

DOCKETED

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Support Letter

Support Letter for RB Inyokern Data Center Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

August 3, 2026

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 26-SPPE-01
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for RB Inyokern Data Center — Docket No. 26-SPPE-01

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

My name is Salvador Coria, and I am a Pipefitter and proud member of U.A. Local 460. I have worked in the construction industry for 18 years and currently live in Bakersfield, California.

I am writing to express my support for the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center project.

As someone who works in the construction industry, I understand how important projects like this are to our workforce and local economy. The RB Inyokern Data Center represents the kind of investment California should be encouraging. R&L Capital, Inc. has committed to building the project under a Project Labor Agreement through partnerships with the State Building and Construction Trades Council, the Kern, Inyo, and Mono Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and IBEW Local 47. That commitment means union wages, quality benefits, apprenticeship opportunities, and good-paying jobs for skilled workers.

Finding steady, well-paying construction work close to home isn't always easy. This project is expected to employ an average of around 300 union construction workers throughout its four-year construction period, with as many as 600 workers on-site during peak activity. Those jobs provide more than just a paycheck—they support families, strengthen our pension funds, and create valuable opportunities for apprentices to learn their trade and build lasting careers.

Beyond the employment opportunities, this project will provide meaningful benefits to Kern County. It is expected to generate between \$5 million and \$9 million annually in property tax revenue, helping fund schools, roads, public safety, and other essential community services. The facility is planned for industrial-zoned land away from residential neighborhoods, uses a relatively small amount of water, and is undergoing a comprehensive environmental review through the California Energy Commission.

I also encourage the Commission to consider the facts presented in the application when evaluating this project. There has been misinformation circulating online regarding water usage and backup generators. According to the project's application, annual water use is estimated at approximately 36.83 to 49.10 acre-feet—not the much higher figures that have been shared on social media. Likewise, the diesel generators are intended strictly for emergency backup purposes and are not designed to operate continuously.

Data centers are an essential part of today's infrastructure, supporting everything from online communication and streaming services to cloud computing and artificial intelligence. California has an opportunity to lead by ensuring these facilities are built with union labor, strong labor standards, and thorough environmental oversight instead of allowing this work to move elsewhere.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to approve the SPPE application for the RB Inyokern Data Center. I believe this project will create quality jobs, strengthen Kern County's economy, and provide long-term benefits for California.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Salvador Coria
Journeyman Pipefitter
U.A. Local 460
Bakersfield, California