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

Sponsor: Councilmember Juarez

Update title, add recital, shift from “recognize” to “study” in Section 1 and 2, and technical update to Section 4

Effect: This amendment would change the language regarding the City’s intended action in Section 1 from recognizing impacts of data centers to studying their potential impacts with a corresponding update to the language of the title and related language in Section 2. It would also add a recital regarding the cumulative impacts of data centers. Finally, it would change the language of Section 4 to more accurately describe future legislative action to enact the 2027 and 2028 rates for Seattle City Light customers that would, in part, establish a new customer class and conditions of service for new or existing data centers. Amendment 1 and Amendment 2 are intended to be complementary.

Amend the title as follows:

A **resolution** relating to data centers; ~~((recognizing the))~~ committing to studying the potential ~~((of long term impacts of))~~ for data centers ~~((or))~~ to impact electrical grid capacity and reliability, water usage, utility rates, land use and development, jobs and the economy, and public health; and requesting engagement and cooperation from the Executive in the development of data center policies and potential legislation; and anticipates related legislative action.

Add the following recital:

Data center construction has been shown to produce a boom-and-bust effect in the local economy with short-term employment gains for construction and few jobs created for the long-term operation of the data center.

The cumulative impacts of multiple data center developments or expansions may exceed the impacts of any single project and therefore warrant thorough analysis and public oversight.

Data centers threaten the health of tribal communities and treaty-protected resources, including water and fisheries as well as the broader natural and built environment.

Amend Section 1 as follows:

Section 1. The City (~~((recognizes the potential for data centers to significantly impact Seattle's:))~~) 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; and
- F. Public health by producing noise, light, water, and air pollution.

Amend Section 2 as follows:

Section 2. (~~((In recognition of the potential impacts of data centers and as))~~) As elected stewards of the health, safety, environment, and general welfare of the people

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Parks and City Light Committee
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of the City of Seattle, Council requests the cooperation of the Executive across City departments in the timely development of policies to guide potential legislation, budget appropriations, and departmental actions to reduce or mitigate any deleterious effects, to hold data center investors and operators accountable for the costs and effects of their operations, and to harvest and maximize any benefits of data center development and operation in Seattle.

Amend Section 4 as follows:

Section 4. As part of future legislative action to ~~((codify))~~ enact the 2027 and 2028 rates for Seattle City Light customers, the Council anticipates establishing ~~((a separate rate for new large load data center customers.))~~ a new customer class and conditions of service for new or existing data centers whose electricity demand constitutes a new large load.