

Metropolitan Water District
Water Resources Management Group
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

paq

Dear Mr. Safely

I am writing to comment on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement on the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-year Supply Program. I am concerned about the possible impacts this project could have on the Mojave National Preserve and several desert Wilderness Areas. I do not think this project is environmentally responsible, and the DEIS does not adequately address the potential threats of the project.

paq-1

The document needs to examine alternatives that are actually sustainable, safer and less environmentally destructive, including water conservation measures. The review of such viable alternatives is legal requirement. I believe much more progress should be made in water conservation before parks and natural areas are further threatened by projects such as this. 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.

paq-2

Finally, I am concerned about the possible air pollution that could result if the water table under the nearby "dry" lakes drops even a few feet. We have already seen what can happen when this occurs, namely Owens Lake. In addition to the nearby inhabitants, this pollution threatens public lands including two national parks and five wilderness areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management. These lands were set aside by Congress to be permanently protected for their nationally significant natural and cultural resource values. This project is likely to undo that protection for future generations.

paq-3

Please support the public interest and reject this
proposal. Thank you.

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Sincerely,



Derek Sowers

PO Box 381

Oceanside, OR 97134