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MOJAVE DESERT DISTRICT
RIVERSIDE, CA.

January 1, 2001

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

ATTN: Mr. James Williams

RE: Cadiz Project SEIS

I am very concerned with several elements of the SEIS as it stands. This project, in its present configuration, would have significant and long-term consequences for large areas of public lands that should remain protected under federal designation. It is vitally important that careful scientific study and planning be the basis for final decisions and implementation.

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What is the true character of this project? While it is described as a storage project, there seems to be ample evidence that in fact the net effect could be the depletion of vast amounts of water from the Mojave Desert aquifer. This water has sustained a fragile ecosystem, which now could be further desertified with great loss of plant and animal viability. It is important that the SEIS more clearly specify how such (potential) impacts will be assessed and remedied.

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It is also administratively suspicious that key project oversight would remain with the commercial contractor, rather than with a qualified public agency. The natural welfare of the desert should not depend on decisions that might be swayed by financial (profit) bias.

P43-3

I sincerely trust that the BLM will guide the review and planning process to ensure that maximal attention be given to the long-term vitality of the desert ecosystem and to public health, even if to the possible detriment of commercial interests.

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Cordially,



Stephen Brown
Land Survey Technician