

# CLAYPOOL & CO.

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November 29, 2000

Jack Safely  
Metropolitan Water District  
P.O. box 54153  
Los Angeles, CA 90054

Jim Williams  
Bureau of Land Management  
6221 Box Springs Road  
Riverside, CA 92507

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in support of the Supplement to the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program EIR/EIS, but more importantly, to comment on the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan.

I am an amateur water expert for the southwest corner of California, and the Colorado River basin. I have served over 25 years as a member of the City of Needles Utility Board. I have lived in the area for over 70 years.

I am aware that the reason for the proposed project is to help California to lower their yearly use of the Colorado River to the 4.2 million acre-feet allowed in the California/Arizona Supreme Court case of 1983.

The project enables MWD to take surplus water from the Colorado River, when available, and to take this water via the Colorado River Aqueduct to Cadiz Dry Lake and to store water in their underground until needed. When needed by MWD, Cadiz will pump the stored water out and place back into the aqueduct for use in Southern California.

The second part of the Plan is to supply MWD with additional ground water via the same aqueduct.

I can see no problem with the storage of surplus MWD water in the underground. This proven system is being used often today, including Arizona storing water for Nevada in their underground.

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Of more controversy is the sale of native water to MWD. I see nothing wrong with this because:

1. I have reviewed the Supplement document, focusing specifically on the Monitoring and Management Plan. I feel they have identified all the critical resources and have set more than sufficient "trigger levels" to prevent any adverse environmental impacts.

2. Cadiz Dry Lake is at the end of the line of a huge drainage area and all other landowners have the ability to take their water from this drainage area before it arrives in Cadiz, which is the end of the line.

3. Immediately adjacent to Cadiz Dry Lake is the Amboy (Bristol) Dry Lake, which is extremely salty and unusable for any other purpose than salt mining. The Cadiz Land Company is farming over 1600 acres of fruit and vegetables, and this huge investment will force them to not overpump the water from beneath Cadiz Dry Lake. It is still unknown the actual inflow into the Cadiz Dry Lake, but the danger of inflow of salty water will keep them from over pumping.

Both Cadiz Land Company and the MWD are first class operations and responsible water managers.

It is important that California lower its use of Colorado Rive water to their legal maximum of 4.2 million-acre feet per year. The proposed Plan truly is a responsible and sensible project.

Very truly yours,

*William M. Claypool III*

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