



Gray Davis
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse



Steve Nissen
ACTING DIRECTOR

December 7, 2000

59

Jack Safely
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Subject: Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program San Bernardino County, California
SCH#: 1999021039

Dear Jack Safely:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Supplemental EIR was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on December 4, 2000. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

59-1

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (1999021039) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin Region



Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov>
73-720 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 100, Palm Desert, California 92260
Phone (760) 346-7491 • FAX (760) 341-6820

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December 4, 2000

*Clear
12/4/00
late*

Refer to comment 39-1

DEC - 6 2000

Jack Safely
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

sch# 1999021039

RE: RESONSE TO "SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CADIZ GROUNDWATER STORAGE AND DRY-YEAR SUPPLY PROGRAM, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA"

The Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program, San Bernardino County, California, prepared jointly by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was received on October 20, 2000, and was reviewed by Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) staff.

The proposed action will use and store approximately 15,000 acre-feet of imported Colorado River water per year. It will also provide a total storage of approximately 1 million acre-feet of water. Storage water would be conveyed from Metropolitan's Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) to the basins during surplus years (or seasons) and will be used during dry years. The project proposes to transfer the stored indigenous groundwater to the CRA through extraction and delivery.

Regional Board reiterates the comments on the draft EIR/EIS contained in a letter dated February 22, 2000. (copy is enclosed)

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (760) 776-8986.

KOLA OLATUNBOSUN
Sanitary Engineering Associate

KO/gr

cc: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95814-3044

File: ER SB ED



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Colorado River Basin Region



Winston H. Hickox
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Refer to comment S9-1.

February 22, 2000

ATTN: Mr. Dirk Reed
Metropolitan Water District
Water Resource Management Group
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, CA 90054

ATTN: Mr. James Williams
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92507-0714

Dear Messrs. Reed and Williams:

SUBJECT: SCH NO. 99021039 CADIZ GROUNDWATER STORAGE AND DRY-YEAR SUPPLY PROGRAM DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/REPORT

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject document.

Regarding the proposed project, we are primarily concerned about the overall water quality impact that may result from recharging an aquifer of high water quality with water of lesser quality. This includes maintaining the drinking water standards for all constituents. Also, we are concerned about salts and perchlorate that are present in the source water, as addressed in the EIS/EIR. The presence of MTBE would be an additional concern since it does not readily degrade when introduced to groundwater.

Our first comment is in regards to the following statement (page 5-95),

"No Colorado River water is anticipated to migrate to the Bristol or Cadiz dry lakes during the Cadiz project. As a hypothetical scenario, however, because Colorado River water contains more sodium and calcium than the indigenous groundwater, any Colorado River water that migrated to the dry lakes and evaporated would contribute even more sodium and calcium to these dry lakes for the production of calcium chloride and sodium chloride. The availability of chloride in the brine underlying the dry lakes would facilitate production of these compounds, and be beneficial."

It is unclear why increased production of calcium chloride and sodium chloride would be beneficial to the Bristol or Cadiz dry lake systems.

Further, we believe the EIS/EIR should address the likelihood that the proposed project has for increasing the hydraulic continuity/connectivity between the Cadiz aquifer and the saline aquifers underlying the Bristol and Fenner dry lakes; and the potential for an increase in salinity in the Cadiz Aquifer should hydraulic continuity be an issue.

Refer to comment 39-1.

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February 22, 2000

Please contact Summer Bundy at (760) 776-8937 should you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,



JOSE L. ANGEL, P.E.
Chief of Basin Planning

JLA:sb

CC: State Clearinghouse

File: ER WDA