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CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT  
RIVERSIDE, CA.

P24

Dear Sir:

November 24, 2000

I would like to comment on the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS for the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program.

It is clear that this is really a program to mine the water in the Cadiz Dry Lake basin. The recharge proposal simply does not add up. Assuming the recharge area to be 390 acres and the maximum recharge to be 150,000-acre feet a year, over 1-foot depth of water will have to percolate into the aquifer every day. This is not possible with the types of soils and lateral diffusion rate of water. The level of stored water will increase slowly and be far below the extraction rate. It is likely that a significant portion of the stored water will eventually flow to the lake basin where it will evaporate and not be available for recovery.

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There is no cap to how much water will be taken over the life of the project and it is unlikely that the arid environment will be able to recharge the aquifer as fast as it will be exhausted. The idea seems to be extract first and then do something if problems emerge.

Mining fossil water postpones the inevitable; water use must be curtailed in the American Southwest. The use of this water to allow many more years of growth and increased water consumption will make the future more painful.

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The program claims that water will be stored when there is excess water in the Colorado River. The excess typically flows in early summer due to run-off from a high precipitation winter. Spring floods have been shown to be essential to the health of the Colorado River environment. Tapping this flow will continue the current problems like loss of sandy beaches and loss of native species.

P24-3

When the fossil water is mined during times of prolonged drought, it is highly unlikely that withdrawal will stop even if triggering events are found. Stopping water extraction will be highly unpopular and environmental concerns will be over ridden.

P24-4

Before this project goes forward, the natural recharge rate must be determined. The water extraction rate should not exceed the natural rate of recharge plus the actual rate of water storage.

P24-5

I think that the TNT and the BMG should have representatives of local Communities and other concerned parties as members. Restricting membership to government agencies, Metropolitan Water, and Cadiz, Inc will not provide proper oversight.

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I think the program emphasizes short-term extraction and the storage aspect is poorly thought out and is unworkable. The program should be

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restructured to treat the water as a renewable resource based on actual recharge rates.

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Regards:



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