

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Paul Wood  
Submitted On: 5/26/2026  
Docket Number: 26-SPPE-01*

## **Concerns and Comments**

Please see the attached document outlining some of my concerns and comments regarding this project.

< RB Data Center Concerns(05-26-2026).pdf >

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

Date: May 26, 2026

To: The California Energy Commission

CC: Kern County District Supervisors; Senator Grove; Senator Padilla; Senator Schiff; Assembly Member Ellis; Congressman Fong; Senator Padilla; Senator Schiff;

Regarding: RB Data Center - CEC Docket 26-SPPE-01

I live in the affected area where the Inyokern RB Data Center is being proposed. I have several urgent concerns which need to be addressed. These seem simple enough but deserve your attention and consideration when preparing an analysis for a project like this.

### **1) Groundwater usage and depletion**

- Long-term water sustainability:

Under SB 610, a project this large must demonstrate a reliable 20-year water supply.

- Is the projected water use realistic?

We have seen and experienced other industries underestimate their projected usage. And once confronted they simply respond by saying it's an "estimate". And thereby being granted a waiver. This is NOT acceptable under the condition the Indian Wells Valley water shed is under. We are in a severe overdraft condition.

It appears the current application is for a small portion of the project. When the project is completed, it will be much larger than the original application. What about the "estimated" water usage then (upon complete build out)?

I have seen an increase in my water bills due to over pumping by other industries in the valley during the past 10 years. This Data Center appears to be one industry replacing another and applying additional stress on our water supply. What about the cost of importing water? Why should I pay for that when this new industry is known for excessive water use.

### **2) Impacts to infrastructure affecting power:**

The proposed project will require additional power infrastructure. This new industry should pay 100% for this since it is the single reason the power infrastructure requires improvement. The residents and existing customers should never see any increase.

### **3) Project location within the community**

The project is planned to be located within one block of downtown Inyokern and three blocks away from the community elementary school. The entire housing area of downtown Inyokern will be affected by this project in a non-pleasing manner (see concern 4 below). This project does not fit the characteristics of this small-town community. Period.

Date: May 26, 2026

#### **4) Noise impact:**

Once construction is complete, the noise from the cooling systems, the actual building “hum” and support equipment is known to carry far outside the operating area and disrupt livestock, natural animal habitat as well as humans.

In addition, backup generators must be exercised and maintained on a monthly basis. The noise and pollution from the estimated number of forty diesel generators will be detrimental to the area. The valley is just that. A valley. History shows us that pollutants such as dust from the Owens Lake have been trapped in the valley and sometimes remain for days, and weeks. The Owens Lake is a prime example of a project gone wrong and it took years of litigation and hundreds of millions of dollars to try to mitigate the hazards. And the mitigation process continues to this day. We don't need something like that again.

So, who and how will compliance be measured and enforced? A community oversight committee? It must be from a group that resides within the project community. Not some far away jurisdiction.

#### **5) Zoning:**

This project is proposed in M-2 zoning, which states:

“Uses may not produce fumes, odor, dust, smoke, gas or vibrations extending beyond zoning district boundaries.”

We see these signs erected during construction all the time. Does it really help? I have called the number on the sign to report excessive dust and was either disconnected as soon as I started describing an issue or the number was no longer in service. Again, the only true accountability is for a local oversight committee consisting of a group that resides within the project community. Not from some far away jurisdiction.

#### **5) Violations (during construction and operation):**

A project this type and size should not be allowed to deviate from its actual plans and permits. No waivers and no exemptions. And what if a violation is reported? The project must halt. Mitigation must begin and be resolved before the project can continue. Even after completion. The site must be able to be shut down if it produces any fumes, odor, dust, smoke, gas or vibrations extending beyond the project property or violates and other requirements. This should include water consumption.

**Remember, the valley is in a critical overdraft condition. No surface water, no lakes or streams.**

I appreciate you taking the time to read my concerns and respectfully ask that you act on them.

Sincerely,  
Paul Wood

Long time resident of the Indian Wells Valley, since 1962