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*Comment Received From: Dustin Fortner
Submitted On: 5/12/2026
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I am writing to express my strong support for the RB Inyokern Data Center

I believe this project represents an important investment in California's digital infrastructure, economic development, and long-term technological competitiveness. The proposed project has the potential to provide meaningful economic benefits for Kern County and the surrounding region through construction activity, creation of skilled jobs, increased local tax revenues, and expanded infrastructure investment.

At a time when Kern County is facing a reported \$14 million budget deficit for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, projects such as the RB Inyokern Data Center are especially important because they can help strengthen the local tax base, stimulate private investment, and support long-term economic stability for the community. In addition to the direct employment opportunities generated during construction and operations, large-scale infrastructure projects like this often create secondary economic benefits for local businesses, contractors, suppliers, and service providers throughout the region. Investments in advanced technology infrastructure also help position Kern County and California to meet the rapidly growing demand for secure and reliable data processing capacity while supporting innovation-driven industries and future economic growth.

I also appreciate the California Energy Commission's thorough review process under the Small PowerPlant review process under the Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) framework. It is important that projects proceed with appropriate environmental oversight and mitigation measures, particularly regarding water usage, air quality, energy efficiency, and community impacts. I encourage the applicant and reviewing agencies to continue working collaboratively with local stakeholders to ensure responsible development and sustainable operations. With proper environmental safeguards and compliance measures in place, I support advancing the RB Inyokern Data Center

Project through the review and permitting process. I believe this project can serve as a positive economic driver for Kern County while helping California maintain its leadership in technology and infrastructure development.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for the record.

Sincerely,
Dustin Fortner