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Request for Full Water Impact Review

The Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin is formally designated as critically overdrafted. I'm sure you're aware that it's been reported to pump 20,840 acre-feet per year against the reported sustainable yield of only 7,650. A facility of the proposed 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. The heat is extreme in this area, so I expect that 500,000 gallons/day may even be an underestimate.

This basin has no surface water. No river. No backup. The aquifer is the only source of water for 38,000 residents and NAWS 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.

As someone who will be impacted by the water use, 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.