

**CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
SANDI GOODLANDER, *CHAIR*  
KATHRYN A. BEUS, *VICE CHAIR*  
JOANN BENNETT  
DAVID L. ERICKSON  
KEEGAN GARRITY  
NOLAN P. GUNNELL  
MARK R. HURD



199 NORTH MAIN STREET  
LOGAN, UT 84321  
435-755-1840  
[www.cachecounty.gov](http://www.cachecounty.gov)

**LOGAN, UTAH – June 18, 2026**

**Contact: Andrew Erickson**  
[staff@cachecounty.gov](mailto:staff@cachecounty.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CACHE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSIDERS TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON DATA CENTER APPLICATIONS TO PROTECT LOCAL WATER AND POWER GRIDS**

The Cache County Council is considering taking steps to proactively safeguard the county's vital public infrastructure, local electrical grid, and culinary water resources.

The proposed ordinance, *Ordinance 2026-32 – Establishing a Temporary Moratorium on the Development of Data Centers*, is scheduled for its initial consideration during the Council's next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 23rd at 5:00 PM.

If enacted, the temporary regulation would pause the filing, review, and processing of all new land use, business license, zoning, and building permit applications related to data centers, digital infrastructure, and data center power plants across all zones of all types within the unincorporated areas of Cache County. Legally complete applications formally submitted prior to the ordinance's effective date will not be affected and will continue to be evaluated under existing county rules.

The proposed ordinance also instructs county staff and the Cache County Planning Commission to immediately initiate a comprehensive resource and planning study. Over the next 150 days, administrative staff would explore any and all regulatory frameworks, special zoning classifications, utility thresholds, or zoning overlays allowed under Utah law, up to and including options for a permanent prohibition of these high-impact facilities in sensitive agricultural, residential, and rural areas.

Further details regarding the upcoming council meeting schedule can be found at [www.cachecounty.gov/meetings.html](http://www.cachecounty.gov/meetings.html), while the text of the proposed ordinance can be found at <http://www.cachecounty.gov/news>.

###



**CACHE COUNTY  
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-32**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A TEMPORARY LAND USE REGULATION  
PROHIBITING THE ACCEPTANCE OR PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS FOR  
DATA CENTERS AND RELATED POWER FACILITIES FOR ONE HUNDRED  
EIGHTY (180) DAYS TO CONSIDER LAND USE CODE AMENDMENTS WITHIN  
UNINCORPORATED CACHE COUNTY**

- (A) WHEREAS, Utah Code Ann. §§ 17-64-401 and 17-64-501 grant the Cache County Council the authority to "exercise all legislative powers, have all legislative duties, and perform all legislative functions of the county," and further authorize the Council to "pass ordinances," "pass resolutions," and adopt policies that conform with state and federal law; and
- (B) WHEREAS, Cache County is authorized under Utah Code Ann. § 17-79-504 to enact temporary land use regulations for any part or all of the area within unincorporated Cache County for a reasonable period, not to exceed 180 days, without prior consideration of or recommendation from the planning commission, and the Cache County Council finds it necessary to apply this temporary regulation to all zones of all types within the unincorporated county; and
- (C) WHEREAS, the Cache County Council finds that there is a sudden and compelling, countervailing public interest in protecting local electrical grid capacity, water resources, and zoning integrity from the immediate and intensive demands associated with utility-scale data centers and their dedicated power sources; and
- (D) WHEREAS, the Cache County Council has determined that the current provisions of the Cache County Code governing land use and associated development do not contain adequate definitions, development standards, zone regulations, or overlay districts to manage or mitigate the rapid deployment of utility-scale digital infrastructure; and
- (E) WHEREAS, the intensive, 24-hour operational profile of utility-scale digital infrastructure presents severe compounding impacts, including unprecedented power and water demands that threaten local grid capacity, rate stability, critical culinary aquifers, and agricultural water security, while generating persistent low-frequency noise, vibration, and thermal discharge that directly conflict with the peace, quiet, and safety of adjacent residential and commercial areas; and
- (F) WHEREAS, the physical scale of these developments, often consisting of massive, windowless structures and sprawling electrical substations, threatens to degrade the scenic vistas, rural character, and highly valued agricultural land that define unincorporated Cache County; and
- (G) WHEREAS, the Cache County Council desires to direct county staff and the Planning Commission to study, prepare, and draft a comprehensive land use code text amendment



to properly define, regulate, or prohibit data centers and their associated high-intensity electrical and fuel infrastructure; and

- (H) WHEREAS, under Utah Code Ann. § 17-64-501(2), the Cache County Council has considered the potential impact this ordinance may have on family health, stability, and formation, and finds that ensuring the long-term reliability and affordability of local power, water, and utility grids directly promotes and preserves the economic stability and safety of families residing in unincorporated Cache County; and
- (I) WHEREAS, the Cache County Council finds that a temporary pause on the acceptance of new applications is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the county and its inhabitants, as allowing a rush of unregulated development applications during the study period would irreparably bypass and defeat the purpose of the pending land use amendments;
- (J) WHEREAS, the Cache County Council finds that this Ordinance is in the best interest of Cache County and its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, The County Legislative Body of Cache County ordains as follows:

### **SECTION 1. Purpose and Intent**

- A. The purpose of this Ordinance is temporary in nature and intended solely to allow Cache County adequate time to study, prepare, and adopt updated land use regulations governing data centers, data center power plants, and associated infrastructure.

