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Concern for Inyokern and data center and water issues

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin is already withdrawing far more water than nature returns with no other local sources of water such as surface water. So every acre-foot added to the demand side of that ledger is water we do not currently have, and will make it harder to meet our goals without expensive options that will bankrupt our families and businesses.

We are not opposed to economic development. We are opposed to development that doesn't make sense for our dry desert climate, or that is approved on figures that don't reflect the climate we actually live in.

Before this project can go one step farther, we need a common-sense analysis that considers the following items as a part of the developer's SPPE exemption request with the California Energy Commission:

- â€œ... The full equipment specification, specifically what the "backup evaporative cooling" threshold temperature is and its rated water consumption at 95°F, 100°F, and 105°F operating points.

- â€œ... A climate-adjusted WUE (Water Usage Effectiveness) calculation using Inyokern historical temperature data (NOAA records are publicly available).

- â€œ... The cooling tower makeup water rate in gallons per minute at design conditions.

- â€œ... An independent third-party water audit, as the discrepancy between a 50 AF claim and climate reality is significant enough to warrant it.

And we especially need our community to be involved and active in ensuring that those in power understand the real and significant water concerns of our valley, and how important they are to the future of our families, businesses, and communities.