

January 2, 2001

G43



Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507-0714
ATT: James Williams

Dear Mr. Williams:

We believe the Cadiz Project is a groundwater grab in the Mojave Desert. It affects wildlife and air quality in the Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park, and five BLM wildlife areas.

G43-1

The Cadiz Company wants to drain up to 652 billion gallons from an aquifer that has sustained the fragile ecosystems of the western Mojave Desert for millennia, and sell the water to the Metropolitan Water District which supplies Los Angeles and San Diego. We believe this could be called groundwater mining.

G43-2

The supplemental environmental impact statement does not fully examine the potential problems that could result from draining a desert ecosystem of its precious and scarce water supply.

G43-3

The document needs to examine alternatives that are actually sustainable, safer and less environmentally destructive, including water conservation measures. The review of such viable alternatives is a requirement under both state and federal law. Alternatives that should be considered include other existing, planned or feasible water storage projects and a host of easily adopted water conservation measures that have successfully reduced water demand in other areas.

G43-4

We urge the Metropolitan Water District and the Bureau of Land Management to make a decision that is informed, reasoned, and promotes the public interest rather than private profit.

G43-5

Sincerely,

San Fernando Valley SIERRA CLUB
P.O. Box 370485
Reseda, CA 91337

Chair
[Signature]

Vice Chair
[Signature]
Secretary

Conservation Co-Chairs
[Signature] - *[Signature]*

[Signature]

Treasurer
[Signature]

cc: MWD Management Group (Jack Safely)