

DOCKETED

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Moratorium requested re “ RB Inyokern Data Center

To the California Energy Commission:

I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission place an immediate moratorium on further advancement of the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center application until the applicant provides substantially more complete, independently verifiable technical disclosure regarding the projects cooling systems, realistic, long-term water demand, atmospheric modeling assumptions, and cumulative expansion impacts.

Because of unresolved technical and environmental concerns within the current public record, I respectfully request:

- 1) An immediate moratorium on further advancement of the project review until these issues are independently clarified and publicly vetted.
- 2) Full disclosure of all atmospheric and thermal assumptions used to derive projected water consumption estimates.
- 3) Independent verification of cooling-system performance under real Indian Wells Valley summer conditions.
- 4) Expanded cumulative-impact analysis, addressing future expansion phases and climate-warming scenarios.
- 5) A full CEQA review before irreversible infrastructure or permitting momentum proceeds.

The current public record appears insufficient for meaningful public evaluation of the projects, true long-term impacts on water resources, infrastructure, and regional sustainability.

At issue is not merely the existence of a cooling-system, but whether the projects publicly stated water use projections accurately reflect real operational conditions in the Indian Wells Valley under prolonged, extreme desert heat.

The application currently appears vague or incomplete regarding several critical engineering and environmental assumptions that materially affect cooling-system performance and evaporative water demand including:

- Peak dry-bulb temperature assumptions
- Wet-bulb temperature assumptions
- Humidity assumptions
- Duration of prolonged heat events
- Nighttime thermal recovery conditions
- Future climate-warming scenarios
- Efficiency degradation during sustained high temperature operation

- Water-demand escalation during extended heat waves

These omissions are significant because hybrid and closed-loop cooling systems remain highly dependent upon surrounding atmospheric conditions. Their operational efficiency can materially decline during prolonged extreme heat events – especially when nighttime temperatures remain elevated and systems, lose the ability to sufficiently recover thermally.

This concern is especially relevant in the Indian Wells Valley, where summer temperatures have repeatedly exceeded 110°F in recent years and nighttime temperatures during heat events often remain in the upper 70s and 80s.

Those are not hypothetical future conditions. They are recurring present-day desert realities.

My husband, who holds a masters degree in electrical engineering with an emphasis in statistical signal processing, reviewed the public application materials with me. One major concern from an engineering-analysis perspective is that the application appears to present outcomes estimated without fully disclosing the underlying environmental variables, modeling assumptions, sensitivity ranges, and stress condition scenarios used to produce those estimates.

In complex, high thermal load systems, assumptions and boundary conditions materially affect projected outcomes. Without transparent disclosure of those assumptions and stress testing under prolonged desert heat conditions, the public cannot meaningfully evaluate whether the projects projected water usage reflects realistic, operational performance in the Indian Wells Valley.

Additionally, the application materials appear insufficient regarding cumulative future expansion impacts, including discussion surrounding a potential second unit and broader phased development. Water demand and infrastructure impacts should not be evaluated solely as a single isolated first phase facility. IF future expansion is reasonably foreseeable, which the application states is planned.

This is particularly important in a groundwater-stressed basin already facing overdraft concerns, imported water discussions, adjudication pressures and long-term sustainability challenges.

Projects of this scale should NOT move forward based upon incomplete technical disclosure or optimistic operational assumptions that may materially underestimate long-term resource impacts in a desert basin already under stress.

Thank you for your consideration and for maintaining an open public review process regarding this proposed project.