

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Stephanie VanGilder  
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## **No more data centers in Hayward**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed data center project. While I understand the economic arguments often made for these facilities, the environmental costs—particularly in California’s current climate reality—are too significant to ignore. Hayward’s water infrastructure is too precious to put at risk

### **1. Excessive Water Use in a Drought-Prone Region**

Data centers are among the most water-intensive industrial facilities operating today. Even “efficient” cooling systems can consume millions of gallons of potable water annually. In a region already facing chronic drought, shrinking snowpack, and increasingly unpredictable water availability, allocating scarce water resources to a private data center is irresponsible.

This project would effectively divert water away from households, local agriculture, and ecosystems that are already under stress. California cannot continue approving industrial uses that worsen long-term water insecurity. Look at the cost of recent climate change with the (6) dead whales. That is already happening in our back yard.

### **2. Harm to Local Wildlife and Habitat**

The proposed site sits within an ecological corridor that supports birds, pollinators, small mammals, and other species that rely on intact habitat to survive. Construction and operation of a large data facility would fragment this habitat, increase noise and light pollution, and introduce year-round industrial activity into an area that currently supports wildlife movement.

Additionally, increased water withdrawals from local sources will degrade riparian zones and wetlands that serve as critical habitat for native species. These ecosystems do not have surplus water to give.

### **3. Cumulative Environmental Burden**

California communities are already absorbing the impacts of rapid data center expansion—higher energy demand, increased strain on water systems, and the loss of open space. Approving yet another facility without fully accounting for cumulative impacts is short-sighted.

The state should be prioritizing land uses that strengthen climate resilience, not those that accelerate resource depletion.

Who really makes the \$:

Who seeks to profit off this? Not the residents of Hayward. What taxes will this company pay that can be circulated back into the local economy? Are they playing climate tax for the impacts on local environment? What are the possible impacts on increased utility charges for local residents to help offset the data center usage? Are we giving this company unfair tax breaks or credits in the name of growing the local economy? What

is the actual jobs this site will create over time? 15-20 or are they just citing the construction numbers to make themselves look better? What is the plan if this site is ever abandoned, who does the cleanup then? What is the plan for their UPS battery recycling? We cannot afford to think short term and lose sight at the costs long term.

#### Conclusion

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to deny approval of this project. The long-term environmental costs especially the heavy water footprint and the disruption of local wildlife habitat far outweigh any short-term economic benefit. California's natural resources are too limited, and too essential, to be sacrificed for another high-consumption industrial facility.