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CHEROKEE WATERSHED GROUP DISTRICT
RIVERSIDE, CA.

Lynn Barris, 2830 House Avenue, Durham, CA 95938

Mr. James Williams
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Boulevard
Riverside, CA 92507-0714

G26

January 3, 2001

RE: Cadiz Groundwater Project

Dear Mr. Williams,

Cherokee Watershed Group has many concerns about the Cadiz Groundwater project. As all of California is trying to move to a more sustainable, less abusive system of managing water, the Cadiz example takes us back to a time when decisions were made without good science to back them up.

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The degree of science used in the draft and supplemental EIR/EISs fall short of the scientific integrity that is required under CEQA and/or NEPA for a site-specific project. Both documents have failed to use the best reasonably available science for such important issues as:

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- The aquifer's recharge rate
- Air quality impacts
- Wildlife impacts
- The efficacy of the monitoring program
- The effectiveness of potential mitigation measures

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Other areas of concern include:

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- Misrepresentation of available surplus Colorado River water
- Groundwater overdraft

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- Other overlying landowners groundwater rights
- Lack of examining alternatives that are actually sustainable, safer, and less environmentally destructive, specifically water conservation

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As we reviewed this project we were struck by:

- Bad process- decisions not transparent to the public, facts hidden, impossible to get into public meeting, lack of meaningful stakeholder participation
- Bad science- not using best readily available science
- BAD PRECEDENT for future water management projects

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Cherokee Watershed is part of the Butte Basin, one of the largest, healthy aquifers remaining in California. As we hope to move forward in a sustainable groundwater management plan, we can only look at the Cadiz project as a clear example of where superficial science started a momentum to see the project through. Now that more credible science and concerns have surfaced it has not been enough to stop the momentum. To move forward with this project at this point is imprudent environmentally, politically, and socially.

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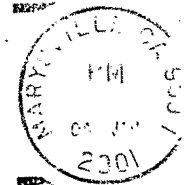
Thank you for giving us a chance to comment.

Sincerely,

Lynn Barris
Lynn Barris

Lynn Barris

2830 House Ave.
Durham, CA 95938



James Williams
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Blvd