

Wolford, Elena

From: Nichols, Charlie
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 3:35 PM
To: Sydney Henry
Cc: Gage, Darrin; Kiran Udayakumar; Anthony Giovannone; Karr, Karen L.; Gross, Douglas E.; Wolford, Elena; Lientz, Stephanie; Bearrows, Sara; Clay Allsop; Andrew Ford; Brian Bordenave; McKinney, Matthew H.; Eric Murray; Tom Kelly
Subject: Project Meridian - Proposed Path Forward

Google team,

Linn County has developed a framework for a path forward for Project Meridian that we believe serves all parties involved: Google, Linn County, the City of Palo, and NextEra.

Key elements of the framework include:

- Google submits its application under Linn County's existing data center ordinance and the economic terms both parties accepted earlier this year
- Google funds the previously discussed \$500,000 regional water balance study
- Each data center building operates under the agreed TIF structure (50% property tax rebate) and provides a \$1 million annual Community Development Payment with a 2% escalator
- The County processes Google's application through its prepared review timeline, with building permits potentially available as early as June 2026, subject to completion of required reviews
- Google's Strategic Economic Partnerships Program (\$5M-\$10M) provides a direct community investment to the City of Palo to support construction of a new wastewater treatment plant
- The County is open to a future voluntary annexation of the site into Palo on an agreed timeline
- The Board of Supervisors publicly acknowledges Google's commitment to responsible community partnership and water stewardship

This framework offers a collaborative path forward that addresses regional water stewardship and community investment while allowing Project Meridian to proceed on a clear and predictable timeline.

Given its scale and stated commitment to responsible community partnership, Google is uniquely positioned to help bring jurisdictions together in pursuit of solutions that serve shared residents and regional systems. We believe this is an opportunity to demonstrate that leadership by working collaboratively with Linn County and the City of Palo to identify a path forward that reflects the long-term interests of the communities involved.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



CHARLIE NICHOLS
Director
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
935 2ND St. SW | Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
Ph: 319-892-5139 | Fax: 319-892-5155
www.linncountyiowa.gov/

How was your customer experience today? Please take our [survey](#) and let us know!