

A DATA CENTER REDESIGN REOPENS THE ENVIRONMENTAL CASE

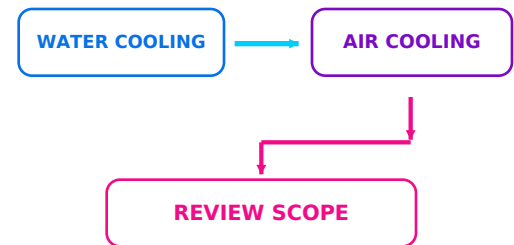
Google through Dataluna | Cerrillos Data Center

Cerrillos, Santiago, Chile

REDESIGN UNDER RENEWED CHALLENGE

Google has made no final decision to build

Changing the cooling system addressed a central water concern. It also raised a new decision: what environmental review should the revised project face?



WHAT ELSE CHANGES

ANALYTICAL DIAGRAM

WHAT HAPPENED

In 2024, the environmental court partly annulled the approval over climate and groundwater evaluation. Google subsequently relinquished the original permit. Air cooling had already been proposed in 2022, and most original plaintiffs withdrew; it was not a response first invented after the judgment. In September 2026, OLCA and MOSACAT challenged the air-cooled redesign, seeking environmental evaluation. Google says it has not made a final construction decision. [1, 2]

EARLIER MOVES WORTH TESTING

- Start with a cooling design suited to drought exposure. Test groundwater and climate assumptions against adverse conditions, not only historical averages.
- Explain the redesigned project's full effects, including generators, refrigerants and cumulative impacts. Show what changed and what still needs scrutiny.
- Resolve the review pathway transparently with authorities and affected communities. A technical improvement should make the next decision easier to examine.

THE BUSINESS LESSON

A redesign can reduce one source of conflict while leaving the approval case unsettled. The next task is a clear, credible assessment of the project now proposed.

Earlier moves are our assessment of plausible risk reduction, not proof they would have changed the outcome.

SOURCES

- 1 [Environmental Court | Cerrillos judgment](#)
- 2 [BioBioChile | Renewed challenge, 4 Sep 2026](#)