

**KITTITAS COUNTY
CDS STUDY SESSION MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5th ROOM 109
Regular Meeting**

MONDAY

2:30 PM

August 10, 2026

Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, and Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Chad Bala, Jamey Ayling, Gail Weyand, Community Development Services, Samantha Cox, Public Works, Stephanie Hartung, Chief Civil Deputy, and Jeff Leichleiter.

At 2:30 pm Chairman Wachsmith opened the Community Development Services Study Session.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments.

**REQUEST TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION PLACING A SIX (6) MONTH
EMERGENCY MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTANCE OF DATA CENTERS
PROPOSALS/APPLICATIONS WITHIN KITTITAS COUNTY.**

CDS Director Chad Bala presented a requested resolution placing a six-month emergency moratorium on the acceptance of data center proposals and applications within Kittitas County. The matter was brought forward considering recent activity involving data centers in Upper County and the City of Cle Elum. Director Bala explained that the moratorium would provide the County with time to evaluate its code and develop a work plan addressing regulatory needs related to data centers.

Director Bala noted that, if the emergency moratorium is adopted, the County would be required to hold a hearing within 60 days. He further stated that staff would develop a one-year work plan and coordinate with relevant parties, including legal counsel, the Health Department, and other stakeholders, to evaluate issues such as water infrastructure, internal water systems, power needs, and whether applicants should be required to provide their own power.

APPROVED

9/1/2026

Director Bala stated that data centers are a potentially contentious topic and that additional time is needed for the County to better understand impacts and regulatory requirements.

Commissioner Osiadacz made a motion to approve resolution 2026-141 as presented to placing a six (6) month Emergency Moratorium on acceptance of Data Centers proposals/applications within Kittitas County.

Vice-Chairman Wachsmith seconded.

Motion passed all in favor.

KITTITAS COUNTY 2026 CLEAN ENERGY SITING PERMITTING (CESP) UPDATE.

Director Bala provided an update regarding the County's Clean Energy Site Permitting Grant. He stated that the County had obtained a grant in the amount of \$790,000 and had begun work with Kimley-Horn. The project involves identifying issues and high-level mitigation measures through a countywide programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

Director Bala reported that during the week of July 20, 2026, stakeholder meetings were held with multiple groups, including tribes, the agricultural community, the general community, wildlife representatives, and environmental interests. Summaries of those meetings had been received and were beginning to be reviewed.

Director Bala stated that the next steps include preparing the draft Environmental Impact Statement and scheduling open houses and meetings for the fall. The goal is to complete the process by June 2027.

Director Bala reported that the Washington State Department of Commerce contacted the County regarding additional available funding. After discussion with Kimley-Horn, staff proposed using additional funding for an economic study and land availability study related to Major Industrial Development sites. This would build on the Major Industrial Development code adopted as part of the County's comprehensive plan update.

Director Bala stated that Commerce approved the proposal and awarded an additional \$100,000, increasing total funding from \$790,000 to \$890,000. He noted that this work is expected to involve limited public outreach because it will primarily consist of economic analysis and land capacity analysis, using information from the comprehensive plan update as a foundation.

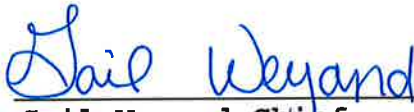
Director Bala stated that the intent is to identify potential sites that may be appropriate for Major Industrial Development uses.

There was no discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

Meeting concluded at 2:35 p.m.



Gail Weyand, Chief
Administator

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Brett Wachsmith, Chairman