

Rachel Roberts

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge the County and all permitting authorities to deny Project Jupiter and any associated permits.

This project is fundamentally incompatible with the environmental realities and values of southern New Mexico.

Doña Ana County exists in an arid desert environment where water is our most precious and limited resource. The Rio Grande has experienced historically low flows in recent years, groundwater supplies face increasing pressure, and residents, farmers, ranchers, and businesses are continually asked to conserve water and prepare for a future with less water, not more.

Against this backdrop, it is irresponsible to approve a massive AI data center complex that requires water resources, directly or indirectly, to support an industry whose primary purpose is processing and storing digital information. Regardless of the exact amount of water the facility ultimately consumes, the principle remains the same: scarce desert water should be prioritized for people, agriculture, local businesses, wildlife, and future generations—not for one of the most resource-intensive technology sectors in the world.

Project proponents argue that advanced cooling technologies will minimize water consumption. Even if those claims prove accurate, the project still depends on water through construction, power generation, infrastructure development, and long-term operations. More importantly, approving this project establishes a precedent that Doña Ana County is willing to dedicate scarce natural resources to large-scale AI infrastructure despite worsening drought conditions and climate uncertainty.

This is not simply a question of current water use. It is a question of long-term land-use policy and environmental stewardship. Permits granted today could enable decades of future expansion, technological changes, additional facilities, and increased resource demands. Once the infrastructure is built, future pressure to accommodate additional water and energy needs will be difficult to resist.

I am also deeply concerned about fairness. For years, New Mexicans have been asked to conserve water, reduce consumption, adapt to drought, and accept restrictions designed to protect our limited resources. Farmers face uncertainty about irrigation supplies. Residents are encouraged to xeriscape their yards and reduce outdoor water use. Communities throughout the region are expected to do more with less.

If ordinary New Mexicans are expected to make sacrifices to protect our water future, then multinational technology corporations should not receive special treatment that places additional pressure on those same resources. Conservation cannot be something that is expected only of residents while large industrial developments are welcomed despite the risks they create.

New Mexico's strength has always been its communities, its agricultural heritage, its unique culture, and its connection to the land. Those things are far more valuable than becoming a host site for another massive corporate data center. The benefits of Project Jupiter will primarily flow to large

technology companies and investors, while the environmental risks will remain here with the people who live in Doña Ana County.

The economic benefits are also questionable. Large AI data centers consume enormous amounts of land, electricity, infrastructure capacity, and public resources while creating relatively few permanent jobs compared with many other forms of economic development. We should prioritize industries that create sustainable local employment without placing additional strain on our limited water supplies.

The Southwest is entering an era of increasing water scarcity. Communities across the region are being forced to make difficult choices about growth and resource allocation. In my view, the choice here is clear. Building one of the nation's largest AI data center developments in the Chihuahuan Desert is exactly the wrong project in exactly the wrong place.

Water is too valuable. The risks are too great. The long-term consequences are too uncertain.

Doña Ana County should put its people, its environment, and its future first. I respectfully request that all permits and approvals for Project Jupiter be denied.

Sincerely,

Rachel