

CPUC Draft Resolution Confirms Alviso Project Is a 250-MW Data Center—Request for City of San José Technical and Environmental Review

A September 17, 2026 CPUC hearing is scheduled to authorize energization of a 250-MW data center in Alviso: "Repeatedly postponed Draft Resolution E-5455 would approve PG&E's agreement to energize Google's 250-MW San Jose data center."

(source of

quote: <https://www.calregulatory.com/september-17-2026-cpuc-voting-meeting-preview-regional-markets-google-data-center-and-pcia/>)

Despite repeated, vocal protestations by Google and the San Jose planning department that this is an "R&D facility," not a data center, CPUC's September 17, 2026 draft resolution came to the opposite conclusion. Their technical staff had full access to PG&E's confidential agreement with Google with details about the data center's technical specifications, construction and energization costs, and the negotiated provisions governing Google's 250-MW data center load.

After a thorough technical review, CPUC staff found that this is a data center — not an advanced manufacturing facility or R&D lab. The words "research" or "laboratory" never appear in the CPUC ruling.

The draft resolution assigns a portion of the transmission upgrade cost to the data center: "the draft resolution would require Google to provide a fixed refundable advance of \$600,000/MW, or as much as \$150 million." Draft resolution:

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M617/K684/617684613.docx>

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M617/K684/617684613.PDF>

CPUC agenda Item 2, September 17, 2026:

"Approves, with modifications, an agreement to facilitate the energization of a new 250 megawatt data center load through transmission-level retail electric service for customer Google LLC... Facilitates the energization of a new customer including both the associated costs of energization and the expected future revenues from the customer. The customer pays some upfront costs to connect to the grid, and could then be refunded for these costs after sufficient revenue is generated."

<https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/publisheddocs/published/g000/m618/k891/618891002.pdf>

CPUC should give the city of San Jose full access to PG&E's confidential agreement with Google that includes the data center's technical specifications and the negotiated provisions governing Google's 250-MW data center load. Furthermore, CPUC staff should confer with city staff, to share how the technical data led them to make their data center determination.

I hope that the city will reclassify this project from an "R&D facility" to a data center, and also apply the city's full range of new/proposed data center environmental review standards to the 250-MW Alviso project.

GOOGLE: "THIS IS NOT A DATA CENTER"

Community meeting for 250-MW Alviso "R&D facility" May 14, 2026

https://sanjoseca.zoom.us/rec/share/v-CvQspgnW4PrkDM3S6i8acnDQaH1d7ASuvBPrzlqxsYKy640Sjq_uuLpuvCm0b4.j1gAcmiHg7W0Zi0?startTime=1778806137000. Passcode: vds022#U

Google real estate director:

"Computing lab spaces to test technology products and solutions" ... "are not like data centers in that these are for Google internal use only. They do not require a significant number of backup power

generators that you might associate with the data center. And we do not have external customers that would utilize the facility for accessing data. So this is really for our internal use...

I want to be clear, I'd said it earlier, and obviously there's some perspective that it's not the case, but this is not a data center. This is not something that anyone is trying to claim on our side that is a data center. This is, again, for Google internal use, and we're focused on aspects and things like chip technology and so forth that would be studied here and researched here and explored here.

And the big difference is data centers typically have a significant amount of backup generation that is powered by diesel. That will not be the case here. We have some minimal number of generators, but it won't be to the extent that you would see at a typical data center that requires all of that backup power because typically that has external users on that facility. We will not have that. This is for internal use only and specifically for technology exploration advancement and research. So just wanted to make that clear...

And while the environmental process is really driven by the city and Kord spoke about it, I just wanted to speak to the comments related to the CEQA process. So to be clear, EIRs are intended for projects that have significant environmental impacts that have not been studied before. Here, the city comprehensively analyzed impacts of developing and operating over 2.3 million square feet on 153 acres. And development of this project on a portion of the site is within those parameters. And the original CEQA documents still have informational value and are still applicable today, given the facility's need for robust mechanical systems. We have engaged experts to analyze any particular impacts from those systems, such as air quality was mentioned, noise was mentioned, as well as water usage to conform that there are no new significant impacts..."

City planning official: Upcoming technical reports will ensure the 250-MW Alviso "R&D Facilities" (lab spaces) have no new or more significant impacts, compared to the 2000 EIR and 2014 Add