

**DOCKETED**

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| <b>Docket Number:</b>   | 26-SPPE-01                                  |
| <b>Project Title:</b>   | RB Inyokern Data Center (RBIDC)             |
| <b>TN #:</b>            | 270346                                      |
| <b>Document Title:</b>  | B3K Prosperity Comments - Letter of Support |
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*Comment Received From: B3K Prosperity  
Submitted On: 5/29/2026  
Docket Number: 26-SPPE-01*

## **Letter of Support**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



May 28, 2026

California Energy Commission  
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

On behalf of B3K Prosperity, I write to express our support for the RB Inyokern Data Center project (Docket No. 26-SPPE-01), a proposed 99 MW AI-ready data center campus in unincorporated Eastern Kern County near Inyokern, California. This project directly advances the economic development objectives that B3K Prosperity was created to pursue — quality job creation, industry diversification, and expanded pathways to prosperity for all Kern County residents.

#### **Alignment with B3K's Mission and Strategic Priorities**

B3K Prosperity was formed in 2020 as a collaboration among business, government, and civic stakeholders with a singular purpose: to create 100,000 quality jobs in the Bakersfield-Kern County region and develop pathways for access that help local families improve their economic standing and quality of life. Our region faces well-documented challenges — more than half of families struggle to make ends meet, and more than a third of local residents are part of struggling working families.

The RB Inyokern Data Center represents exactly the kind of transformative investment our region needs. It delivers high-quality employment at scale, diversifies our economic base beyond traditional industries, and brings long-term fiscal stability to a part of Kern County that has been underserved by economic development.

#### **Quality Job Creation**

The project is projected to generate over 1,600 construction jobs during a 3+ year build-out phase, with peak employment of approximately 592 workers. Upon completion, the facility will support 30–60 permanent, high-paying operations and maintenance positions — the kind of quality jobs that B3K was created to champion. When indirect and induced employment is included, the project's total economic employment impact is estimated at over 530 jobs.

Critically, the developer has committed to prioritizing local hiring from Inyokern, Ridgecrest, and the broader Indian Wells Valley, and has expressed interest in partnering with Cerro Coso Community College to develop workforce training programs that prepare local residents for careers in data center operations and technology infrastructure — a direct investment in the human capital of our region.

### **Industry Diversification**

Kern County's economy has historically depended on agriculture and petroleum production — industries that, as B3K's own market assessment has documented, are facing structural headwinds. The RB Inyokern Data Center introduces a new, high-growth industry sector to Eastern Kern County. Data centers and digital infrastructure represent one of the fastest-growing asset classes in the United States, and this project positions Kern County to participate in California's AI and cloud computing economy rather than being left behind.

This aligns directly with B3K's strategic focus on Opportunity Industries, including Advanced Manufacturing, Energy and Carbon Management, and Business Services — all of which intersect with the data center industry's supply chain and operational ecosystem.

### **Fiscal Impact and Community Investment**

At a time when Kern County faces significant budget pressures, this project is expected to generate over \$6 million annually in property tax revenue to Kern County, local school districts, fire districts, and special districts — with zero cost to taxpayers. All infrastructure improvements, including road upgrades, utility connections, and fire protection enhancements, are fully developer-funded.

The project also includes community benefit commitments such as local sponsorships, youth programs, and partnerships with the Inyokern Community Services District to support long-term water sustainability and infrastructure improvements.

### **Environmental Responsibility**

We note that the project has undergone rigorous environmental analysis across all 20 CEQA resource categories. The facility employs an advanced hybrid adiabatic cooling system that uses only 37–49 acre-feet of water per year — 98% less than traditional data centers. Backup generators are equipped with Tier 4 Final-equivalent emission controls and operate only during rare grid outages or brief monthly testing. During normal operations, the facility runs entirely on grid power and produces zero on-site emissions.

B3K Prosperity believes the RB Inyokern Data Center is a model for the kind of responsible, high-impact economic development that Kern County needs. It creates quality jobs, diversifies our industrial base, generates substantial tax revenue, and does so with minimal environmental impact. We respectfully urge the Commission to approve the Small Power Plant Exemption for this project.

We appreciate the Commission's thorough review process and stand ready to provide any additional information that may be helpful.

Respectfully,



Christian Clegg  
B3K Board Chair  
B3K Prosperity  
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