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Metropolitan Water District
Water Resources Management Group
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153
Attn: Mr. Jack Safely

Dear Mr. Safely,

I have lived in Los Angeles and am quite familiar with the area and people, and with the excesses that abound there. For a century the LAMWD has stopped at nothing to feed the unstoppable LA hunger for unchecked development and green lawns. Please find some common sense and kill the Mojave groundwater project. Here is a copy of the letter I have sent to the BLM:

I am writing to comment on the draft supplemental environmental impact statement on the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-year Supply Program. Hasn't the Los Angeles hunger for more green lawns and golf courses done enough to irreparably damage our valuable California Desert ecosystems like the Owens Valley and Mono Lake? I am outraged at the audacity involved here for the profit of a few. Growth restrictions and more creative conservation are needed, not the destruction of more natural resources like the Mojave National Preserve and several desert Wilderness Areas. I do not believe that this environmental review adequately addresses the potential threats. I also feel that the safeguards outlined to protect the environment will not be sufficient.

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Specifically, I am concerned that the plan for monitoring and mitigation is not well defined and offers questionable management for environmental impacts. The plan gives too much authority for decisions affecting the desert ecosystem to Cadiz, Inc. and its customer, Metropolitan Water District, both of which have an economic interest in extracting groundwater. Allowing profit-focused decision-makers to be in charge of the protection of our public resources does not protect the public interest.

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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.

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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.

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Please support the public interest and reject this proposal.

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Thank you.

Sincerely,

