

## **SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE DRAFT EIR/EIS**

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has carried out a public outreach process for the Cadiz Project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for public notification and participation. The Public Participation volume of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) addressed the public scoping process conducted prior to the publication of the Draft EIR/EIS. This volume of the Final EIR/EIS provides an overview of the public participation program conducted for the Draft EIR/EIS, comments received and responses to comments.

The public participation process was designed to inform the public and solicit public comments on the proposed project in compliance with CEQA and NEPA requirements. The public participation process included the following components:

- Publication of the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR/EIS,
- Circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS for public and agency review,
- Conducting three public hearings on the Draft EIR/EIS, and
- Responding to comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS.

The Notice of Availability of the Draft EIR/EIS (NOA) was published in the Federal Register and in two newspapers in the project area. Additionally, it was posted with the San Bernardino County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and sent to an extensive mailing list of potentially interested parties. Numerous individuals, organizations, and public agencies were also mailed a copy of the Draft EIR/EIS. The mailing list for the NOA and the Draft EIR/EIS included BLM's list of those who have expressed interest in its management of Southern California desert lands, those who participated in the scoping process for the project, as well as local, regional, State, and federal public agencies and officials.

Metropolitan and the BLM circulated the Draft EIR/EIS for public review from November 26, 1999 through March 8, 2000. The NOA provided a public notice that the Draft EIR/EIS had been completed and that Metropolitan and the BLM were accepting public comments on the document. The NOA also indicated how a copy could be obtained for review. A copy of the NOA of the Draft EIR/EIS is provided in Appendix A of this volume.

Metropolitan and BLM held three public hearings during the public review period to accept verbal and written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS. Public testimony at those hearings was taken by a court reporter. Transcripts of the hearings are provided in this volume in Section 2. The hearings were held at Cadiz on December 15, 1999, Twentynine Palms on December 15, 1999, and Needles on December 16, 1999.

Numerous written comment letters on the Draft EIR/EIS were received during the public review period and are also included in this volume.

Responses to the written and oral comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS at the public hearings and by letter are included in the responses to comments portion of this volume (Section 3). Each hearing transcript including written comments handed in and comment letters received during the comment period are included in the comments received portion of this volume (Section 2). The transcript from each meeting is numbered (M1, M2, etc.) and each comment within the transcript is bracketed and numbered (M1-1, M1-2, etc.) Comment letters are organized and coded as received from federal (F),

State (S), or regional/local agencies (R), businesses (B), groups/organizations (G), and the general public (P). Each letter received is numbered as well (e.g. F1) and the comments within each letter are bracketed and numbered (e.g. F1-1, F1-2).

Responses to comments utilize the coding system described above. Additionally, where similar or related comments were made by a number of commentors, a master response was prepared to provide a comprehensive response to that issue. The master responses are included in Section 3 of this volume. Where a comment resulted in modification to the text of the Final EIR/EIS, this is noted in the response. The Final EIR/EIS for the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program incorporates all the necessary changes based on the comments received during the public review period.