How many Data Centers are served water by City of Hillsboro?
Hillsboro Water Department (HWD) categorizes customers by eight classes, and tracks usage for planning purposes by class. HWD does not have a 'Data Center' class, so estimated numbers are based on information provided by the Economic and Community Development Department (ECD) according to their records. All requests for Data Center listings are routed through ECD.

In 2025, HWD estimates they served about eight different data center companies, at approximately 13 sites in the Hillsboro service area. This estimation is based on site addresses provided by other sources.*

**It is important to note that a section of Hillsboro receives its water service through Tualatin Valley Water District, so HWD does not have water demand numbers for those locations.*

Is the Willamette Water Supply System (WWSS) being specifically built to serve Data Centers?
No, the WWSS is being built to serve the future needs of all customers in Hillsboro and the region, not specifically data centers.

Plans for a secondary water supply for Hillsboro began 30 years ago, before data centers were even a consideration. Hillsboro last added to its water supplies in the 1990's, with the expansion of Barney Reservoir, and since then the city has continued to grow. That growth is seen across all customer classes, not just in the industrial/commercial classes, which include data centers.

In addition, the new water supply won't reach north Hillsboro's industrial area until at least the mid-2030's, as that part of the pipeline was deferred to minimize rate impacts due to rising project costs.

What is the Purpose of the WWSS – if not for Data Centers?
The focus of the WWSS is to bring resiliency and redundancy to Hillsboro's water supply. As stated above, additional water will allow for growth in all classes - including industrial and commercial sectors, schools and public facilities, and residential areas like South Hillsboro. Currently, Hillsboro only has one water source – the Joint Water Commission. If anything happens to that source, Hillsboro does not have another option to fall back on –

unlike other water providers in the area such as Forest Grove, Beaverton and Portland. The WWSS will provide a second reliable source for all Hillsboro customers.

Additionally, the WWSS is being built to withstand the potential Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake, so water recovery time after a major disaster will be much less than most other water systems in the Pacific Northwest – for all customers. Water system resiliency protects public health, provides fire suppression, and delivers water fit for human consumption in a major seismic event.

Are Data Centers Using Most of Hillsboro's Water?

No, based on 2025 data, data centers receive about 1.5% of Hillsboro's total water demand. Hillsboro used about 6.3 Billion Gallons (BG) in 2025, with 3.2 BG used in total industrial processes. About 88.5 million gallons (MG) were used at data centers, or about 2% of total industrial demand.

For reference, the combined 2025 water usage of all Hillsboro data centers (~13 sites) does not even approach the water usage for a solar panel producing company that operated in Hillsboro during the 2000/2010's and has since gone out of business. That one industrial site used about 150 MG per year, compared to the 88.5 MG used by the 13 data center sites referenced above.

Finally, Hillsboro currently has a treatment capacity of 41.7 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) and peaks (highest usage day in a year) at around 30 MGD, so there is room for growth in all customer classes, even without the addition of the WWSS.

Do Data Centers Pay Less for Water than Residential Customers?

No, data centers are classed as either commercial or industrial, which both pay higher base (fixed) and usage rates than typical residential customers.

Table Showing 2026 Class Comparison for 5/8 meter using 8 ccf (6000 gallons), which represents typical single-family residential use:

Customer Class	Base	Base + 8 ccf (6000 gallons)
Single-Family Residential	$21.95	$56.22
Multi-Family Residential	$49.45	$62.24
Commercial	$57.07	$97.31
Industrial	$96.09	$137.45