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Inyokern Cannot Support Datacenters

Inyokern and the greater Indian Wells Valley is a desert community. Water is a precious resource here. Our groundwater is dangerously overdrafted already, between the local communities, the Navy base, and the pistachio farms. Wells have been dropping for years. The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority is engaged in exploring options to pipe water in from outside the valley to replenish our dwindling groundwater. This groundwater serves multiple communities, including Inyokern, Ridgecrest, and Trona. These communities depend on this water to survive.

To cool this proposed datacenter in a region that regularly sees several months of temperatures in excess of 100F would require massive volumes of water, making their use vastly disproportionate to the existing water use in the valley. Our already strained water sources simply cannot support this project. The desert is NOT an appropriate place for a project with such excessive water needs.

Moreover, this project will add more air pollution from the diesel generators, noise pollution from the constant operation, and light pollution that may interfere with activities at the base. In return for this disruption and monopolization to our water supply, the communities in this valley will see no benefit. Speaking as a tech/cybersecurity professional of over 20 years, I am intimately familiar with how minimally staffed the majority of datacenters are. This will not create jobs for our community. No money will flow into our community from this project. Our community will only be robbed of our already limited water resources and receive nothing in return except more pollution.

Taking all these factors into consideration, especially the unsustainability of this datacenter's draw on our critically important water supply, I urge you to deny the permits for this project in Inyokern. The desert is no place for a datacenter.