



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

August 12th, 2026

Mr. James Hines
Public Policy Manager
Meta Platforms, Inc.
1 Meta Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Mr. James Hines,

Recently, Governor Abbott announced that Meta has agreed to adhere to a series of guidelines governing the development and operation of data centers in Texas. These guidelines should provide an interim framework while the Texas Legislature is not in session, establishing expectations that large-scale data centers operate in a manner that respects Texas communities, conserves critical water and energy resources, and bears the cost of the infrastructure necessary to support their operations.

In El Paso, Meta has undertaken the construction of a data center with an investment exceeding \$10 billion. This project has generated significant public engagement among my constituents, many of whom have expressed concerns about the potential impacts on energy, water, land, and the local economy caused by the project.

While Meta's public commitment to these principles touches on several concerns raised by El Paso residents, questions remain regarding how these commitments will apply to the El Paso facility and whether they adequately address the impacts of the project. Among other provisions, these guidelines call for data centers to bear their own infrastructure costs and utilize energy- and water-efficient technologies – two issues in particular that have been raised by my constituents. These guidelines are especially important for El Paso, where residents already face increased utility costs, and the region continues to confront long-term water and drought challenges.

That being said, since the Meta data center in El Paso is being built outside of ERCOT, unlike the other Meta facilities in Fort Worth and Temple, it remains unclear how the commitments announced by the Governor apply to the El Paso project. Given the size of this investment and its potential impact on the region, I respectfully request that Meta clarify the commitments it's making with respect to the El Paso facility and provide responses to the following questions:

- Does Meta's commitment to comply with the standards and guidelines announced by Governor Abbott apply in full to the El Paso data center, notwithstanding that the project is located outside of ERCOT? If not, which standards will and will not apply to the El Paso facility?
- How does Meta's commitment to pay its own infrastructure costs apply to the proposed McCloud natural gas facility, and what commitments will Meta make to ensure that costs associated with

infrastructure developed to serve the data center are not shifted to El Paso ratepayers now or in the future?

- The new guidelines call for data centers to identify their water sources, projected water use, water reuse procedures, and water-efficient cooling technologies. What are the El Paso facility's current projected water needs and to what extent will the Meta data center incorporate water-efficient technologies, and how will this affect its projected daily water use?
- The Governor's guidelines address the disclosure of taxpayer funded incentives, grants, abatements, and other public financial assistance. Given Meta's commitment to adhere to the guidelines, please clarify how this provision applies to the El Paso project and whether it will affect Meta's use of any existing or future tax incentives or abatements.
- What community protection measures will Meta implement at the El Paso facility to meet the expectations regarding impacts on neighboring communities, including noise, lighting, setbacks, traffic, emergency response coordination, and other potential disruptions?
- And lastly, will Meta submit the El Paso project to the same level of disclosure and review contemplated by the recently announced guideless for projects within ERCOT, even where those requirements may not be applicable to the El Paso facility.

As the Legislature continues to evaluate the growth of large-scale data centers in Texas, it is important that we have a clear understanding of how these commitments will be implemented uniformly and what they will mean for communities hosting these facilities.

Your response will help inform my understanding of these issues as we prepare for the upcoming Legislative Session and continue evaluating the opportunities and challenges associated with data center development in Texas.

I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "César J. Blanco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "César" being more prominent.

César J. Blanco
Texas State Senator
District 29

cc: Danner Bethel, Director, U.S. State and Local Government Affairs for the Southern Region,
BlackRock