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December 28, 2000

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

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT
RIVERSIDE, CA

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter is in response to the proposed Cadiz Water Project. Clearly, the extraction of vital ground water which will impact a National Park, a National Preserve and wilderness and wildlife areas is not acceptable on its face.

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Were the present supplemental environmental impact statement properly done, there is little doubt the project would be abandoned. As it stands, the environmental analysis remains incomplete. Putting forward a monitoring plan without a plan to deal with resultant environmental problems is unconscionable. As is the plan to define the BLM's authority in closed door sessions. At the very least the BLM has an obligation to spell out the criteria to be used to protect the unique and rare organisms in this desert community.

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Indeed, it is also incumbent on the BLM to maintain it's authority to protect our environment. To seed even one iota of your responsibility to a private firm, with profit as its motive, is totally irresponsible.

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Given the Department of Water & Power's (They are, as I am sure you know, the major creator of the MWD) behavior in the Owens Valley, your treatment of this project is either incredibly naïve or conspiratorial. For your agency to copy the historic bad behavior of the Bureau of Reclamation is beyond pale.

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It is equally unconscionable to permit a project that will endanger those who are it's supposed beneficiaries. For a governmental agency to behave in the manner that PG&E did in Hinkley is incomprehensible. Your proposal to disregard the

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consequences of foisting contaminated water on innocent citizens is beyond belief.

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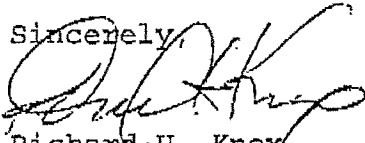
It's time the federal government quit using our tax dollars to subsidize water for large corporate farmers. Once they start paying their fair share for subsidized water, there will be ample supplies and there will be no need to even consider harebrained projects like this one. Even, without this change there are alternatives that are more sustainable, safer and less environmentally destructive. While, some utilities like the DWP have instituted significant indoor conservation programs. There has been almost no truly effective programs related to out door use in Southern California.

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I truly expect better from an agency that is supposed to protect the interest of the whole nation and not those of a profit hungry company.

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Sincerely,



Richard H. Knox
Retired DWP Conservation Manager