

**DOCKETED**

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## **Not enough water for residents now No to a data center in Inyokern**

The Indian Wells Valley due to rain shadow is a hot, dry graben with a closed potable aquifer. Recent groundwater monitoring shows that agricultural wells are depleting residential water supply. Data centers will destroy the communities of Inyokern, and Ridgecrest by completely draining residential wells.

Data centers will heat arid air whose temperatures are already climbing due to desiccating winds exacerbated by climate change.

Desert ecosystems are at the brink of destruction by anthropogenic climate change and urban sprawl.

Mojave ground squirrel and desert tortoise are just barely surviving because human structures give nesting platforms to predators. Millions of migratory birds use the Indian Wells Valley to rest during their long flights to and from breeding areas. The desert also supports breeding populations of desert species such as the Verdin and LeContes Thrasher. The desert is alive with endemic species that exist because they have enough land to eke out a decent existence. Data centers will destroy more of the plants of the Mojave sub province of the Sonoran floristic province which is experiencing catastrophic decline with urban sprawl and introduction of exotic species which create ladder fuels for fire to burn native vegetation. Joshua tree groves are being plowed under even with endangered species designation because Kern County left as lead agency in CEQA violates many provisions of the Act by never examining the cumulative effects of multiple projects.

Data centers are destroying human capital and leading down a path of misinformation that less and less educated people with limited critical thinking skills cannot recognize as a danger to their lives and communities.

The rush to build data centers for a technology that is in its infancy with zero safeguards to protect against the real socioeconomic and ecological damages that are certain to occur borders on criminal.

Slow down. Reject this proposal on its face because every short term solution creates long term problems.