



"Joan Gambill"
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12/21/00 06:27 AM

To: <james_williams@blm.gov>
cc:
Subject: -Our National Parks

P120

Dear Mr. Williams,
As a great grandmother and devotee of our National Parks, 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 believe that this environmental review adequately addresses the potential threats. I also feel that the safeguards outlined to protect the environment will 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.

P120-3

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.

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This project is likely to undo that protection for future generations. Your family and mine need all our help and determination to leave this Earth and our Nation with wonderful wild places to visit and live near by.

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

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