

December 27, 2000

Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507-0714

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Attn: Mr. James Williams

Metropolitan Water District
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Attn: Mr. Jack Safely

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Southern California, I would like to submit comments on the proposal of Cadiz, Inc. to drain aquifer water under the Mojave Desert National Preserve.

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The inadequate examination of alternatives is the most serious flaw in the SEIS. The Southern California residents and businesses have hardly begun to institute simple water conservation measures. A combination of aggressive consumer education and assistance to commercial operations can save more water than would be pumped by the proposed project.

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I am also concerned about the inadequate attention paid to the water quality issues involved in draining this aquifer. The discovery of toxic chemicals in the water is a serious problem that needs to be addressed. Adding contaminated water to the existing water supply will likely pose unacceptable risks to existing water users and place an unfair cost of clean up on them. It is not in the public interest to allow this project to benefit a private company at public cost.

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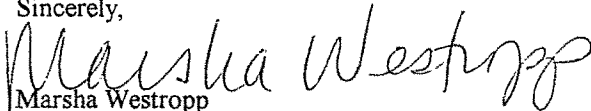
Finally, I strongly assert that a project that proposes the drainage of an aquifer lying beneath public land that will endanger the health of the desert ecosystem is enormously unjust. It is time for the Bureau of Land Management to encourage sustainable water use in Southern California instead of continuing the past practice of providing an ever increasing supply to a water-poor region through interbasin transfers.

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Thank you for your careful consideration to these comments.

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Sincerely,



Marsha Westropp
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Laguna Hills, CA 92653