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Opposition to data center in Hayward

Hayward is currently under strict water conservation mandates, yet we're being asked to approve a data center that will consume hundreds of thousands of gallons of water per day for cooling.

They claim it will run on recycled water, but Hayward has limited recycled water capacity. When that supply runs short or needs maintenance, residents will end up paying the price as water prices rise and water pressure in our homes decreases.

At the same time, this facility will demand 77 megawatts of electricity — enough to power roughly 60,000 homes. This burden on our already strained supply will require expensive upgrades to our electrical grid, including new substations, which again, us taxpayers will quietly end up paying for through higher bills.

Most concerning of all, these massive data centers are already becoming obsolete. Small devices like the NVIDIA Jetson Orin Nano Super can now run advanced AI locally for just a few hundred dollars. The data center companies know this.

So why are we being forced to subsidize these enormous, resource-guzzling projects? Before we approve this, the public deserves full transparency on exactly how much water and power this project will use, and exactly who will be paying for the infrastructure upgrades.

With our history of water shortages and rolling blackouts we should not be subsidizing massive corporate data centers while residents are being told to conserve.