

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Manuel Rodriguez
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Support for RB Inyokern Data Center

Please see attached PDF

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

May 21, 2026

California Energy Commission

Docket Unit, MS-4

Docket No. 26-SPPE-01

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for RB Inyokern Data Center — Docket No. 26-SPPE-01

Subject: Water Supply Facts and Context

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the RB Inyokern Data Center project (Docket No. 26-SPPE-01) and to provide factual context regarding the project's water demand — a topic that has been significantly misrepresented in public comments filed on this docket.

The Facts on Water

The RB Inyokern Data Center's projected water consumption is **37 to 49 acre-feet per year (AFY)**, as documented in the applicant's filing. This represents less than **0.25%** of the Indian Wells Valley basin's total annual pumping and less than **0.64%** of the basin's adjudicated sustainable yield of 7,650 AFY.

The project's water supply is secured through an executed **Will-Serve Letter from the Inyokern Community Services District**, confirming the district's capacity and commitment to serve the facility.

A Local Comparison Puts This in Perspective

Many opposition comments claim the Indian Wells Valley cannot support any additional water use. However, the City of Ridgecrest — located in the same groundwater basin — recently approved the following for the Sgt. John Pinney Memorial Aquatics Center:

- A **\$492,000 dedicated production well**, drilled directly into the Indian Wells Valley aquifer
- A **\$115,000 SCE electrical hookup** to power the well pump
- Estimated annual water demand of approximately **33 acre-feet per year**

This was approved by the Ridgecrest City Council on **March 18, 2026**, with no environmental review filed on CEQAnet and no public opposition.

Side-by-Side Comparison

	Pinney Pool Complex	RB Inyokern Data Center
Annual Water Use	~33 AFY	37–49 AFY
Water Source	Dedicated well (IWV aquifer)	Inyokern CSD (Will-Serve Letter)
Environmental Review	None apparent	Full SPPE (CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01)
Annual Tax Revenue	\$0 (public facility)	\$6,000,000+
Construction Jobs	Standard municipal	1,600+ (union workforce commitment)
Permanent Jobs	Seasonal lifeguards	30–60 high-wage positions
Opposition Filed	0 comments	100+ comments
% of Basin Sustainable Yield	0.43%	0.48–0.64%

The data center uses roughly the same amount of water as a public swimming pool — yet generates millions in annual tax revenue, creates over 1,600 construction jobs under an executed workforce commitment agreement, and is undergoing the most rigorous environmental review process available under California law.

The Opposition's Claims Do Not Withstand Scrutiny

Several opposition comments cite a figure of "1,822 acre-feet per year" — a number that originated from a misreading of a news article and has no basis in the applicant's actual filing. The project's true water demand of 37–49 AFY is approximately **2–3% of the figure being circulated on social media.**

The fact that the same community has raised no objection to a recreational facility consuming nearly identical water volumes — from the same aquifer, via a dedicated well drilled at public expense — demonstrates that the opposition to this project is not grounded in legitimate water supply concerns.

Conclusion

The RB Inyokern Data Center's water demand is modest, fully secured by a Will-Serve Letter, and comparable to existing approved uses in the same basin that have generated no controversy. I respectfully urge the Commission to evaluate the project's water supply on

the basis of the technical record — not on the volume of form letters citing debunked figures.

I support approval of this SPPE application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Rodriguez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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