

RECEIVED  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

2001 JAN 10 PM 2:32

CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT  
RIVERSIDE, CA.

Alice Tseng  
6801 Trojan Ct.  
Moorpark, CA 93021

Jan 6, 2001  
(805) 529-7416

Mr. James Williams  
BLM  
CA Desert District  
6221 Box Spring Blvd.  
Riverside, CA 92507-0714

P72

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing urgently to voice my grave concerns over the Cadiz Project. It is a groundwater grab in the Mojave Desert for private profit and I want to raise the following points regarding to the project and its SEIS:

P72-1

(1) The public lands that could be impacted by this project include two national parks and five wilderness areas managed by the BLM. These lands were set aside by Congress to be permanently protected for their nationally significant natural and cultural resource values. This project is very likely to undo that protection for future. This groundwater grab in the Mojave Desert affects wildlife and air quality in the Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree NP, and five BLM wilderness areas.

P72-2

(2) The Cadiz Project could endanger the unique and rare plants and animals of this desert community, including the threatened desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep. The SEIS needs to spell out the criteria it will use to stop this project before it causes irreversible damage.

P72-3

(3) The SEIS does not fully examine the potential problems that could result from draining a desert ecosystem of its precious and scarce water supply.

P72-4

(4) The SEIS does not contain complete information on the water quality of the groundwater or the Colorado River water that would be imported to this aquifer. This is extremely troubling especially given the recent discovery of the extraordinarily high levels of chromium 6 in the groundwater. Moreover, there is the possibility of one or both of these water sources containing arsenic, radon, MTBE and perchlorates from rock fuel. These types of contamination are expensive to treat at the expense of taxpayer and the domestic consumers of water supplies in southern CA.

P72-5

Note: This letter was also sent to the Metropolitan Water District.

- (5) The environmental analysis for this project is currently incomplete. The monitoring plan falls short of aiding the management of environmental problems. Not only there is no information on how water quality problems will be addressed, but BLM's authority is not well defined in the latest environmental report and instead will be negotiated behind closed-door. All of these issues need to be addressed and publicly disclosed in another environmental impact statement.
- (6) The "monitoring and mitigation" plan is ill-defined and is under management that is questionable for environmental impacts. Under this plan, all monitoring and decision-making will be dominated by Cadiz, Inc. and its customer, Metropolitan Water District, both of which have built-in incentives to favor continued groundwater extraction. This puts profit-focused decision makers in charge of the protection of our public resources. The public's interested is not well represented and will not be protected.
- (7) The SEIS needs to examine alternatives that are actually sustainable, safer and less environmentally destructive, including but not limited to water conservation measures. The review of such viable alternatives is a requirement under both state and federal law. Alternatives that should be considered include other existing, planned or feasible water storage projects and a host of easily adopted water conservation measures that have successfully reduced water demand in other areas.

p72-6

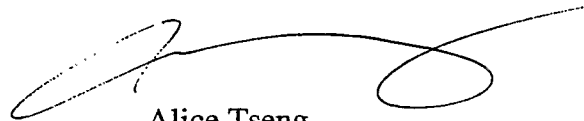
p72-7

p72-8

I strongly urge you and the Metropolitan Water District to make a decision that is informed, reasoned, and that promotes the public interest rather than private profit! Your decision has too many ramifications for the future of water management, public health and the protection of the natural resources of southern California.

p72-9

Sincerely Yours,



Alice Tseng  
Regular visitor to Joshua  
Tree NP

Ms. Alice S. Tseng  
6801 Trojan Ct.  
Moorpark, CA 93021-2550

*Cadiz Project*



Mr. James Williams