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*Comment Received From: Cameron Lewis
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**Support for Local Jobs, Economic Development, and the RB
Inyokern Data Center Project**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed R&L Business Management Data Center Project in Inyokern, California.

As someone who works in construction and industrial projects in the Indian Wells Valley region, I have firsthand experience with the skilled workforce that keeps our local economy moving. Projects of this scale create opportunities not only for engineers and technology professionals, but also for welders, pipefitters, millwrights, electricians, surveyors, equipment operators, fabricators, truck drivers, and numerous local contractors and suppliers. These are the types of jobs that allow working families to remain in our communities and build long-term careers.

The timing of this project is especially important given the economic challenges currently facing our region. Nearby communities such as Trona have been significantly impacted by the recent workforce reductions at Searles Valley Minerals, where hundreds of employees have reportedly been laid off as operations were reduced. Those layoffs are affecting families, local businesses, schools, and the broader regional economy. ([Trona on the Web](#))

At a time when neighboring communities are losing major industrial employment, projects that bring private investment, construction activity, and long-term skilled jobs should be seriously considered and fairly evaluated.

After reviewing many of the public comments submitted in opposition, I believe the California Energy Commission should continue to rely on technical analysis, environmental review, engineering studies, and enforceable mitigation measures rather than assumptions and speculation about future impacts.

I respect the concerns that have been raised regarding water usage and environmental impacts. However, I believe all projects should be evaluated consistently and based on facts. Public discussion has acknowledged that other regional projects involving significant water use have moved forward, including the new Ridgecrest aquatics center and pool facility. At the same time, public reports and project discussions surrounding the RB Data Center have indicated substantially reduced water consumption compared to traditional data center designs through the use of modern cooling approaches. ([California Energy Commission](#))

If our region is willing to support other projects that require long-term water use because they provide community benefits, then industrial and technology projects that create jobs, tax revenue,

infrastructure investment, and economic diversification deserve the same objective review process. The standard should be consistency, not selective opposition.

Many opposition comments appear to assume worst-case outcomes before the environmental review process has been completed. The purpose of the CEC review process is to determine whether impacts can be avoided, minimized, or mitigated to acceptable levels under California law. The existence of concerns alone should not automatically be treated as justification for denying a project.

The Indian Wells Valley has a long history of supporting aerospace, defense, energy, mining, industrial, and technology-related development. Responsible growth has helped sustain our communities for generations. Rejecting major investment opportunities based primarily on speculation risks discouraging future employers and industries from locating in our region.

I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to continue evaluating this project based on facts, engineering, environmental science, and regulatory compliance. If the project is capable of meeting California's environmental standards and mitigation requirements, it should be approved.

Our region needs investment. Our workforce needs opportunity. And communities facing economic uncertainty need projects that can help strengthen the local economy for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cameron Lewis
Ridgecrest, CA