

REALITY CHECK ON SKYBOX'S CLAIMS

1. WHY IS A DATA CENTER BEING PROPOSED AT THIS LOCATION?

The property on Old Settlers Boulevard east of A.W. Grimes has been vacant for decades. The suggestion that Skybox is here to save the day from possible alternate uses of the property is laughable. Planting an industrial data factory and substation in the midst of a flourishing neighborhood isn't the "highest and best use" of a vacant lot.

2. WHAT WILL THE DATA CENTER BE USED FOR?

Traditional data centers have been used for cloud storage, websites, streaming video, and the like for years. Today, the new class of data centers have other purposes, such as bitcoin mining and AI training and modeling with data you and others have provided over a lifetime to various public and private sector entities. Some AI data factory work might be beneficial—like speeding a cure for cancer. But other uses are downright harmful and destructive—like creating deepfakes and believable scams, and replacing human workers in all fields of endeavor.

3. WHAT SAFEGUARDS PROTECT NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER AND QUALITY OF LIFE?

To answer this question, Skybox conveniently leans on PUD restrictions that were crafted and mandated by the City of Round Rock and are not the result of Skybox's benevolence. These meager "requirements" are designed to allow the use of the property as Skybox intends rather than protect our quality of life or protect the health and wellbeing of those who live, work, or play in Round Rock.

4. WILL THIS PROJECT STRAIN THE TEXAS POWER GRID OR RAISE ELECTRICITY PRICES?

It's a fact that ratepayers statewide are already paying for the increased energy generation and distribution capacity resulting from the explosive growth of data centers in the State. While data center operators such as Skybox are typically required to pay for the on-site infrastructure required to connect to the grid, residential and commercial ratepayers are forced to subsidize Skybox's business model. Just one of the many sources available at ProtectRoundRock.org

5. HOW MUCH WATER WILL THE FACILITY USE, AND WILL IT AFFECT THE AQUIFER?

Skybox's claims about water use and its closed loop cooling system are akin to believing in the Tooth Fairy. AI data centers place a massive drain on our water resources, and comparing a data center's use to residential use is laughable. Plus, a closed loop cooling system is better than a not- closed-loop cooling system, but only insofar as breaking your arm is preferable to breaking your back. See the objectived descriptions of the reality of close loop cooling systems on ProtectRoundRock.org

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6. WILL THE FACILITY CREATE ONGOING NOISE OR VIBRATION?

Skybox claims its data center will operate quietly and “must meet City noise limits at the property line.” As to audible noise theoretically regulated by existing ordinances, the City of Round Rock has a well-deserved reputation for failing to monitor and enforce those ordinances. More importantly, it seems Skybox wants to ignore some facts: that all data centers emit low frequency noise, the City has no ordinances to regulate it, and it’s dangerous to humans and wildlife within a 2.5 mile radius of an AI datacenter. Walls and landscaping—at the Skybox site or elsewhere—cannot contain this type of noise and vibration.

7. WILL GENERATOR EMISSIONS AFFECT AIR QUALITY?

While dodging the very real issue of data center air pollution and its impacts, Skybox claims without supporting data that the pollution that its data center will emit will be minimal, and for some reason they think it’s a big bonus to consumers that the Skybox pollution will be regulated by TCEQ. As most Texans are well aware, environmental protections offered “We meet all requirements” is corporate-speak for “We’ll do the absolute bare minimum to meet the absolute minimum requirement imaginable and nothing more.”

8. WILL THIS PROJECT REDUCE NEARBY PROPERTY VALUES?

Skybox pretends not to know that residential property values have plummeted here and elsewhere in Texas and indeed, across the country after an AI data center moves in. They also don’t exercise basic common sense. Would you pay top dollar for a home near a site that emits low frequency sound that impacts your concentration and sleep? Do you think an electrical substation in your backyard is a big selling point? Do you believe homeowners who bought into the brand new Homestead at Old Settlers Park or Pioneer Point neighborhoods would have paid full value for their homes had they known nearby data center construction was imminent?

9. DOES THE DATA CENTER POSE CANCER OR LONG-TERM HEALTH RISKS?

Skybox wants you to believe that you don’t have to worry about cancer or other long-term health impacts caused by AI data centers because the two other Round Rock data centers that just opened in late 2024 and aren’t yet fully operational haven’t seen any “documented health impacts.” See who’s actually tracking and documenting the correlation between data centers and their health impacts at ProtectRoundRock.Org

10. HOW DOES THIS PROJECT BENEFIT ROUND ROCK?

There’s nothing in it for residents. AI developers and operators like Skybox are essentially speculators. Typically using investor funds, they buy up land, build their centers (often using their own construction management team and sometimes their own crews), and then hope they can sell rack space that will allow them some day to turn a profit. With AI data centers, everybody else is funding their business model—investors, local and state government, energy companies, and residents. There’s nothing in it for residents except higher costs.