

**DOCKETED**

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## **California Cannot Afford to Lose Water to Data Centers**

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed data center project in Hayward and to urge the California Energy Commission to reject the proposal unless it can clearly demonstrate that it will not cause significant environmental harm to the community and surrounding region.

While I recognize the growing demand for digital infrastructure, data centers can impose substantial environmental costs that must be carefully considered. These facilities often require enormous amounts of electricity and can place additional strain on California's power grid at a time when the state is working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a more sustainable energy system.

I am particularly concerned about the project's potential impacts in the following areas:

⌘ Energy Consumption: Large-scale data centers can consume as much electricity as small cities. Increased energy demand may require additional generation resources and could undermine California's climate and clean-energy goals if not fully supported by new renewable energy sources.

⌘ Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Even when connected to an increasingly clean grid, high electricity demand can contribute to increased emissions during periods when fossil-fuel generation is needed to meet peak demand.

⌘ Water Use: Depending on the cooling technology employed, data centers can consume substantial amounts of water. In a state that regularly experiences drought conditions and water-supply challenges, any significant increase in water demand should be subject to rigorous scrutiny.

⌘ Local Environmental Impacts: Construction and operation of the facility may increase noise, traffic, air pollution, and other impacts on nearby residents and businesses. These effects should be fully evaluated and disclosed.

⌘ Cumulative Impacts: The Commission should consider not only the direct impacts of this project but also the cumulative effects of expanding energy-intensive infrastructure throughout the region.

Given these concerns, I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission:

Require a comprehensive and transparent environmental review of the project;  
Fully evaluate the project's energy, water, climate, and community impacts;  
Consider less environmentally damaging alternatives;

Reject the proposal if significant environmental impacts cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated.

The State of California has established ambitious environmental and climate goals. Any project with the potential to significantly increase energy consumption, resource use, or environmental burdens should be held to the highest standards of review and accountability.