



THE DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL INC.

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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COMMENTS ON THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT EIR/EIS
FOR CADIZ GROUNDWATER STORAGE DRY-YEAR PROGRAM
SCH No. 99021039

January 8, 2001

The Desert Protective Council continues to oppose permitting, in whole or in part, this ill-defined project in the California Desert. The Supplement contains little new information to alleviate the Council's concerns. It continues to rely on future actions, monitoring and funding without visible allocations or bonds.

One basic concern is the lack of Alternatives, such as conservation or compliance with the Colorado River allocation agreements recently signed by the Secretary and effected States. There is no need for the Council to spell out the Alternatives; the BLM and MWD know what is needed and have the experts to do it.

The Council will not waste your time in analyzing all the little bits and pieces of the document. The Desert Protective Council requests information on various aspects of the Dry-year Storage Project.

Are Cadiz and MWD partners or has Cadiz sold out as was reported on December 21st on a Local Station? If so, the Supplement and Draft will have to be revised to reflect responsibilities.

What are the vested interests and commitments of MWD relative to the massive NAWPA, the North American Water and Power Alliance and the Ralph Parsons' engineering firm? (See Attch A).

Is the Cadiz Storage Program addressed in the agreement recently signed by the Secretary of Interior and effected States' allocation of Colorado River Water? Is a part of the same agreement effecting Los Angeles/So California allotments and transfers?

The Council is aware of the impacts on the Mojave Preserve, especially as stated on page 65 in the Mojave Preserve Revised Draft EIS and General Management Plan, July 2000. (See Att B). DPC requests a written statement from NPS that the Supplemental document contains correct information and that the project will not adversely impact Mojave National Preserve.

Furthermore, the Council is curious as to the status of the water that was observable

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DEPARTMENT OF
LAND MANAGEMENT
GENERAL MANAGEMENT
PLANNING AND RESOURCE
ADMINISTRATION

in the Hayfield Basin adjacent to the southern edges of Joshua Tree National Park, i.e., is it in storage directly under the basin, did it seek its lowest level (maybe Salton Sea), did it contaminate the aquifer, was it transported elsewhere, was it cost-effective?

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Of further interest is the report that chromium 6 had been found in the aquifer at Cadiz. Should Cadiz be held accountable for clean-up if chromium-laced water was used in the vineyards and for other purposes?

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What guarantees does the public have that the Cadiz/Fenner area will not become another Owens Lake or Mono Lake under the auspices of MWD? Promises of faithful monitoring is easily said, but corrective action must be based on more than consultations among scientists.

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In summary,
For the reasons stated above and many others suggested by the Draft and/or Supplement EIS, the Council urges the Needles Field Office as well as the California Desert District Office to seek sound legal and Departmental advise prior to proceeding with the final EIS and permits. It may save and money to say "no" now, as well as saving precious desert resources for future generations.

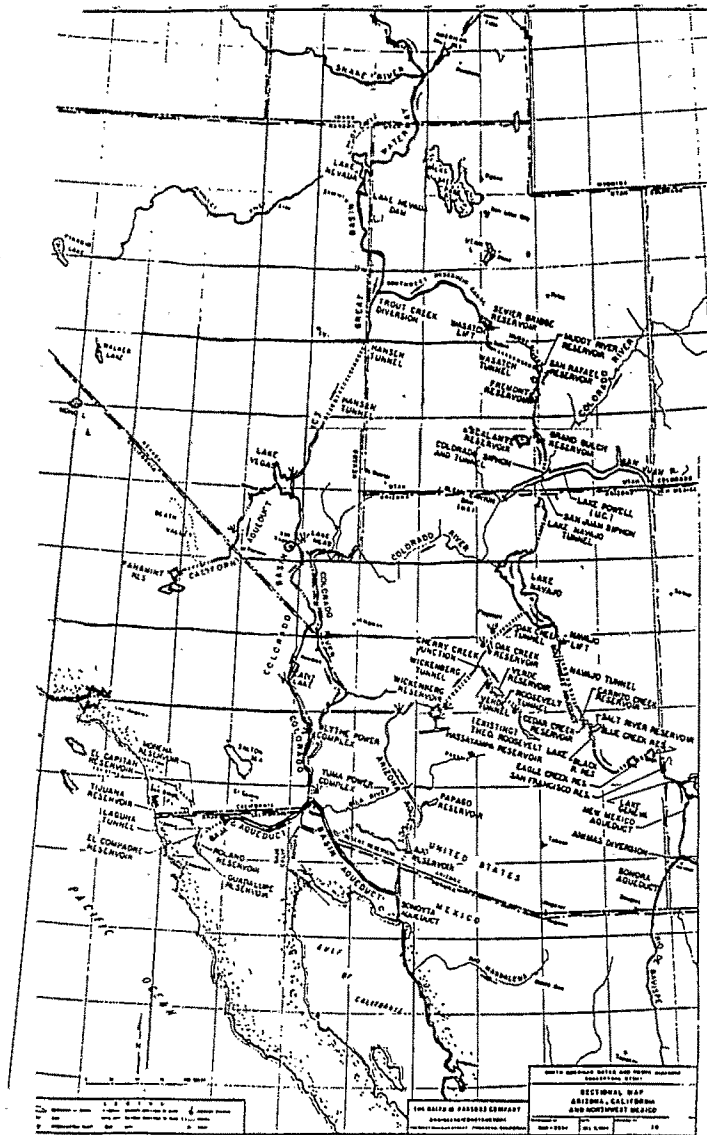
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Please keep the Desert Protective Council on all mailing lists for this project.

