

December 26, 2000

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

P27

Dear Mr. Williams:

After reading an article in the Arizona Republic, I am writing to comment on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement on the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-year supply Program. I am very concerned about the possible impacts this project could have on the Mojave National Preserve and several desert wilderness areas. Being a former resident of Tucson & Phoenix, AZ I understand the importance of water to the Southwest (especially including Southern California) but I truly think the answer to Southern Ca H2O demand issues are not to drain precious desert aquifers but instead to encourage stringent conservation measures like they did in Tucson, AZ. I do not believe that the environmental impact statement referenced above adequately addresses the potential threats. I also feel that the safeguards outlined to protect the environment will be sufficient.

Specifically, I am concerned that the plan for

P27-1

P27-2

P27-2 monitoring and mitigation is not well defined and offer questionable management for environmental impacts. The plan gives way too much authority for decisions affects the desert ecosystem to Cadiz, Inc and its customer, Metropolitan Water district, both of which have an economic interest in extracting ground water. Allowing profit-focused decision makers to be in charge of the ~~public~~ protection of our public resource does not protect the public interest.

P27-3 The document needs to examine alternatives that are actually sustainable, safer and less environmentally destructive, including water conservation measures. The review of such viable alternatives is legal requirements. I believe much more progress should be made in water conservation before parks and natural areas are further threatened by projects such as this. Alternatives that should be considered include other existing, planned or feasible water storage projects and a host of easily adopted water conservation measures that have successfully reduced water demand in other areas.

P27-4 Finally, I am very concerned about the possible air pollution that could result if the water table under the nearby "dry" lakes drops even a few feet. We have already seen what can happen when this occurs, namely Owen Lakes. In addition to the nearby inhabitants, this pollution threatens public lands including two national parks and five wilderness areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

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P27-4 We have enough air pollution problems at the Grand Canyon already, we don't need anymore!! These lands were set aside by Congress to be permanently protected for their nationally significant natural and cultural resource values. This project is likely to undo that protection for future generations.

P27-5 PLEASE SUPPORT THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND RESPECT THIS PROPOSAL. A written response would be appreciated,

Thank you,

Love to Mr

KIRK D. Mayes OR
175A Centre St #124
Quincy, MA 02169

KIRK D. Mayes
902 NORRIS Road
Prescott, AZ 86303

Note: This identical letter was sent by Mr. Mayes to Jack Safely at Metropolitan (12/26/00)

December 26, 2000

Metropolitan Water District
Water Resources Management Group
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153
ATTN: Mr. Jack Safely

Note: This is identical
to Comment letter P27
Sent to the BLM. Refer to
responses to comments
P27-1 to P27-5

Dear Mr. Safely:

After reading an article in the Arizona Republic, I am writing to comment on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement on the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-year Supply Program. I am very concerned about the possible impacts this project could have on the Mojave National Preserve and several desert wilderness areas. Being a former resident of Tucson and Phoenix, AZ, I understand the importance of water to the Southwest (especially including Southern California) but I truly think the answer to Southern CA H₂O demand issues is not to drain precious desert aquifers but instead to encourage more stringent conservation measures like they did in Tucson, AZ. I do not believe that the environmental impact statement referenced above adequately addresses the potential threats. I also feel that the safeguards outlined to protect the environment will be sufficient.

Specifically, I am concerned that the plan for monitoring and mitigation is not well defined and offers

gives way too much authority for decisions affecting the desert ecosystem to Cadiz, Inc. and its customer, Metropolitan Water district, both of which have an economic interest in extracting ground water. Allowing profit-focused decision makers to be in charge of the protection of our public resources does not protect the public interest.

The document needs to examine alternatives that are actually, sustainable, safer and less environmentally destructive, including water conservation measures. The review of such viable alternatives is legal requirement. I believe ~~much more~~ progress should be made in water conservation before parks and natural areas are further threatened by projects such as the alternatives that should be considered include other existing, planned or feasible water storage projects and a host of easily adopted water conservation measures that have successfully reduced water demand in other areas.

Finally, I am very concerned about the possible air pollution that could result if the water table under the nearby "dry" lake drops even a few feet. We have already seen what can happen when this occurs, namely Owen Lakes. In addition to the nearby inhabitants, this pollution threatens public lands including two national parks and five wilderness areas managed by the BLM.

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We have enough air pollution problems at the Grand Canyon already, we don't need anymore!! These lands were set aside by Congress to be permanently protected for their nationally significant natural and cultural resource values. This project is likely to undo that protection for future generations.

Please do not further pursue this arrangement with Cadiz, Inc.

Thank you,

Kirk D. Mayes

KIRK D. Mayes
175A Centre St #124
Quincy, MA 02169

OR

KIRK D. Mayes
902 Noevis Rd
Prescott, AZ 86303