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To: <james_williams@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: Comments-Cadiz Project DSEIS

P 115

January 6, 2001

Mr. James Williams
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
Riverside, California

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am writing to comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-year Supply Program. I believe that this document neither adequately addresses a number of potentially significant environmental risks nor provides sufficient safeguards to protect the environment.

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In particular, I have concerns about:

1. Possible impacts on the Mojave Desert ecosystem, including portions within the Mojave National Preserve and several desert Wilderness Areas.
2. The authority given to Cadiz, Inc., and the Metropolitan Water District, both of which have economic interests in the project, to make decisions affecting the desert ecosystem and protection of public resources.
3. The potential for air pollution threatening public health as well as two national parks and several BLM Wilderness areas, as occurred after the drying of Owens Lake, if the water table beneath other so-called dry lake beds is drawn down even a few feet.
4. The failure to consider alternatives, including increased water conservation and the use of other current or feasible water storage projects, that are less environmentally harmful and could be sustainable in the long term. In fact, I question whether not considering such alternatives is legal.

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In view of these major shortcomings, I urge you to act in the larger public interest and reject this proposed project.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Wallace M. Elton
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