

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	26-SPPE-01
Project Title:	RB Inyokern Data Center (RBIDC)
TN #:	269728
Document Title:	Tamara M. Bouyer Comments - Comments on RB Inyokern Data Center — CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01 — Request Full Water Impact Review
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Tamara M. Bouyer
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	4/30/2026 9:42:47 AM
Docketed Date:	4/30/2026

Comment Received From: Tamara M. Bouyer

Submitted On: 4/30/2026

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Comments on RB Inyokern Data Center – CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01 – Request Full Water Impact Review

I am a resident of Ridgecrest writing to formally express serious concern regarding the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center under review in CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01.

The Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin is officially designated as critically overdrafted. Current extraction stands at approximately 20,840 acre-feet per year, while the basin's sustainable yield is only 7,650. A facility of this scale, particularly one relying on evaporative cooling in desert conditions, is estimated to consume up to 500,000 gallons of water per day. That level of demand represents a substantial and unacceptable additional burden on an already depleted and fragile water system.

This basin has no alternative water sources, no river, no supplemental supply available in the near term. The aquifer is the sole source of water for approximately 30,000 residents, as well as the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

At the same time, Phase 2 of the basin's water rights adjudication is set for trial on June 1, 2026, and the proposed pipeline solution remains entangled in permitting challenges and ongoing litigation. Even if completed, it depends on the State Water Project, which delivered only 5% of contracted water in 2022 and is projected at just 30% for 2026. These realities make it clear: there is no viable capacity for new, high-volume groundwater demand at this time.

Given these facts, I am requesting, not suggesting, that a full and rigorous environmental review be conducted, with explicit and transparent analysis of long-term water supply impacts. Furthermore, any consideration of project approval must be contingent upon verified water-neutral operations or the use of dry cooling technologies prior to construction.

The sustainability of our community's only water source must remain the priority.

Respectfully,

Tammy Bouyer