

A Data Center at the Old Crystal Geyser Plant?

What Mt. Shasta should ask before it moves forward



Community information brief · June 2026 · Prepared by Christopher Knorr, Pit River Tribal member · Questions or corrections: chrisknorr.mail@gmail.com

1 · What it is — the grounded facts

Word circulating among residents says an out-of-area company has made an early, **exploratory inquiry** to City of Mt. Shasta staff about a **data center** at the former Crystal Geyser bottling plant — the large building at **210 Ski Village Drive**, just outside the city in **unincorporated Siskiyou County** (owned since 2022 by One Shasta LLC). This comes from community discussion, **not from an official announcement or any published report**, so treat the inquiry as unconfirmed until the City or County says otherwise. There is no formal application, no named company, and no technical detail on the record — which is exactly the stage when it helps to get informed and ask early. [[community-relayed](#) · [unconfirmed](#)]

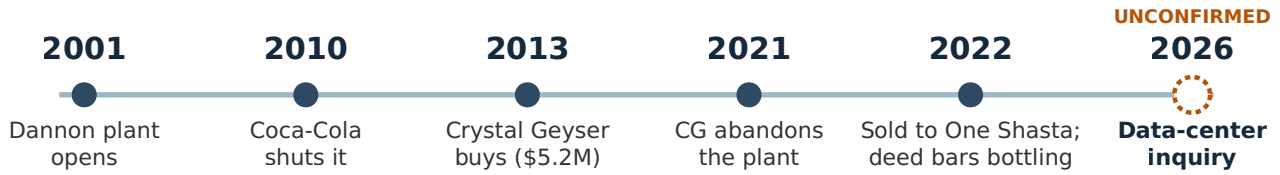
The site is the same one as the long Crystal Geyser water fight: a roughly **145,000-square-foot building** on about **118 developed acres** (part of a ~260-acre property that includes the production wells, with water rights running with the land), on land the county zones for **heavy industry**. [Mount Shasta Herald](#) · [county EIR notice](#) · [JPR](#)

Why this needs real scrutiny

The worry isn't the technology. It's where the footprint lands — on the aquifer, the grid, and a clean airshed — in a town that already fought hard to protect its water.

- **The same aquifer is on the line.** Data centers can use large amounts of water for cooling. The design for any Mt. Shasta proposal is unknown, and this is the aquifer that feeds the city's water and the Sacramento, McCloud, and Shasta headwaters. [Grist / Salt Lake Tribune](#) · [CalTrout](#)
- **This exact site has drained wells before.** Neighbors tied the earlier Dannon and Coca-Cola operations to nearby residential wells running low, along with noise and night lighting. [W.A.T.E.R.](#)
- **Big power demand, rural grid.** A data center needs a large, steady supply of electricity. That raises who pays for grid upgrades and whether everyone else's rates rise — the issue that drove Oregon's 2025 ratepayer-protection law. Backup power is often diesel and gas generators. [CRS R48646](#)
- **"Clean infrastructure" that lands locally.** A data center markets as green digital infrastructure, but the load — water, power, diesel backup, around-the-clock noise — is carried here, not in the cloud.
- **Few jobs for the footprint; tax breaks can shrink the upside.** These buildings run with small crews once built, and developers often seek property-tax breaks that cut into the very revenue cited as the benefit. [Oregon reporting](#)
- **Will there even be a public review?** Whether a data center is a "by-right" use of this heavy-industrial site, or instead needs discretionary permits or rezoning, decides whether there is a **CEQA review and public hearings at all**. Last time, the community learned of a major project from a photo in the local paper. [Mount Shasta Herald](#)

How we got here



2013–2021: seven years of environmental review, lawsuits, and community opposition over the plan to bottle and truck away Mt. Shasta water. The 2026 data-center inquiry is community-reported and not yet confirmed.

The question that decides everything: how is it cooled?

EVAPORATIVE (WATER) COOLING

- 💧 **Heavy water use on site** — up to millions of gallons a year.
- ⚡ **Lower electricity use.**

VS

CLOSED-LOOP / AIR COOLING

- 💧 **Very little water on site.**
- ⚡ **Higher electricity use** — and generating that power uses water elsewhere.

Same building, very different demand on Mt. Shasta's water and the grid. Unlike bottling, a closed-loop data center could use far less water — but no one has said which design a Mt. Shasta proposal would use. That single fact shapes almost everything else, so it is the first thing to get on the public record. [CRS R48646](#) · [LBNL/DOE 2024](#)

TAKE ACTION — ask now, before any decision is made

- **Siskiyou County is the lead authority for this site.** District 2 Supervisor **Ed Valenzuela** · 530-926-1733 · evalenzuela@co.siskiyou.ca.us
- **Mt. Shasta City Council** (the affected neighbor) · (530) 926-7510 · meetings 2nd & 4th Mondays, 5:30 p.m., 1315 Nixon Road · mtshastaca.gov/city-council
- **Ask for two things:** a full public review (CEQA), and disclosure of the **cooling design, water draw (gallons/day), and power demand (MW)** before any decision is made.
- **Show up or write in.** Attend a meeting, or send a written comment for the record. A short, specific message carries more weight than a general one.

Note: No formal proposal exists yet, and the inquiry described here is community-reported and unconfirmed. This brief is meant to help neighbors get informed and ask early. Please verify time-sensitive details (officials, meeting dates, any project specifics) directly with the County and City.

Sources: [LBNL 2024 U.S. Data Center Energy Report](#) · [U.S. DOE release \(Dec. 2024\)](#) · [Congressional Research Service R48646 \(2026\)](#) · [Grist / Salt Lake Tribune \(data-center water use\)](#) · [California Trout, Mt. Shasta Spring Water Management](#) · [Oregonian / Lincoln Chronicle \(jobs, tax breaks, ratepayer law\)](#) · [Mount Shasta Herald \(2013\)](#) · [County EIR notice \(2017\)](#) · [Jefferson Public Radio \(2022 sale to One Shasta LLC; no-bottling deed\)](#) · [W.A.T.E.R. history](#). Roster & meeting details: City of Mt. Shasta; Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors.

