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CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT  
RIVERSIDE, CA.

January 4, 2001

Bureau of Land Management  
6221 Box Springs Blvd.  
P. O. Box 54153  
Riverside, CA 92507

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Attention: Mr. James Williams

Dear Mr. Williams:

I was unable to attend the December 18 meeting concerning the proposal of Cadiz, Inc. to extract water from an aquifer underlying the Mojave National Preserve and five BLM wilderness areas, and am writing to add my concerns to those already expressed as to the advisability of this project.

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Some of the problems with the SEIS are as follows:

- Failure to thoroughly disclose the costs to the public of water treatment which could be required if noxious chemicals are found in the groundwater or Colorado River water.
- Failure to thoroughly discuss what would happen to the two "dry" lakes in the area if water is taken from the aquifer, e.g., blowing dust.
- Incomplete discussion of the relationship between the amount of water Cadiz and the MWD would be allowed to take from the Colorado River, and the required reduction in the amount of water California will be permitted to take from the Colorado River in future years.
- An inadequate monitoring and mitigation plan. If Cadiz, Inc. and the MWD are allowed full control and discretion over this project, would there be any public oversight to protect and preserve this desert ecosystem? There does not seem to have been any preliminary scientific study as to the probable impact of the project on the unique plants and animals of this area, nor is there provision for ongoing long-term study and evaluation of the aquifer and the life forms which depend on it. We would not want this to be like a mine which, when the ore runs out and it's no longer profitable, the owners abandon, leaving land (and aquifers) which has been ruined and would cost a great deal to clean up and restore.
- An EIS should present realistic alternatives. Naturally, if a corporation is seeking to profit by providing water, it's not in their best interests to suggest water conservation measures or other water storage measures. It may be in the public's best interests, however, to choose less environmentally risky and more sustainable

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methods of obtaining water than the present for-profit proposal. The EIS should include such alternatives.

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Finally, considerable study and litigation have been going on concerning water rights in the Mojave River watershed, and I wonder whether the Cadiz/MDW project is adjacent and possible interactions should be taken into account before determining whether this project could influence groundwater flows elsewhere.

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Thank you for including these remarks in the public commentary record concerning Cadiz, Inc.'s proposal for pumping water from the western Mojave Desert aquifer.

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Yours truly,

*Terry Bing*

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