

MASTER RESPONSE NO. 6 - NEED FOR SUPPLEMENT/RECIRCULATION

A number of commentors requested that the Draft EIR/EIS be supplemented and/or recirculated. NEPA regulations require that a Supplemental EIS be prepared when there are substantial changes in the proposed action relevant to environmental concerns or significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns (Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1506.9(c)(1)). A Supplement may also be prepared where the agency determines that the purposes of NEPA would be furthered by doing so (Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, section 1506.9(c)(2)). The CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15088.5) discuss the need for recirculation of a Draft EIR or of portions of the EIR for public review when significant new information is added.

A number of the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS raised concerns regarding the proposed Cadiz Project operations related to potential impacts to springs, the Cadiz and Fenner groundwater basins, adjacent groundwater basins, and the potential for increased dust mobilization from Bristol and Cadiz dry lake beds. Preparation of a Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan was identified as mitigation measure WR-1 in the Draft EIR/EIS, and it was intended that such a Management Plan would be presented in the Final EIR/EIS.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the NEPA and CEQA lead agencies for the project, determined that preparation of a Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS would be appropriate. The Supplement addressed concerns raised in comments regarding potential impacts to water-related resources, and allowed the Management Plan to be circulated for public review and comment. Potential impacts to water-related resources were reevaluated in light of the development of the Management Plan and its incorporation into the proposed action. Finally, cumulative effects of the Cadiz Project and other projects on water resources were reevaluated.

The National Park Service (NPS) and U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) became cooperating agencies pursuant to NEPA for purposes of preparation of the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS and the Final EIR/EIS. The USGS limited its role to providing scientific and technical support and advice to the BLM on the design of the Management Plan. The Management Plan was prepared by the BLM, NPS, USGS, Metropolitan, the County of San Bernardino, and Cadiz Inc.

The Supplement, including the Management Plan that was included in Section 3.0, was circulated for public review and comment beginning on October 20, 2000 and ending on January 8, 2001. The preparation and circulation of the Supplement satisfied the NEPA and CEQA requirements for addressing new information regarding the provisions of the Management Plan and potential impacts to water-related resources.