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RB Inyokern Data Center

Proposed Data Center “One Mile from Home” In an Active Earthquake Zone

I live near the proposed RB Inyokern data center site. While many are rightly focused on water and dark skies, I want to raise another critical concern: earthquake safety.

We are in the Little Lake fault zone. In 2019, we experienced a 7.1 magnitude quake that cracked roads, broke water lines, and rattled every building in Ridgecrest. That was a wake-up call.

Now, a data center is being proposed less than a mile from my home. Data centers rely on massive backup diesel generators, transformers filled with oil, and coolant systems. If another large earthquake (6.0 or higher) hits directly under or near this facility:

• Fuel and chemical tanks could rupture, spilling thousands of gallons of diesel, coolant, or transformer oil into the soil and groundwater.

• Our already stressed water basin could be contaminated for decades “we are at 127% of sustainable yield.

• Emergency services would be overwhelmed dealing with a hazmat spill plus the usual earthquake damage.

• The facility could collapse or catch fire, releasing toxic smoke into our desert air.

Data centers are not designed like hospitals or emergency response centers. They are built for cost and efficiency, not for surviving a 7.1 quake and then containing hazardous spills.

I am not an engineer. But I live here. I remember the ground rolling. I remember the aftershocks. And I know that putting a hazardous industrial facility on an active fault line,

in a waterâ€‘starved desert, is a risk we should not take.

Letâ€™s ask the hard questions before any shovels go into the ground. Our safety, our water, and our future depend on it.