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Respectfully submitted,


Douglas W. Allen, President



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Map by Ralph M. Parsons Company, dated 1964.

south. It would be like discovering an Amazon in the Great Basin...an immense river. An engineer with imagination could turn all that to gold.

A MAN, A PLAN

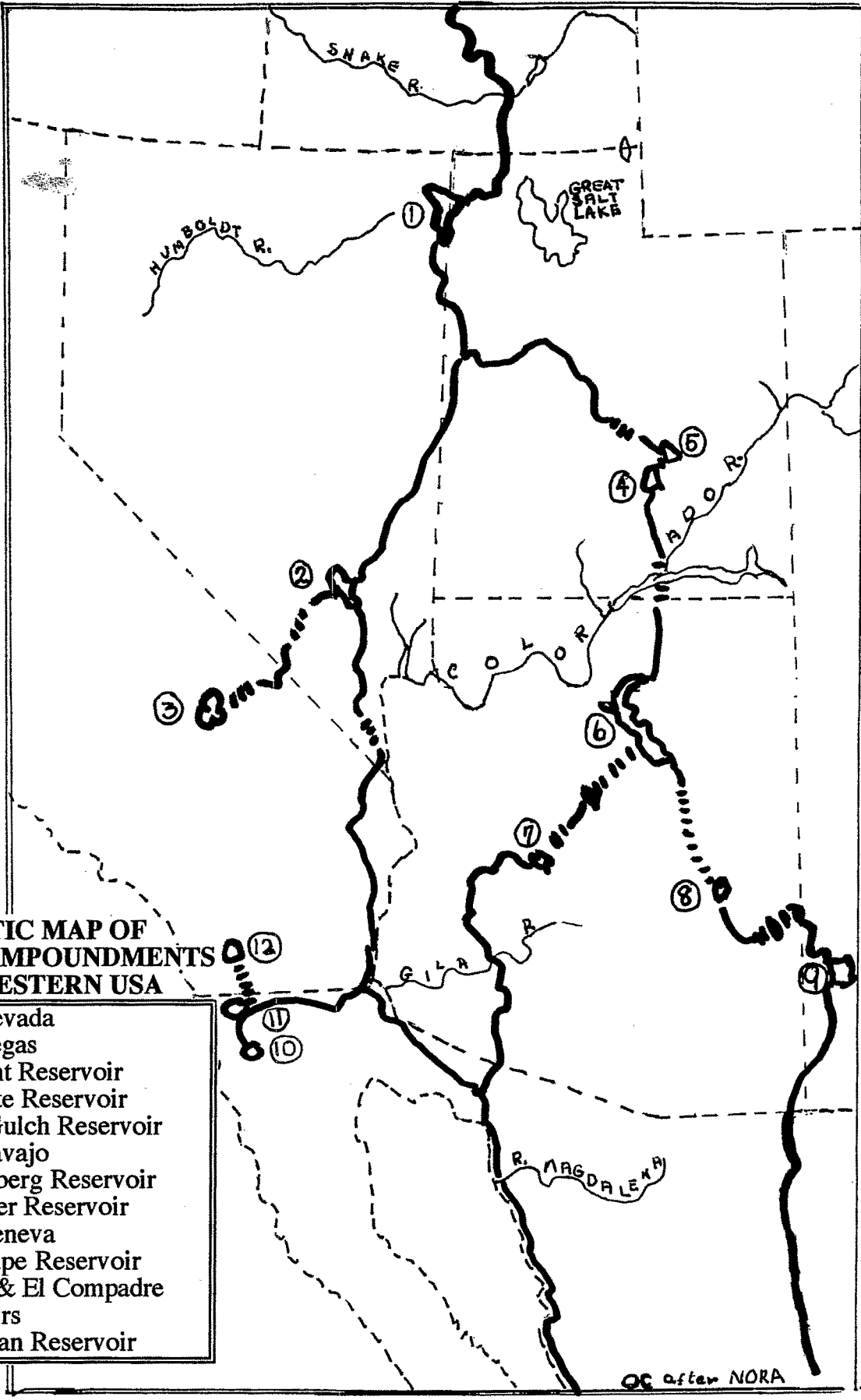
A water engineer for Los Angeles Water and Power did think of that; he took his vision 40 years ago to Ralph Parsons' mega engineering and construction firm in Pasadena. Parsons loved the grandeur of the concept - altering the face of North America - dozens of raging rivers dammed and forced to run south, whole river systems converted to reservoirs, tunnels under the

