

Chair Allen and Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed allocations of the Project Blue land sale proceeds. I appreciate the work of County Staff in preparing the memo and recommended framework, and I appreciate the inclusion of environmental and public health considerations as a foundation for responsible use of these one-time funds.

Given that these proceeds originate from a data center project, this creates a natural opportunity to align their use with data center driven realities: reducing grid strain, strengthening resilience, and supporting privacy, security, and procurement safeguards.

To complement the public health and environmental foundation in the proposed allocation, the following implementation priorities would further protect community health and welfare while improving long-term community resilience:

1. Infrastructure investments that reduce system strain

As regional infrastructure demands grow, investments that directly reduce load pressure can provide measurable public benefit. For example, distributed solar and battery storage at public-serving facilities such as libraries, clinics, cooling centers, and emergency sites can:

- lower long-term operating costs,
- improve grid reliability,
- reduce peak demand, and
- strengthen resilience during extreme heat or outages.

These types of investments align fiscal prudence with infrastructure preparedness and public safety, particularly when implemented at facilities serving vulnerable populations.

2. Clear criteria for discretionary allocations

For broader allocation categories, establishing transparent standards can help ensure funds consistently deliver proportional benefit. Examples of helpful criteria structures include:

- defined eligibility parameters for funded programs,
- measurable performance indicators,
- periodic public reporting requirements, and
- evaluation checkpoints tied to continued funding.

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Clear criteria strengthen accountability, improve public trust, and support consistent decision-making over time.

3. Data governance and technical oversight

As infrastructure becomes increasingly digital and interconnected, allocating modest funding and staff capacity for data governance and technical oversight can help ensure systems remain secure, reliable, and publicly accountable over time. Consistent with established evaluation standards, this could include support for:

- baseline cybersecurity and system security assessments,
- standards for sensitive data handling and third-party access,
- clear incident notification and remediation requirements, and
- defined oversight and accountability pathways.

Providing even modest capacity in this area helps ensure that technological infrastructure affecting public systems operates transparently and within enforceable safeguards.

Structuring allocations around baseline safeguards, measurable outcomes, and resilience oriented investments can help ensure these one-time proceeds provide lasting public benefit while supporting responsible growth.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued stewardship of public resources.

Respectfully,

Julie Dittmer