

Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507

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CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT
RIVERSIDE, CA.

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Dear Mr Williams,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed Cadiz Project as I believe it will adversely affect wildlife, water and air quality in the Mojave National Preserve, Joshua Tree National Park and nearby BLM wildlife areas.

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First, the monitoring and mitigation will be under the auspices of Cadiz, Inc. and its primary customer for the water, the Metropolitan Water District. As they have a vested interest in the project, their ability to adequately monitor and redress the certain damage to the area by such a water grab is dubious at best, and is in direct conflict with what I feel to be the public interest.

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Second, while the above-mentioned and flawed plan to monitor the project exists, a plan for the management of subsequent environmental problems does not. Further, the BLM's role is not only ill-defined but will be determined beyond the realm of public comment, hearing and, therefore, public interest.

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Third, the project and its supplemental environmental impact statement contain inadequate water quality information on both the aquifer and the replacement water from the Colorado River. As it is likely that one or both sources of water will contain significant amounts of toxic materials requiring costly treatments, and as said treatments will likely be at taxpayers expense, full examination and disclosure of the water quality is in the public interest.

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Fourth, federal and state laws mandate the review of viable alternatives. I recommend water conservation methods to reduce demand as the most beneficial and least environmentally destructive alternative.

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Fifth, and most importantly, this project poses a potential danger to the unique ecosystem of this area. The SEIS should contain clearly defined, low-threshold criteria that would allow an impartial and environmentally educated oversight body to halt the project to prevent irreversible damage to the ecosystem.

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Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Alison Sweetser 12-30-00

Alison Sweetser
24084 Clayton Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95949