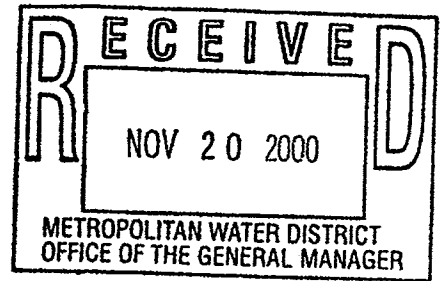


11/16/2000

James Williams
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
6221 Box Springs Boulevard
Riverside, CA 92507



Dear Mr. Williams:

R7

Please accept the following comments regarding the Draft EIR/EIS and Supplement for the proposed Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-year Supply Program.

Under no circumstances (and especially given the recent developments regarding the possibility of toxic chromium pollutants contaminating groundwater at the project site) can this project be justified. It is unfortunate that - especially in California - environmental impact documentation is simply used as a legal maneuver in preparation for the inevitable culmination of ambitious engineering projects of this type, rather than playing the role they should in assessing the true environmental costs of such projects.

The most important client for the Bureau of Land Management should be "Posterity", the future generations who will be denied simpler ways of living as a result of the seemingly unending desire of certain components of contemporary society to industrialize and develop the continent's remote and rural areas. Similarly, the Metropolitan Water District should begin to behave like a responsible agency, and cease its efforts to "guarantee" water supplies to such endless development.

R7-1

Cancellation of the Cadiz Project would be an ideal opportunity for the Bureau and the MWD to stand together and begin to communicate to the State's agencies and residents that California's access to fresh water has final limits, that the supply of potable water for the California population is finite, and that the State and all water agencies should prepare for the sorts of water conservation efforts and development restriction measures that should be the proper foci of their respective energies.

Sincerely,

James M. Bryant
Curator of Natural History
Riverside Municipal Museum
3580 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

✓ cc: MWD