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*Comment Received From: Holly Staab
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Request full assessment

I am a resident of Ridgecrest 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. A facility of this size will require cooling to function in our extreme desert conditions. Even at the numbers claimed by the developer, just the first phase would use almost 2% of our entire valley's documented sustainable yield water.

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. The pipeline currently proposed by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority has no appropriated funding or complete design, 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 in the Indian Wells Valley in the foreseeable future.

The project's Will-Serve letter is from the Inyokern Community Services District (CSD), a near-defunct organization that failed to supply water to customers for months out of 2025. The CSD is currently under state review to potentially be absorbed by the Indian Wells Valley Water District. Bottom line, the Inyokern CSD is not in a position to promise anything to anyone. The prospect that the Data Center project will provide needed infrastructure improvements only has merit as far as extensive studies are done to prove the water and power needs can be met and sustained without detriment to the citizens and industry currently in the valley.

I respectfully request a full environmental review with specific attention to water-supply, wildlife and dark sky impacts, and that any approval require the use of demonstrated water-neutral or dry-cooling technology before construction begins.