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Public Comment on Proposed Data Center Project “ Docket No. 26-SPPE-01 (Ridgecrest/Inyokern Area)

I am submitting this comment regarding the proposed data center project under Docket No. 26-SPPE-01.

While I recognize the potential economic and infrastructure benefits associated with this project, I have several concerns related to environmental sustainability and community impacts that I respectfully request be fully evaluated and addressed.

First, water usage is a significant concern given the project’s location in a high desert region with limited groundwater resources. If the facility relies on water-intensive cooling systems, it could place additional strain on an already constrained water supply. I request clear disclosure of projected annual water demand, identification of the proposed cooling method, and consideration of low-water or air-cooled alternatives.

Second, the use of backup diesel generators raises concerns regarding localized air quality impacts. Even intermittent operation can contribute to emissions such as particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, which may affect nearby residents, particularly those with respiratory sensitivities. Please provide detailed information regarding generator usage frequency, emissions controls, and mitigation measures.

Third, I request a comprehensive assessment of potential noise impacts associated with continuous operations, including cooling systems and backup equipment. This should include expected decibel levels at the nearest residential receptors and any mitigation strategies to reduce long-term exposure.

In addition, I request clarification regarding the project’s proximity to residential areas, schools, and other sensitive receptors. An analysis of potential impacts on property values, land use compatibility, and overall community character should be included, particularly if the project is located near existing neighborhoods.

I am also concerned about cumulative environmental impacts when combined with existing regional conditions, including groundwater limitations and desert air quality. Given the environmental constraints of the Ridgecrest/Inyokern area, it is important that the long-term sustainability and appropriateness of this project in this location be carefully evaluated.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and for ensuring a thorough and transparent review process.