Rockies, valleys wiped out. The glory, the power, the **profit**...Alexander the Great would have sold his horse for them!

TODAY

That was in the fifties. Today the NAWAPA plan has grown. With the North American Free Trade Agreement in place, the wild waters now flow on paper into northern Mexico, and the marketing framework is in place. If water is a commodity, then no nation may erect barriers in restraint of that trade, nor prevent the profits from flowing where they will. Ralph Parsons is dead, but his vision has been picked up by

Dm



SCHEMATIC MAP OF LARGER IMPOUNDMENTS IN THE WESTERN USA

- 1. Lake Nevada
- 2. Lake Vegas
- 3. Panamint Reservoir
- 4. Escalante Reservoir
- 5. Grand Gulch Reservoir
- 6. Lake Navajo
- 7. Wickenburg Reservoir
- 8. Salt River Reservoir
- 9. Lake Geneva
- 10. Guadalupe Reservoir
- 11. Tijuana & El Compadre Reservoirs
- 12. El Capitan Reservoir

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QC after NORA

governments and by corporations who advise presidents and prime ministers who make deals and sign treaties.

DAMS AND DOLLARS

In round brave new world figures, NAWAPA would construct up to 240 dams (up to 1770 feet high), 112 mammoth diversion structures leading to 17 habitat-vaporizing canals. Fifty to eighty thousand megawatts of power would be generated by 136 cubic kilometers of water per year drained, siphoned, and pumped into the U.S. – some for Idaho, some for Utah, a lot for Texas real estate, even some to flush the salt out of the lower Colorado River. Thirty-nine percent of the U.S.' share would flow into Mexico to Baja and the Baja California Gulf coast, and more into the Rio Grande.

NAWAPA will alter the southwest desert beginning south of Wells, Nevada, with the Lake Nevada dam. Great Basin Waterway will branch east toward Utah's salt flats and west in the direction of Las Vegas (in the vicinity of Pahranaagat), where tunnels and an aqueduct will cut through lower Death Valley to the "Panamint Reservoir." The other line will head for Las Vegas City and south, cutting across the Colorado River, and power a giant Yuma generating complex.

Generating plants are placed on this map wherever feasible. They will undoubtedly generate a huge margin beyond the energy needed for lifts. Canals, reservoirs, and power transmission lines will obliterate or alter the face of the southwest beyond recognition, or as Marc Reisner says in his

Cadillac Desert, "largely destroy what is left of the natural West." Luna Leopold, hydrology professor at UC Berkeley, could only state that "the environmental damage can't even be described...as much harm as all the dam-building we have done in a hundred years."

