

CADDO PARISH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 53 OF 2026

A RESOLUTION DECLARING A TWO-YEAR MORATORIUM ON NEW DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION IN UNINCORPORATED CADDO PARISH, ESTABLISHING A DATA CENTER STUDY COMMITTEE, ADDRESSING THE PILOT FRAMEWORK ADOPTED UNDER RESOLUTION 48 OF 2025, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, data centers are being proposed and developed at an accelerating pace across the Ark-La-Tex region, including a facility proposed within Caddo Parish, a facility proposed within the City of Shreveport that remains the subject of pending litigation, and a facility under development in Bossier Parish; and

WHEREAS, data center projects of this kind have consistently arrived not as single, isolated facilities but in clusters that expand in scale and number once an initial project is approved, a pattern now documented in dozens of counties and municipalities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, local governments across the country have responded to this pattern by adopting temporary moratoriums to allow time for study before further approvals, including Manatee County, Florida; Montgomery County, Maryland; Orange County, North Carolina; Hill County, Texas; Linn County, Iowa; and numerous jurisdictions in Indiana, among others; and

WHEREAS, the City of Shreveport has represented that it has no remaining capacity to site additional data center development within its limits, making the Commission's position on siting and expansion within unincorporated Caddo Parish especially consequential to the future of data center development in the region as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Cross Lake and Caddo Lake are the two principal bodies of water serving and bordering Caddo Parish, with Caddo Lake designated a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention and shared with Harrison and Marion Counties, Texas, such that any additional large-scale industrial water demand or wastewater discharge, including cooling tower blowdown containing biocides and corrosion-inhibiting chemicals, presents a risk to water quality and to the ecological and recreational value of both lakes that has not been studied on a cumulative basis; and

WHEREAS, data center development of this scale requires substantial new electric generation and transmission capacity, and absent binding cost-allocation protections, the costs of that buildout may be borne in whole or in part by existing SWEPCO ratepayers rather than by the facilities that create the demand; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas, whose border runs directly across Caddo Lake from Caddo Parish, announced in August 2026 that it would pause new data center connections to its electric grid pending an audit by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas of each project's power use, water use, and community impact, demonstrating that even a state widely regarded as favorable to data center development has found it necessary to pause and study before allowing further approvals; and

WHEREAS, Caddo Parish currently has no zoning ordinance, land use code, or siting standard specific to large-scale data center or high-utility-demand industrial development, and no inventory of the water, wastewater, or grid capacity available in the parish to safely absorb concurrent projects of this kind; and

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted Resolution 48 of 2025, establishing a framework for payments in lieu of taxes for qualifying data center projects in unincorporated Caddo Parish in coordination with the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority, and one term sheet has since been executed under that framework for a data center proposed on State Line Road near Bethany, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the findings above did not exist, or were not before the Commission, at the time Resolution 48 was adopted, and the Commission finds it appropriate to honor the commitment already made to the State Line Road project while declining to extend that same incentive framework to new projects or to the expansion of existing facilities until the concerns identified above have been studied; and

WHEREAS, a proper study of these issues requires broad technical and public input rather than the perspective of the data center industry alone, and the Commission finds it appropriate to establish a study committee structured to reflect that breadth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CADDO PARISH COMMISSION:

Section 1. Moratorium Declared. For a period of two (2) years from the effective date of this Resolution, the Commission declares its intent that no new permit, application, or approval for the siting, construction, or expansion of a data center facility be accepted, processed, or approved in unincorporated Caddo Parish. This moratorium applies to new facilities and to the expansion of any existing facility beyond its currently approved scope.

Section 2. Existing Commitment Preserved. This Resolution does not affect, impair, or apply to the term sheet already executed under Resolution 48 of 2025 for the data center proposed on State Line Road near Bethany, Louisiana, as it exists on the effective date of this Resolution.

Section 3. PILOT Framework Suspended for New Projects. For the duration of the moratorium, the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority and Parish staff are directed not to negotiate, present, or bring forward for Commission approval any new term sheet or payment-in-lieu-of-tax agreement under the framework established by Resolution 48 of 2025 for any data center project other than the State Line Road facility referenced in Section 2, and not for any expansion of that facility beyond its currently approved scope.

Section 4. Data Center Study Committee Established. There is hereby established a Data Center Study Committee, charged with evaluating the water, wastewater, electric grid, land use, and fiscal impacts of data center development in Caddo Parish and recommending a regulatory framework, including siting standards and conditions of approval, for the Commission's consideration.

Section 5. Committee Composition. The Committee shall consist of the following members: one member appointed by the Commission, who shall serve as chair; one independent utilities or electrical engineering professional with no current contractual relationship to a data center developer or vendor; one representative of an affected water district or water utility; one representative with a public health or environmental science background, which may include an academic affiliation with LSU Health Shreveport or a comparable institution; one citizen-at-large or civic association representative from an area near a proposed or existing data center site; and, at the Commission's discretion, one non-voting industry representative to provide technical information.

Section 6. Report and Commission Action. The Committee shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Commission no later than eighteen (18) months from the effective date of this Resolution. The Commission shall take up the Committee's report and any recommended ordinance or amendment within sixty (60) days of its submission.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this Resolution is held invalid, that holding shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

MOVED BY: Commissioner _____
SECONDED BY: Commissioner _____

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.