Outlook

Environmental Commission: Submitting my comments against SB Energy 75MW data center

From [redacted]
Date Mon 11/16/2026 4:46 PM
To Corona, Nicole <Nicole.Corona@austintexas.gov>

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Dear Ms. Corona and the City of Austin Environmental Commission,

I am writing to state my opposition to the proposed SB Energy data center or R&D center. This facility would be 150' from Balcones Canyonland, which is critical habitat for endangered species — including the golden-cheeked warbler, which could be our new state bird.

I am strongly against building any new data centers anywhere in our city, but I'm especially horrified at a proposal to build near this habitat. The 23 large lithium-ion batteries would cause massive destruction if they explode and catch fire. The 450,000 gallons of chemically treated water to be released could contain forever chemicals that would impact our water system if a leak happened; likewise, the over 4,700 gallons of diesel fuel would cause a terrible disaster for our water system if it leaked into the porous limestone under the facility. On top of this, the constant lights and noise pollution would cause serious negative impacts for Balcones Canyonland visitors, neighbors, and of course local and migrating birds and wildlife.

Austin has so many visitors and residents who come here to enjoy our unique nature and wildlife. I don't want us to sacrifice our water and health just to make money for the owner of a data center.

Please do not move forward with this proposed plan.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ruiz

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