

DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Kenneth Harwood
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In support of

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kenneth Harwood. I was born and raised in the Indian Wells Valley, born at Ridgecrest Hospital, and graduated from Burroughs High School. I am a local businessman and real estate owner in this valley, and I support the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center project.

I understand that water usage is the biggest concern many residents have. That concern is valid, and it should be carefully reviewed through the CEQA process and by the appropriate agencies. However, according to public reporting, the project application currently states an estimated water use of approximately 50 acre-feet per year using a hybrid cooling system. (Fresno Bee)

Recently, our area also approved projects that require significant long-term water usage, including a new swimming pool facility reportedly estimated around 33 acre-feet annually. In my opinion, we need to evaluate all projects consistently and based on facts.

Our valley recently lost more than 300 jobs connected to Searles Valley Minerals. That loss affects far more than the workers themselves. It impacts local restaurants, coffee shops, retailers, contractors, and many other small businesses throughout our community. Fewer jobs eventually means fewer customers supporting local businesses.

I believe this project could help bring construction jobs, technical jobs, and higher-skilled employment opportunities into our valley – the type of modern and educated workforce opportunities we need to support long-term economic stability here.

I also believe the proposed location makes sense because it is outside the city limits while still bringing economic benefit to the region.

I support responsible growth, careful environmental review, and projects that help create opportunity for the future of the Indian Wells Valley.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Harwood
Ridgecrest, California