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Comment Received From: Dana Thompson
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Opposition RB Inyokern Data Center

Dear California Energy Commission,

My name is Dana Thompson, and I am reaching out as a deeply concerned citizen of Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley to state my opposition to the proposed data center in Inyokern, CA.

I understand firsthand the importance of technological advancements and recognize that communities must evolve. My opposition stems from a deep concern that this particular project is incompatible with the reality and long-term well-being of the rural desert community it is proposed for.

The scale of this proposal is significant. This data center is a significant development in an otherwise rural environment where residents still ride horses to go to the market. Even with the most modern emission controls, this project creates environmental hazards, noise, and air quality concerns in an area of California that I do not believe can absorb these consequences well. The introduction of a data center into this environment will radically change how the Indian Wells Valley community lives.

I am especially concerned about the environmental justice implications. Many residents in this region are economically disadvantaged and have limited resources to relocate, manage health impacts, or advocate for themselves. I am concerned that rural communities like ours are becoming increasingly attractive for industrial-scale data infrastructure because land is inexpensive, populations are smaller, and resistance is expected to be lower. Approval of this project risks establishing a precedent for continued expansion in an industry whose environmental demands and long-term impacts are fundamentally incompatible with the realities of this desert.

Supporters of this project will point to job creation, but the projected figures are minimal at best. In my view, the promise of 30 to 60 jobs does not justify the long-term threat to water, utility infrastructure, air quality, community character, and quality of life for the residents of the Indian Wells Valley.

As for the tax revenue, we must ask ourselves what clean air and reliable water are truly worth in a rural desert community. These are not abstract environmental concerns. They are part of daily life and long-term survival in this region. Economic development means nothing if it comes at the cost of the very resources that make life here possible.

I respectfully urge the CEC to carefully evaluate whether this project represents an appropriate and equitable use of this area and whether the risks outweigh the minimal projected gains. Our rural communities deserve the same protection and thoughtful

planning as any other region in California. I am hopeful that the Commission will stand with the residents of the Indian Wells Valley, who have overwhelmingly rejected this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Dana Thompson