

DOCKETED

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Proposed data center is not compatible with desert environment

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed data center near Inyokern, California. This project is incompatible with both the limited water resources available in the Indian Wells Valley and the environmental impacts associated with cooling a large-scale computing facility in an already extreme desert climate.

The Indian Wells Valley, where the proposed facility would be located, is currently experiencing a critical groundwater overdraft condition and is subject to management and oversight under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Groundwater levels throughout the basin continue to decline, creating legitimate concerns about the long-term availability of water for residents, businesses, agriculture, and essential public services. Valley residents do not need or want an additional large industrial user competing for an already scarce and diminishing water supply.

In addition to its water demands, the data center would generate substantial amounts of waste heat that must be dissipated into the surrounding environment. Summer temperatures in the Indian Wells Valley regularly exceed 115°F, and nighttime temperatures can remain in the 90s for extended periods. Releasing additional heat into this already harsh environment is inconsistent with the region's climate realities and could contribute to localized temperature increases, adversely affecting nearby residents, businesses, and travelers.

Given the valley's ongoing groundwater crisis and the environmental concerns associated with operating a large data center in an extreme desert environment, I respectfully urge decision-makers to carefully consider the long-term impacts of this proposal and reject any project that threatens the sustainability and quality of life of the Indian Wells Valley community.

Thank you for your consideration.