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COACHELLA VALLEY MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL



Crystal Hernández, center, performs with other members of Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles.

Mariachi Reyna reflects on performance with Karol G

Emma Sasic Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

During Karol G's historic Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival headlining set, which was all about female empowerment and Latino pride, one of the most memorable moments was when the Colombian star brought out an all-female mariachi band. • Twelve members of Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles, America's first all-female mariachi group, surprised the audience on Sunday, April 12, with the sounds of trumpets, violins and guitars, which led to an eruption of excitement from the crowd. The women also performed Karol G's songs "Ese Hombre Es Malo" and "MAMIII" with guest Becky G.

"When we first walked out, we could see the huge amount of people there," Crystal Hernández, a violinist/vocalist with the group, said. "It was really cool to see the faces of the first good chunk of rows of people and how excited they were and how much joy it brought everyone to see us up there."

But the moment represented so much more than just taking the stage with a superstar. It was part of history, as Karol G became the first Latina to headline the festival. The mariachi band itself has also pushed the boundaries of what is possible in the music space in its three-decade-long history.

"We got to represent women, Latino women, our music and our culture with pride," Hernández said. "We hold it very near and dear to our hearts."

Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles history

Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles was established in 1994 by José Hernández, a renowned mariachi musician and director of Mariachi Sol de México. It came at a time when the industry was heavily male-dominated, but more and more young girls and women were expressing interest. His own after school mariachi program was made up by more young girls than boys.

"They didn't have a professional female mariachi to look up to ... and say, 'I want to be in that group when I'm older,'" his daughter Hernández said. "So my dad decided to make this group, and since then Reyna has

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Crystal Hernández, a violinist/vocalist with Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY JOSÉ CRISTIAN HERNÁNDEZ

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Review: Madonna and Sabrina Carpenter prove short really is sweet, **2A**

THE COACHELLA PROJECT

Major data center draws controversy

Paul Albani-Burgio

Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Controversy is growing over plans for a major new data center on about 240 acres of agricultural land on the east side of Coachella.

The number of new data centers is growing fast nationally given the boom in artificial-intelligence tools, which use vast amounts of computing power. Given their size and usage of large amounts of electricity and water, many of the projects cause controversy.

The Coachella project, which is proposed for a site about 2.5 miles east of downtown and 1.5 miles south of Interstate 10, is being called the Coachella Valley Technology Campus.

Documents submitted to the city state that the first phase of the project would include six data center buildings, three of them 191,000 square feet apiece and the others 142,000 square feet apiece, for a total of just under 1 million square feet. There would also be three 100-megawatt electrical microgrids that would provide power to the buildings through a mix of natural gas fuel cells and battery storage. That would give the project an electrical capacity of up to 300 megawatts, which is considered a "hyperscale" data center, according to IBM.

There would also be three sets of reservoirs and water treatment plants, plus supporting infrastructure including surface parking, transmission lines and 24-hour security.

A data center is a facility that typically houses many computer servers, data storage devices and network equipment that can provide IT structure for organizations to store, manage and transmit data. Data centers use large amounts of water to absorb the heat generated by huge banks of computer servers running constantly.

Alex Rodriguez, a consultant and advisor hired by the developers, said it has not been determined who would use the Coachella data center, but that it would likely be attractive to a large company that needs significant computing infrastructure, citing Amazon and American Airlines as examples.

The data center is part of a larger effort by the city to create its own municipal utility to provide electricity and enable more development. The city is partnering with Stronghold Power Systems Inc. on that

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