

December 30, 2000

14355 Huston St., #225  
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

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

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Dear Mr. Safely:

I am writing you to urge you to reject the Cadiz Inc.'s plan to drain water from aquifers beneath the Mojave Desert. There are several important reasons why the Cadiz Inc's plan should be rejected. First, the water from these aquifers is precious to a variety of rare plants and animals such as the desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. Second, the water from these aquifers will be extremely expensive, if not impossible to treat. Third, sustainable alternatives that are less environmentally destructive, such as water conservation measures, need to be considered. Fourth, public lands outside the area of extraction, including two national parks and five wilderness areas managed by the BLM, would be adversely affected by the draining of these aquifers.

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I am convinced there are environmentally sound, sustainable solutions to our current water problems. I encourage you to explore these options rather than permitting the Cadiz Inc.'s "quick fix" entrepreneurship.

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Sincerely,



Seth Shteir