendment would also add to the list of subjects for study regarding the potential impacts of data centers.

Amend the recitals as follows:

Recitals:

Data centers may be generally defined as facilities used primarily for the housing, operation, or co-location of computer and communications equipment and handling, storing, managing, processing, and backing up of digital data, and associated infrastructure such as cooling systems, backup power systems, and battery storage.

Businesses, government entities, including public safety, as well as healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and others all rely on the data storage and processing that data centers provide.

Several smaller scale data centers exist in Seattle today, all in Downtown Seattle.

The growth in the use of artificial intelligence has led to rapidly accelerating demand for new, hyperscale data centers.

Amend Section 1 as follows:

Section 1. The City will study the potential for data centers to impact:

A. Electrical grid capacity and reliability by burdening the electrical transmission system and requiring commensurate capital improvements;

B. Water usage by consuming large quantities of fresh water to cool equipment;

C. Utility rates by increasing demand for power and increasing capital costs that Seattle City Light must pass on to all customer classes;

D. Land use and development by occupying large amounts of scarce commercial and industrial space;

E. Jobs and the economy by supporting increased adoption of automation technologies that make human workers redundant while employing few local workers for operation and simultaneously exporting income to corporations and individuals that may or may not reside in Seattle;

F. Public health by producing noise, light, water, and air pollution; ~~((and))~~

G. The rights of Federally Recognized Tribes, Urban Indians, and native communities to exercise any express or implied treaty rights to access and fish in all usual and accustomed places as has occurred since time immemorial~~((-))~~; and

H. The successful operation and resiliency of existing businesses, government entities, including public safety, as well as healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and others.