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12/26/00 11:54 AM

To: james\_williams@blm.gov  
cc: TakeAction@npca.org  
Subject: Mojave Natural Preserve water management

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25 December 2000

Dear Mr. Williams,

As a member of NPCA, I am writing to comment on the proposal of Cadiz Inc. and So. California Metropolitan Water Authority to drain an aquifer under the Mojave National Preserve and five BLM wilderness areas - about 652 billion gallons - to sell to cities in So. California. Demand for Water is gaining all over our country with the pressure of populations burgeoning around most urban areas. In the future, a concerted plan will have to be adopted, one that will not endanger, or undermine, our precious land or put our population's health in danger. The above proposal does both of these in all likelihood and does not bode well for our future. Regional problems that have national implications as the water problem is need to be handled with a larger and longer view in mind. The Cadiz proposal reeks of short term solution with maximum financial gain for commercial interests. This we, the population of So. California, the country, our desert, cannot afford. Please take a longer, less impetuous look at this problem before you start draining an ancient water source to help solve a problem which needs a bigger more longterm solution.

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Thank you for considering the value of the land you are selling short. I hope that you can come up with something that will not dry the land out more, dry up lakes and create a potential for toxic dust storms. Be sure this proposal is well thought through.

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Sincerely,  
Melissa K. Buhler - mkbuhler@aol.com  
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