### **SECTION 2. Definitions**

- A. As used in this Ordinance, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section:
  - 1. "DATA CENTER" means real and personal property consisting of a building or group of buildings or structures specifically designed or modified to house networked computers, data, data processing equipment, transaction processing equipment, and related infrastructure support equipment, including (but not limited to) any of the following:
    - a. High-density power distribution;
    - b. Cooling and thermal management systems;
    - c. Emergency backup power generation and fuel storage; and
    - d. Electrical substations.

2. "DATA CENTER POWER PLANT" means a utility-scale facility that generates electric power for consumption by one or more data centers, which facility may store, transmit, and/or distribute electric power by any combination of energy storage, solar energy, thermal energy, or other power conversion technology (including, but not limited to, hydrocarbon-based fuels, geothermal wells, wind energy systems, or nuclear fuel systems) for the primary purpose of supplying power to such data center(s).
  
3. "DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE" means any electrical, energy, fuel, transmission, or distribution infrastructure supporting data center development, including but not limited to fiber optic cable conduits, high-voltage transmission lines, substations, and/or fuel transmission and distribution lines supportive of a data center and/or a data center power plant.

### **SECTION 3. Temporary Land Use Regulation & Prohibition**

- A. For a period of one hundred eighty (180) days following the effective date of this Ordinance, Cache County shall not accept for filing, review, or process any land use application, business license application, building permit application, administrative appeal, administrative land use permit, conditional use permit, subdivision approval, zone change application, site plan application, development agreement, or any other land use or development approval associated with uses related to data centers, digital infrastructure, and/or data center power plants across all zones of all types within the unincorporated areas of Cache County.

### **SECTION 4. Exceptions for Legally Complete Applications.**

- A. Applications that have been formally submitted and determined to be complete by Cache County prior to the effective date of this Ordinance may continue to be processed, evaluated, and acted upon under the zoning regulations in effect at the exact time of the completeness determination.

### **SECTION 5. Suspension of Incomplete and Pending Applications.**

- A. All applications associated with uses related to data centers and/or data center power plants that have been submitted to the County but have not been formally determined to be



complete prior to the effective date of this Ordinance are hereby suspended for the duration of this Ordinance. During this suspension period, the County shall take no administrative, technical, or substantive actions of any kind on these applications.

#### **SECTION 6. Severability.**

- A. Should any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance be declared invalid, unconstitutional, or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such judicial decision shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

#### **SECTION 7. Direction to Cache County Officials and Staff**

- A. To accomplish the purpose of this Ordinance as defined in Section 1, the Cache County Council hereby directs the County Executive, county staff, and the Cache County Planning Commission to immediately initiate a study, prepare, and draft a comprehensive land use code text amendment to properly define, regulate, or prohibit data centers and their associated high-intensity electrical and fuel infrastructure.
- B. The study and drafting process shall comprehensively evaluate and explore any and all available options, regulatory frameworks, zoning tools, and developmental standards allowed under Utah law (including but not limited to prohibition, the potential creation of special overlay zoning districts, new zoning classifications, legislative zoning procedures, utility consumption thresholds, and objective developmental standards) to prevent adverse environmental and community impacts.
  1. In the performance of such study, members of the County Council shall be consulted as appropriate to provide guidance and input on any associated policy development. Such consultations shall occur subject to the provisions of the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act.
- C. County Staff and the Planning Commission shall present their recommended draft text amendments to the Cache County Council for legislative consideration within one hundred fifty (150) days of the effective date of this Ordinance.



**SECTION 8. Effective Date.**

- A. Pursuant to Utah Code Ann. § 17-64-502(6) and Utah Code Ann. § 17-79-504, the Cache County Council hereby finds that this temporary land use regulation is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, and welfare of Cache County and its inhabitants.
1. Therefore, this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication as required by law, and shall remain in effect for exactly one hundred eighty (180) days unless repealed, extended, or replaced by a subsequent ordinance of the Cache County Council.



PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CACHE COUNTY, UTAH  
THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2026.

Council Member	In Favor	Against	Abstained	Absent
JoAnn Bennett				
Kathryn Beus				
David Erickson				
Keegan Garrity				
Sandi Goodlander				
Nolan Gunnell				
Mark Hurd				
Total				
FINAL ACTION: _____ ADOPT _____ REJECT				

**CACHE COUNTY:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sandi Goodlander, Chair

**ATTEST:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bryson Behm, County Clerk



**ACTION OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE:**

Approved

Disapproved (written statement of objection attached)

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
N. George Daines, County Executive