

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Crystal Ibarra*  
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## **Opposition to data center in Inyokern, CA**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a large-scale data center in our small desert community of Ridgecrest. While technological development and economic growth are important, this project appears fundamentally incompatible with the realities and limitations of our region.

Our community already faces significant challenges related to infrastructure, utility costs, and long-term resource sustainability. Residents in this area pay disproportionately high utility costs due to our remote location and existing infrastructure demands. Introducing a large data center—an operation known for substantial energy and water consumption—would place additional strain on systems that are already stretched thin.

Perhaps most concerning is the issue of water availability. Living in the desert means water is not an unlimited resource. Many residents already have serious concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of our local water supply, particularly as California continues to face drought conditions and increasing environmental pressures. Approving a project that could dramatically increase water and energy demand sends the message that corporate expansion is being prioritized over the long-term well-being of the people who already live here.

In addition, this project raises serious concerns regarding environmental and wildlife impacts. Desert ecosystems are fragile and slow to recover from disruption. Large-scale industrial development can negatively affect native wildlife through habitat destruction, increased noise and light pollution, heat generation, increased traffic, and strain on already-limited natural resources. Many species in desert environments depend on delicate ecological balance to survive, and further industrialization threatens to disturb that balance in ways that may not be reversible.

Beyond resource and environmental concerns, there is also widespread community opposition to this proposal. Residents choose to live in communities like Ridgecrest because of its scale, character, open desert environment, and way of life. A large industrial-style data center does not align with the needs or vision of many local residents and risks permanently altering the nature of our town while providing limited direct benefit to the community itself.

Economic development should not come at the expense of environmental sustainability, infrastructure stability, wildlife preservation, or the quality of life of existing residents. I respectfully urge decision-makers to carefully consider the cumulative impacts this project would have on our community and deny approval for the proposed data center.