



# CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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February 22, 2000

VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL

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Mr. Jack Safely, Project Manager  
Metropolitan Water District  
P.O. Box 54153  
Los Angeles, CA 90054

**Re: Comments on the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and  
Dry-Year Supply Program**

Dear Mr. Safely:

The California Farm Bureau Federation ("Farm Bureau") represents 85,000 farmers and ranchers, who constitute approximately 80 percent of production agriculture, statewide. As the development of the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program ("Cadiz") is one of the early projects of this size and scale in California, the Farm Bureau appreciates this opportunity to comment.

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In order to meet our state's increasing need for water, the Farm Bureau supports the further development of California's water resources. We also recognize groundwater banking is one critical component of California's ability to meet its long-term water needs. We believe projects similar to Cadiz should be encouraged, as the state's water crisis cannot be solved without the construction of new water storage facilities and related infrastructure. In this regard, we are mindful that each project must be evaluated based on individual merit and community acceptance. The fact of Cadiz' individual ownership of the land and resolution of any water rights issues in advance persuade us of the merits of this project.

The Farm Bureau particularly appreciates efforts undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California ("Lead Agencies") to minimize third party impacts to agriculture and nearby communities. We would like to be kept apprised of this project as it develops, since proper implementation of the associated Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan will be an important factor in the future success of Cadiz.

The Farm Bureau supports the Lead Agencies' hard work and innovation in seeking locally driven solutions to California's water crisis.

Sincerely,

BILL PAULI  
President

cc: Keith Brackpool, CEO  
Cadiz, Inc.  
Ron Gastelum, General Manager  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California