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CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT  
RIVERSIDE, CA.

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

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Attn: Mr. James Williams

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing to express my deep concern at the Cadiz Project's proposed plans to tap into the aquifer that underlies the Mojave National Preserve and five Bureau of Land Management wilderness areas.

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It is my understanding that the supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) does not fully examine the many potential problems that could result from draining a desert ecosystem of its water supply. The document needs to consider alternatives that are actually sustainable, safer and less environmentally destructive, including water conservation measures.

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The potential harm that this project could have is enormous and potentially irreversible. The public lands that could be impacted by this project include two national parks and five wilderness areas managed by the BLM. As you are well aware, these areas are home to many rare plants and animals, including the threatened desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. These lands were set aside by Congress to be protected for their nationally significant natural and cultural resource values. I fear that the Cadiz Project puts the protection of these lands into jeopardy. It has vast ramifications for the future of water management, public health and the protection of the natural resources of southern California.

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Sincerely,

*Laurie Battin*  
Laurie Battin

Note: This letter was also sent to the Metropolitan Water District.