



RED ROCK AUDUBON SOCIETY

GB

March 6, 2000

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Attn. Jack Safely
PO Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

RE: CADIZ VALLEY WATER PROJECT

Dear Sir:

As a longtime desert dweller with an interest in groundwater I am very concerned about the MWD's plan to purchase up to 1,000,000 acre-feet of groundwater from the Cadiz Valley Aquifer.

GB-1

I think it is critical that either a new or supplemental EIR be prepared which will include the USGS report on the perennial yield of the basin. Even though the USGS report is late on the scene its implications are so serious that ignoring it would be a serious dereliction of duty on the part of the MWD.

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Basing a long-term water plan on withdrawal of fossil water from aquifers underlying the Mojave Desert is poor planning as well as a potential ecological catastrophe for the Mojave, where groundwater supports all the permanent springs upon which much desert wildlife is dependent.

GB-3

Sincerely,

John E. Hiatt
John Hiatt
Conservation Chair