

**DOCKETED**

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## **Data Center Concerns**

I am a resident of Inyokern/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.

In addition there are concerns over light, sound, and environmental pollution.

1. Where is the water going that they are using? If it's back to the ground, then what contaminants is it carrying with it to poison the well for all of us?
2. What about heat/gas emissions? That much data generates a lot of heat and chemical outputs. What is being released into the air we breathe. Also, that extra heat being produced will directly affect the climate around it. Do we really want hotter temperatures in the summer?
3. The sound from the generators and operations in general will be loud all hours of the day. There are residents directly across the street. This is not a big city where sounds are expected, this is a quiet community who enjoys their peace.
4. The lights to operate at night will directly affect the community and surrounding areas. The light pollution is not something a rural community is used to and will impact tourism who enjoy the dark nights and sky watching.

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.

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