

## Eve Ostara

Decades of dams, diversions, and over-allocation of the Colorado River have already left much of the Southwest and northern Mexico struggling with water scarcity. Southern New Mexico depends on limited groundwater and the Rio Grande, both of which are under increasing pressure. Building one of the world's largest AI data centers over a stressed aquifer is the wrong direction. Water is not just another industrial input—it sustains our communities, our farms, our wildlife, and the ecosystems we call home.

In *Running Out*, anthropologist Lucas Bessire reflects on what happens when ancient groundwater is treated as an expendable resource rather than a shared inheritance. Aquifers accumulated over thousands of years can take far longer to replenish than they take to deplete. Once that water is gone, it cannot simply be replaced within a human lifetime.

The Southwest has already spent decades living beyond its hydrologic means. We should not deepen that pattern by inviting another water-intensive industry to depend on groundwater that our communities, our wildlife, and future generations will need. This proposed data center does not belong where water is already scarce.