

3/4/00

Jack Safely  
Metropolitan Water District  
Bx 54153  
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

P11

Re: Cadiz Valley Project

Dear Sir:

I am very concerned about this project. After reading the EIR I feel that it does not contain enough information for the public or decision makers to make a rational decision on this project.

P11-1

1. How can water pumped from the deep aquifer be recharged by spreading water on the surface, if there are impermeable clay layers above the deep aquifer?

P11-2

2. Studies show that only 3000 --3500 ac ft/yr can be withdrawn sustainably. Cadiz has already taken 6000 ac ft for agricultural operations. Please explain how 30,000 ac ft/yr can be withdrawn sustainably, as proposed. Substantial drawdown of groundwater levels will cause salt water intrusion; how will this and other adverse impacts be mitigated

P11-3

3. I believe that according to law, no more can be pumped than can be sustained indefinitely without drawing down the aquifer. It has taken millions of years for the groundwater basin to achieve stability.. During wet years, more water flows to the dry lake beds, both on the surface and underground. The excess evaporates or refills previously diminished levels. There is balance at the present time; net exports equivilant to the full amount of groundwater recharge per year is unacceptable. BLM certainly should not allow water under our public land to be mined. If there is a 190 ft drop in the groundwater table, what is the effect on springs in the area, including in Wilderness areas?

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4. Quality as well as quantity must be protected. Please explain how very good quality underground water can be withdrawn and be replaced by poor quality Colorado River water without impairing the quality of the underground aquifer.

P11-7

5. If there is subsidence as predicted in the EIR, this means the underground pore spaces where the water is stored have collapsed. Please explain how these pore spaces can be restored after water is withdrawn so the underground aquifer can again store the same amount of water as before any was withdrawn.

P11-8

6. Of the 1 million ac ft of water stored, how much can actually be pumped back for use at a later date?

P11-9

7. Where will water come from after 2015? Is there a guarantee that any water will be available after this date?

P11-10

8. An alternative of locating the roads and powerlines along existing disturbed corridors should be analyzed.

P11-11

This, and many other impacts of this ill conceived project, must be identified and mitigated. If this project continues, please issue an EIR that honestly discusses all of the impacts. Also please keep me on the mailing list.

P11-12

Sincerely,

Stan Haye  
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Ridgecrest, CA 93555