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U.S. Bureau of Land Management
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507

CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT
RIVERSIDE, CA.

P48

Attn: Mr. James Williams

Subject: Supplement to Draft EIR/EIS for Cadiz Groundwater Storage
& Dry-Year Supply Program

Dear Mr. Williams:

I'm writing to you as a concerned citizen who has watched what seems to be a prolonged and unwarranted struggle surrounding this project. I have a background as an engineering geologist, and as such have knowledge of the engineering and scientific basis of the proposed project as outlined in the Draft EIR/EIS and in the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS. The proposed "Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan" outlined in the Supplement appears to me to be an unprecedented effort to monitor important environmental resources in the vicinity of the project area, and to provide advanced warning of any potential environmental impacts to these resources.

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First, let me comment briefly on the technical side. From what I understand from the Draft EIR/EIS and the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS, this project is based on a careful, thorough, and consistent approach to solving a critical problem within Metropolitan Water District's service area, which provides water to approximately 17 million people in southern California. Both the field and design studies have paid careful attention to standard practices in engineering and hydrologic work, and this has been clearly documented and substantiated in the supporting materials.

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In contrast, various challenges to this work from other agencies and groups, specifically the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (for example, the "comment letter" written by James F. Devine dated February 23, 2000), seem to be based on shoddy research and unwarranted extrapolations of findings from dissimilar environments. The contrast is remarkable, and it is a shame that this has slowed the progress of this project as much as it has.

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The real issue here, however, is the apparent ability of self-serving organizations to deadlock what is a very innovative and environmentally non-destructive program for dealing with the water problems in southern California. Accordingly, I would hope that the Department of the Interior undertake an investigation into the activities of both the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service in their opposition to the proposed project. I believe that the tactics employed by these agencies raise important ethical and professional questions.

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I hope that the situation is resolved speedily, and that the solid base of evidence in favor of the project is accorded the respect that it deserves.

748-4

Respectfully,



Michael Crandall

1008 N. 49th St.
Seattle, WA 98103

cc: Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.