

DECLARATION of PUBLICATION
The Needles Desert Star

STATE OF CALIFORNIA ss.)
County of San Bernardino)

I Valerie A. Patten say

That I am over the age of eighteen and not interested in the above entitled (matter, estate, action or proceedings as the case may be); and I am now and at all time embraced in the publication herein mentioned was, the printer (or the foreman or principal clerk of the printer) of The Desert Star, a weekly newspaper printed, published and circulated in said county; that The Needles Desert Star of which the annexed is a true printed copy, was published in the above named newspaper on the following dates, to wit...

December 1, 1999

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 12-01-99 at Needles, California.

Valerie A. Patten
Signature of Declarant

X NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement For the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program

The is to inform all interested persons that pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have jointly prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) for the proposed Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-year Supply Program. Metropolitan is the Lead Agency under CEQA, and the BLM is the Lead Agency under NEPA.

The Draft EIR/EIS evaluates a range of alternatives for conveying water between the Colorado River Aqueduct and the aquifer underlying the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys. The aim of the Cadiz Project is to ensure the reliability of Metropolitan's existing water supply in the Colorado River Aqueduct. The Project achieves this goal by storing Colorado River water in the Cadiz/Fenner aquifer and withdrawing the stored water along with indigenous groundwater during dry years. Proposed facilities reviewed in the Draft EIR/EIS are a pipeline or canal for conveying water between the Colorado River Aqueduct and the Cadiz/Fenner area, a pumping plant, spreading basins for percolation of Colorado River water into the aquifer in the Cadiz/Fenner aquifer, and associated power poles and lines along the conveyance pipeline and in the wellfield.

The project area is located in the eastern Mojave Desert region of San Bernardino County in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys and crosses federal land administered by the BLM. The BLM has determined that an EIS would be required as the proposed action includes an amendment of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan and right-of-way easements across federal lands.

The Draft EIR/EIS addresses existing environmental conditions, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation measures associated with the proposed project. The Draft EIR/EIS indicates the possibility of some significant adverse effects, even after the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR/EIS, for the parameters of paleontological resources, air quality, and hazardous materials.

Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS and supporting technical reports will be available for public review from November 26, 1999, through February 22, 2000, at the following locations:

Needles Branch Library
1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, California 92363

Twentynine Palms Branch Library, 6078 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

Barstow Branch Library
304 East Buena Vista
Barstow, California 92311

Bureau of Land Management
Riverside Office
6221 Box Spring Road
Riverside, California 92507

San Bernardino County Public Library, 104 West 4th Street,
San Bernardino, California 92415

Bureau of Land Management
Needles Office
101 West Spikes's Road
Needles, California 92363

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

There will be three public hearings as follows:

Wednesday, December 15, 1999, at 11:00 A.M.
Cadiz Ranch
96-726 Highway 66
Cadiz, California 92319

Wednesday, December 15, 1999, at 7:00 P.M.
Twentynine Palms City Hall
6136 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, California 92277

Thursday, December 16, 1999, at 7:00 P.M.
Needles City Hall
1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, California 92363

Written comments on the

Draft EIR/EIS should be sent to:

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Post Office Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
Attention: Mr. Dirk Reed.

To be considered, Metropolitan must receive comments on or before February 22, 2000. Further information regarding the project may be obtained from Mr. Reed at (213)217-6163 or Mr. Jack Safely at (213)217-6981.

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