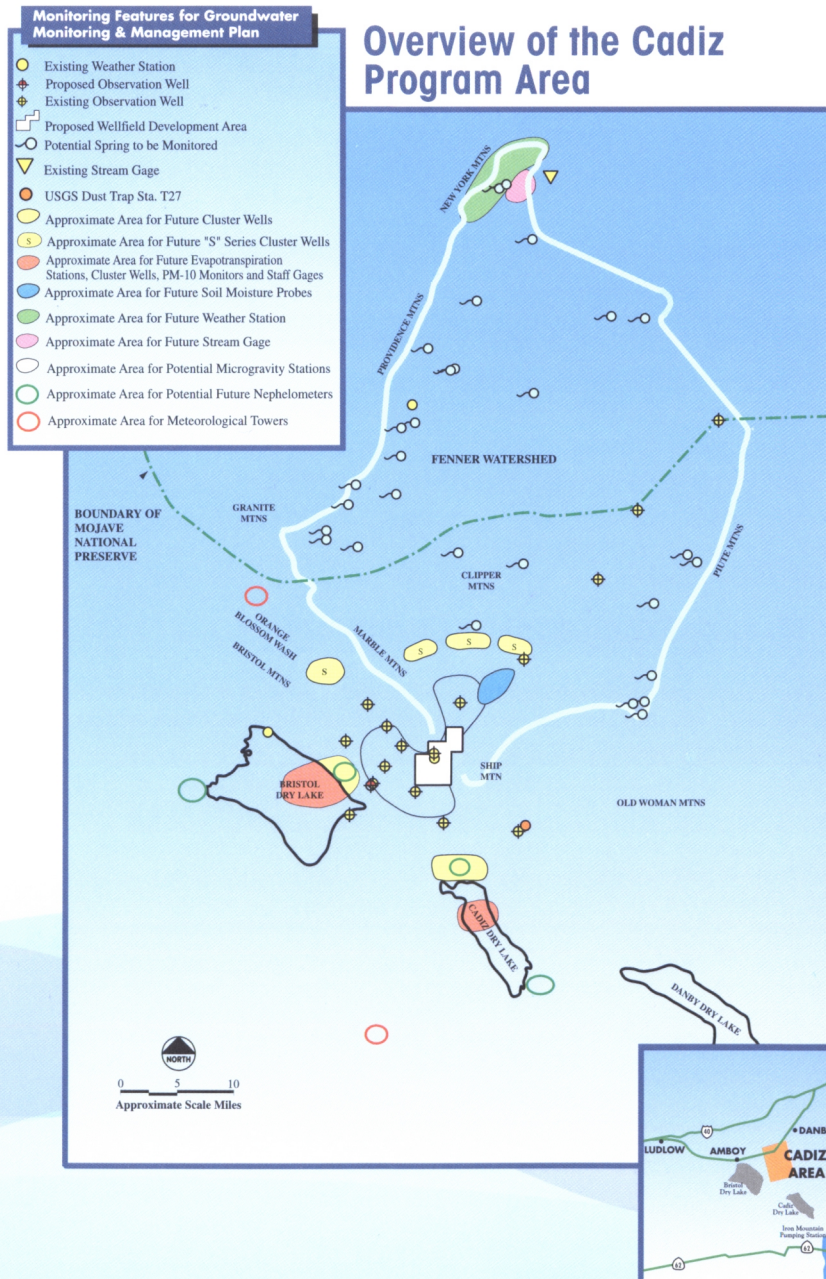


Protecting Environmental Resources

THE CADIZ GROUNDWATER STORAGE & DRY-YEAR SUPPLY PROGRAM

The Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program (Cadiz Program) is a critical water management tool that will play an important role in addressing Southern California's water needs. It is also an unprecedented commitment by the program's partners to environmental stewardship and resource protection. From the beginning, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and Cadiz Inc., have worked together to design an innovative water storage and supply program that meets both those objectives—forward looking policy and sound science.

In cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Park Service (NPS) and the County of San Bernardino, Metropolitan and Cadiz have developed a plan that is designed to protect the natural resources in the Cadiz Program area. That plan, known as the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (Management Plan), is incorporated in a Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS) for the Cadiz Program and has now been circulated for public review and comment.



What is the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan?

The Management Plan is an integral component of the Cadiz Program, governing all water use in the program area. Simply put, the Management Plan is the environmental blueprint designed to ensure that either transferring water into or out of the aquifer system beneath Cadiz' agricultural property does not adversely impact the aquifer system or the surrounding natural resources. In addition, all water use related to Cadiz' existing and planned agricultural operations at the Cadiz Program site will now also be governed by the restrictions and provisions of the Management Plan. The Management Plan establishes a continuously monitored perimeter around the program area that will provide an "early warning system" for program administrators long before water storage or retrieval operations could have any adverse impact on those environmental resources.

Why Was The Management Plan Developed?

As detailed in the previously released DEIR/EIS, Metropolitan and Cadiz have been committed from day one to developing and implementing a comprehensive monitoring plan that seeks to protect the long-term health of environmental resources in and adjacent to the Cadiz Program area.

After circulating the draft environmental documentation for the Cadiz Program, further questions were raised about the water resources in the region. Specifically, the USGS and the County of San Bernardino questioned the amount of water that was naturally recharged into the Cadiz Program area on a yearly basis. While there remains disagreement among experts regarding these estimates, the BLM, USGS, NPS, County of San Bernardino, Metropolitan and Cadiz all agree that protection of critical natural resources was the overriding objective and that this could best be accomplished through implementation of the Management Plan.

What Resources Will Be Monitored And How?

Critical resources that the Management Plan will closely monitor include the aquifer system beneath and surrounding the Cadiz Program area; natural springs in the Mojave National Preserve and in BLM managed lands; brine resources at nearby dry lake beds; and regional air quality. A comprehensive network, including more than two dozen different types of advanced technology monitors such as cluster/observation wells, weather stations and computer-aided soil and moisture probes, will form a protective perimeter around the Cadiz Program area. As a further measure, additional monitoring features will be located in the Mojave National Preserve, as far as 45 miles away from the program site.

When combined with specific action or trigger levels, this precedent-setting early warning system will prevent adverse environmental impacts. All told, the Management Plan will be one of the most advanced and comprehensive in California.



Who Reviews The Monitoring Data And Will It Be Made Available To The Public?

A Technical Review Team made up of scientists and representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the County of San Bernardino, Metropolitan and Cadiz will perform ongoing reviews of the monitoring data and may recommend whether changes should be made in program operations to protect critical resources.

All scientific data, including published annual reports, from the Management Plan's monitoring system will be made available to the public.

What Actions Can Be Taken Under The Management Plan To Ensure Continued Protection Of Critical Resources?

A Basin Management Group will be tasked with turning the recommendations of the Technical Review Team into actions that will ensure critical resources are not impacted by program operations, determining what corrective measures, if necessary, should be taken to prevent any potential adverse impacts. It is anticipated that this group will be comprised of senior representatives from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the County of San Bernardino, Metropolitan and Cadiz.

What Happens To The Environment After The 50-year Agreement Is Completed?

In addition to providing continuous monitoring and establishing guidelines for comprehensive environmental protection, the Management Plan includes a "Closure Plan" that will ensure that there are no residual adverse impacts on the surrounding environment as a result of the Cadiz Program. In addition, the Closure Plan will provide for ongoing monitoring so that other land users in the area will not be impacted by Cadiz Program operations in the future.

How Can I Get More Information About The Program?

Public comment is an important aspect of the environmental review process. In accordance with federal and state laws, a draft environmental document and a supplement have been prepared for the Cadiz Program and are available for review. For more information, please call or write:



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