

Liana Jalloul

I strongly oppose the approval of Project Jupiter and urge that this air quality permit be denied. The public must be given an additional 60 days to review and comment on this permit so that all community members have an equitable opportunity to participate in a decision that will have lasting consequences for their health and environment. The permit should also be denied because of Bloom Energy's documented history of illegally dumping hazardous waste. A company with this record should not be entrusted with another project that has the potential to further harm the environment and nearby communities. If the permit is not denied, then at a minimum a public hearing must be held in Santa Teresa, conducted in both English and Spanish, with a virtual participation option so that everyone affected has a fair opportunity to be heard. Approving this permit would amount to government-sponsored environmental racism. Residents of Doña Ana County already bear a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution, and for years the county has been designated a federal nonattainment area because its air quality does not meet federal standards. Adding another major source of pollution would only worsen existing environmental injustices. Beyond the local impacts, we must also consider the global consequences. Data centers consume enormous amounts of electricity and freshwater while contributing significant greenhouse gas emissions. We are already experiencing the effects of climate change through rising temperatures, more extreme weather, melting glaciers and polar ice, and rising sea levels that threaten vulnerable communities and island nations such as the Maldives. Continuing to build massive AI infrastructure without addressing its environmental costs will only accelerate these problems.

Our planet cannot afford more projects that increase pollution, consume precious freshwater, and contribute to climate change. We should be investing in sustainable alternatives instead of expanding infrastructure that places corporate interests above public health, environmental justice, and future generations. I urge you to deny this permit and protect the people of Doña Ana County and our shared environment.