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CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01

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.

Jenn Foster
Ridgecrest/Indian Wells Valley Resident
1129 Las Cruces Ct, Ridgecrest, CA 93555