WHAT MAN HAS THOUGHT OF

It has been thought, so it's not unthinkable, that some version of this monster will be built. Robert Bourassa, a Liberal Party leader of Quebec, wrote a book about it. Ralph Parsons' tax-exempt NAWAPA Foundation, receiving surplus profits from his company (the third or fourth largest engineering company in the world) worked on it exclusively. The North American Free Trade Agreement created the international trade framework for it. Canada has water – needs cash. Mexico is allowing foreign corporate farms to take over water-short ejido lands. Southern California and southern Nevada gasp for it.

The bull dozers are waiting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Cadillac Desert Marc Reisner. 1990: Martin, Secker & Warburg Ltd. ISBN 0-436-41050-8
Power from the North - Robert Bourassa
Canada's Water - For Sale? Richard Bocking. 1972: James, Lewis and Samuel, Toronto
"Water Wars Becomes No. American Menace"
Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, Inc.
NORA Newsletter, Summer 1991. PO 1245, Carson City, NV 89702

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CARRY PLENTY OF WATER

THE DESERT PROTECTIVE COUNCIL, INC.
Educational Bulletin #94-2
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CADIZ GROUNDWATER STORAGE AND DRY YEAR SUPPLY PROGRAM

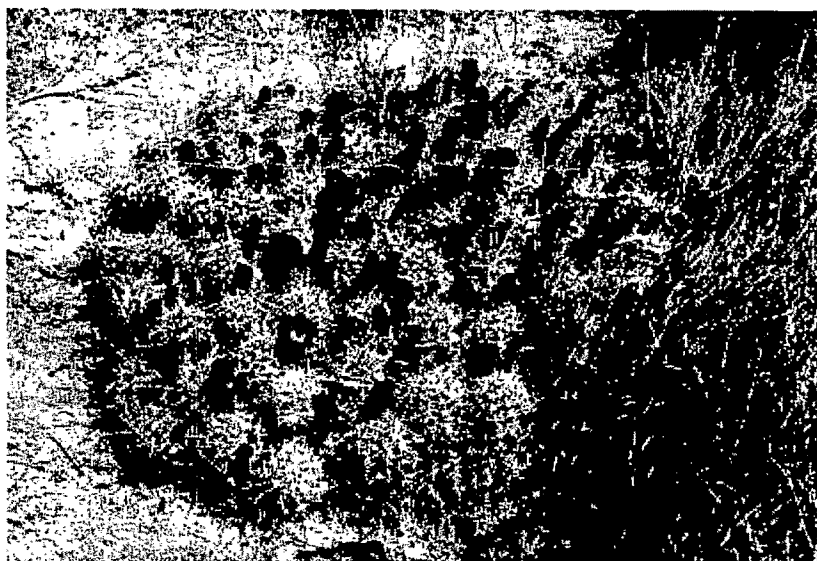
The Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry Year Supply Program is a project proposed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and Cadiz, Inc. to store and retrieve excess Colorado River water in a groundwater aquifer shared by Mojave National Preserve. In addition, the project would pump up to 30,000 acre-feet of indigenous groundwater per year from the basin for shipment to Los Angeles.

Mojave National Preserve is located approximately 15 miles north of the main project area. The project area and proposed conveyance pipeline are located on public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and private land owned by Cadiz, Inc. Fenner Basin, which is expected to provide the primary source of natural recharge groundwater to the Cadiz Project, runs nearly 30 miles into the Mojave National Preserve, and is one of the park's major groundwater aquifers. The Cadiz Project has the potential to adversely affect the groundwater resources of Mojave National Preserve and air quality in the Preserve.

A Draft EIS was issued to the public on the project. Groups or agencies that commented included NPS, USGS, EPA, county of San Bernardino, National Parks Conservation Association, and the Sierra Club. NPS and other reviewers found the EIS and supporting hydrologic documents to be seriously flawed.

Based on comments received on the Draft EIS, BLM and MWD have decided to issue a Supplemental Draft EIS. NPS has accepted BLM's request to serve as a cooperating agency on the project. Currently, the lead (BLM and MWD) and cooperating agencies (NPS, USGS, Fish and Wildlife Service) are working to complete the Supplemental EIS and modify the project proposal so it will be acceptable to the potentially affected stakeholders. Mojave National Preserve remains concerned about potential impacts to its air and water resources.

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Mojave mound cactus