

Jaclyn Apodaca

To Whom It May Concern,

Project Jupiter will harm residents of Doña Ana County and will have widespread consequences for the entire State of New Mexico. During a historic drought, the fact that this project is even being considered is a slap in the face to New Mexicans.

Oracle and OpenAI have spent big money trying to rebrand and greenwash this project, by saying potable water will only be used for office/admin needs, and that Project Jupiter will use non-potable water. New Mexicans are not dumb. We know that non-potable water is essential to our communities continuing to live and thrive—it is the way we grow crops, nourish our flora, and support our wildlife. We also know that water is not the only way to cool data centers—it is simply the least expensive for the operation (but the most expensive for the most affected—us).

In reality, Project Jupiter's water usage is estimated to be nearly one million gallons per day. New Mexicans understand that *agua es vida* and this is a price we simply cannot afford to pay.

Aside from water usage, the effects of data centers are largely negative for surrounding communities:

The energy demands the site will require will put further strain on our powergrids, thus decreasing stability and increasing prices for New Mexicans.

The generators and cooling units create a constant buzz (louder than 85 decibels) for surrounding communities thus creating inescapable noise pollution.

The 24/7 security lighting creates constant and disruptive light pollution for surrounding residents, wildlife and our skies.

The job creation that is touted is grossly overstated, with permanent operational job opportunities increasing by only 20-50 local jobs per city. Not to mention that only 20% of construction workers currently working on the project are New Mexicans.

Furthermore, with the amount of harm this project does to the community and state, Oracle and OpenAI should be injecting billions of dollars into the community. Instead, local leaders have agreed to let these trillion dollar companies off with ~\$500M worth of targeted local reinvestment strategies.

And what is the benefit to New Mexicans? Studies show that the recent increase in construction of data centers is not even to support generative AI, email, social media and other digital activities, but to accommodate the larger IoT growth—namely surveillance! Why are New Mexicans subsidizing the industrial data race for billionaires and trillionaires?

This project is for the benefit of few at the cost of many. We cannot drink data. We cannot water our crops with data. We cannot sustain our wildlife with data. We cannot sacrifice the health and well-being of our most vulnerable communities to subsidize data collection and wealth accumulation of the world's oligarchs.

For this reason, I would like to state on the record that I am firmly against this and any other data center construction in New Mexico. Thank you.

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