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June 16, 2025

Dear members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors,

The Tucson Mountains Association (TMA) is a 501(c)(4) organization founded in 1934 that represents thousands of residents in the Tucson Mountains and surrounding areas. In light of Tucson's dwindling water supply and the critical importance of conservation to our region's livability, we are deeply alarmed by the potential water demands of the proposed data center complex known as Project Blue. We urge you to require full disclosure of water usage details or reject the proposal.

In 2019, the City of Mesa struck a deal with Google, authorizing up to 4 million gallons of water per day for cooling¹. A nondisclosure agreement prevents us from knowing the details of Project Blue, but if it uses a similar amount of water as the Mesa data center, that would equal approximately 5% of Tucson Water's 2024 delivery².

That's as much water as the entire town of Oro Valley uses³.

Project Blue claims to be "water positive". We must not accept this claim at face value. Google's data centers had a net consumption of 5.2 billion gallons for cooling in 2023, according to their annual environmental report⁴—and Tucson's climate is hotter than any of the locations in the report, suggesting Project Blue could require even more water for cooling. Project Blue plans 8–10 data centers, making it a large campus by industry standards. Making a large, hot campus "water positive" is an extraordinary claim that requires extraordinary evidence.

If Project Blue claims to be significantly more water efficient than smaller campuses in cooler climates, those promises must be codified in an enforceable contract. We cannot afford to gamble our water security on unverified sales pitches and secretive deals.

Sincerely,

Ed Hendel
President, Tucson Mountains Association

¹ <https://www.businessinsider.com/arizona-running-out-of-water-data-centers-blame-microsoft-google-2023-6>

² <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/News-articles/By-the-Numbers-2024>

³ https://www.orovalleyaz.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/documents/water-utility/standards-specifications-and-checklists/2018_potable_water_master_plan_final.pdf

⁴ <https://www.gstatic.com/gumdrop/sustainability/google-2023-environmental-report.pdf>