

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	26-SPPE-01
Project Title:	RB Inyokern Data Center (RBIDC)
TN #:	269732
Document Title:	Paula R Strawser Comments - CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Paula R Strawser
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	4/30/2026 11:09:16 AM
Docketed Date:	4/30/2026

*Comment Received From: Paula R Strawser
Submitted On: 4/30/2026
Docket Number: 26-SPPE-01*

CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01

I have lived in Ridgecrest/the Indian Wells Valley for more than 40 years. I strongly oppose 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. Do the math. This is not sustainable.

Moreover, 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 infeasible 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 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.

I also request that the impact to the electricity grid be considered. What additional infrastructure would be needed, and who will pay for it? I understand SCE says it can handle the first step. What about later? Who pays?

I also request that you provide numbers of permanent employees it will take to staff the data center once completed and whether you plan to hire locally (meaning in our valley) both for construction and eventual staff.

Also, what does Ridgecrest get from this deal? Tax revenue will accrue to the county with no guarantee that any of that revenue will be used in our valley.

IMH root, this proposal is egregiously irresponsible.

Paula R. Strawser
401 Calle de Collie
Ridgecrest, CA 93555