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FAX COVER SHEET

To:

Mr. Jack Safely

NPCA

Fax #:

(213) 217-6119

Phone #:

From:

Helen Wagenvoord

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(510) 839-9926

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Pages:

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Mr. Safely:

Attached is a letter requesting an extension of the comment deadline on the environmental impact report/environmental impact statement regarding the establishment of the Cadiz Groundwater Storage facility. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your prompt response.

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NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION THE NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

February 14, 2000

Mr. Jack Safely Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Post Office Box 54153 Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

RE: Cadiz Groundwater Storage Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) - Request for extension of comment period

Dear Mr. Safely:

We are contacting you to request an extension of the comment deadline on the environmental impact report/environmental impact statement regarding the establishment of the Cadiz Groundwater Storage facility. The proposed project is of great concern to our groups. It has the potential to have irreversible impacts to several important resources on both Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service lands. Potentially impacted resources include:

- regional plants and wildlife, including the bighorn sheep
- groundwater and surface water quality and supply
- air quality
- the protection of the natural resources of Mojave National Preserve
- critical habitat for the threatened desert tortoise
- federally designated wilderness

Because of the length and complexity of the document, and the serious significance of its potential impacts to federally protected resources, we respectfully ask for a 30-day extension of the comment period to provide us with sufficient time for thorough review and analysis of the EIR/EIS.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Hulen Wagenwookd

Helen Wagenvoord Associate Director National Parks Conservation Association (510) 839-9922

Sally Miller
Regional Consequeing Re-

Regional Conservation Representative The Wilderness Society

(760) 647-1614

cc:

Jehrna Wald

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Tim Salt, Desert District Manager, Bureau of Land Management Molly Brady, Needles Field Office Manager, Bureau of Land Management