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CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT  
RIVERSIDE, CA

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31 December 2000

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

Dear Mr. Williams,

I write to express my opposition to the Cadiz Project and my concerns regarding its Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

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- **The Cadiz SEIS does not adequately account for the costs and benefits of the project.** Under the current SEIS, the public and the environment will pay the price (both literally and figuratively) while two profit-focused entities -- Cadiz, Incorporated and the Metropolitan Water District -- will reap the (economic) benefits.
- **The SEIS does not fully examine the problems that will result from draining precious water from a desert ecosystem.** As you know, the proposed project will affect federally-protected public land in two National Parks and five BLM-managed Wilderness Areas. I am especially concerned for the project's impact on endangered desert tortoise and bighorn sheep.
- **The "monitoring and mitigation" plan makes Cadiz, Inc. and the Metropolitan Water District the primary decision-makers regarding management of the aquifer's water supply.** Both Cadiz, Inc. and the MWD will benefit financially from continued groundwater extraction. An SEIS that puts Cadiz and MWD in charge of monitoring and mitigation naively puts private profit before public interest. As a steward of public lands and resources, the BLM should oppose such an arrangement.

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I urge you re-evaluate the SEIS and, ultimately, to oppose the Cadiz Project itself. Thank you for your attention to my letter.

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Yours sincerely,

