



# City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

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June 18, 2025

**Randy Rowse**  
Mayor

The Honorable Rebecca Bauer-Kahan  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5210  
Sacramento, CA 95814

City Hall  
735 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93101-1990

**RE: AB 222 (Bauer-Kahan) Data centers: energy usage reporting and efficiency standards  
City of Santa Barbara – Notice of Support**

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93102-1990

Dear Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I am writing to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 222, your important legislation to promote transparency and accountability in the energy use of data centers and artificial intelligence (AI) development in California.

Tel: (805) 564-5322  
Fax: (805) 564-5475

As a local government deeply committed to sustainability, climate resilience, and energy equity, the City of Santa Barbara is increasingly concerned about the rapid expansion of energy-intensive data centers and their impacts on statewide electricity infrastructure. California's electric grid is already under pressure from accelerating electrification, extreme weather events, and wildfire threats. Without transparency and accountability, unchecked growth in energy demand from AI and data center activity poses a serious risk to grid reliability, ratepayer affordability, and the state's climate goals.

AB 222 addresses these concerns in a thoughtful and pragmatic way by requiring:

- AI developers to publicly report the energy used to train and run AI models;
- Data centers to self-identify to the California Energy Commission (CEC);
- The CEC to include data center trends in its Integrated Energy Policy Report; and
- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to minimize the financial impact of data center infrastructure costs on everyday ratepayers.

This legislation strikes the right balance between fostering innovation and protecting the public interest. By ensuring that data centers and AI companies are transparent about their energy consumption and that infrastructure costs are not unfairly passed on to residents and small businesses, AB 222 supports a more sustainable and equitable energy future for all Californians.

We thank you for your leadership on this issue and urge the Legislature to advance AB 222. The City of Santa Barbara is proud to support this bill.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Randy Rowse  
City of Santa Barbara

cc: Senator Monique Limon  
Assembly Member Gregg Hart