

(1) It is the intent of the Legislature that the development and operation of large-scale data centers in this state be managed under a permitting framework that ensures this state's water resources are used in the public interest, in a manner that is not harmful to the water resources of this state, and consistent with local government zoning regulations and comprehensive plans.

(2) Consistent with other provisions of this part, the governing board of a water management district or the department may not issue a permit to a large-scale data center applicant for an allocation of water if the proposed use of the water is harmful to the water resources of the area or is prohibited by the applicable local government zoning regulations and comprehensive plan. A permit shall be issued to a large-scale data center applicant for an allocation of water if the applicant establishes that the proposed use of water:

(a) Is a reasonable-beneficial use as defined in s. 373.019;

(b) Will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water; and

(c) Is consistent with the public interest.

(3) The governing board or the department shall require the use of reclaimed water in lieu of all or a portion of a proposed use of surface water or groundwater by a large-scale data center applicant when:

(a) A suitable reclaimed water supply source is available and permitted;

(b) Reclaimed water distribution or supply lines are available at the property boundary in sufficient capacity and quality to serve the applicant's needs;

(c) The applicant is capable of accessing the reclaimed water source through distribution or supply lines;

(d) Use of reclaimed water is environmentally, economically, and technically feasible; and

(e) Use of reclaimed water would not conflict with the requirements contained in the applicant's surface water discharge permit, if applicable.

(4)(a) In addition to the requirements of s. 373.229, all permit applications made under this part requesting an allocation of at least an average daily flow of 100,000 gallons of water per day by a large-scale data center must contain:

1. All sources and amounts of water and losses of water used for cooling, industrial and treatment processes, personal or sanitary needs of employees, and landscape irrigation; and