

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Nichole Larson
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Environmental and city impact concerns

While this email is one that has been created for me, I have been a resident of the valley for 38 years and am tired of being told that my water usage needs to be as low as possible, while agriculture and now possibly a data center would be allowed to use as much as they want. While I know the needs of the common citizen of the valley have always taken a backseat to the more affluent, and to the citizens of the bigger cities, such as Bakersfield, the lack of water and already increasing utility prices will have an impact on everyone who lives here. Please review the impact on the most vulnerable citizens and our environment:

I am a resident of Ridgecrest/the Indian Wells Valley writing to express concern about the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center currently under review under CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01.

The Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin is formally designated as critically overdrafted. Current pumping is 20,840 acre-feet per year against the reported sustainable yield of only 7,650. A facility of this size, using evaporative cooling in desert conditions, can consume roughly 500,000 gallons of water per day – close to 8 percent of the basin's entire sustainable annual yield, used by a single facility every day.

This basin has no surface water. No river. No backup. The aquifer is the only source of water for 38,000 residents and Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. Phase 2 of the water rights adjudication goes to trial June 1, 2026. The pipeline currently proposed to address this project has no appropriated funding or complete design, is considered by many to be unfeasible and depends on a State Water Project that delivered only 5% of contracted water in 2022 and sits at 30% for 2026. There is no margin for new large-scale groundwater demand at this time.

I respectfully request a full environmental review with specific attention to water supply impacts, and that any approval require demonstrated water-neutral or dry cooling technology before construction begins.

Nichole Larson
Ridgecrest/Indian Wells Valley Resident
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