

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT EIR/EIS

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has carried out a public participation program for the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. The Public Participation volume of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) identified the public scoping process conducted prior to the publication of the Draft EIR/EIS. The Response to Comments to the Draft EIR/EIS summarizes the public participation process conducted for the Draft EIR/EIS. This volume of the Final EIR/EIS provides an overview of the public participation program conducted for the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS.

As a direct result of the public participation program conducted for the Draft EIR/EIS, Metropolitan and BLM prepared the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS to address public concerns regarding potential impacts to groundwater and air resources in the project area. The public involvement process was designed to inform the public and solicit public comments on the proposed project in compliance with CEQA and NEPA requirements. The public participation process included the following components:

- Publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS (Supplement),
- Circulation of the Supplement for public and agency review,
- Conducting two public hearings on the Supplement, and
- Responding to comments received on the Supplement.

The Notice of Availability of the Supplement (NOA) was published in the Federal Register and in two newspapers in the project area. Additionally, it was posted with the San Bernardino County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and sent to an extensive mailing list of potentially interested parties. Numerous individuals, organizations, and public agencies were also mailed a copy of the Supplement. The mailing list for the NOA and the Supplement included BLM's list of those who have expressed interest in its management of Southern California desert lands, those who participated in the scoping process for the project, as well as local, regional, State, and federal public agencies and officials.

Metropolitan and the BLM circulated the Supplement for public review from October 20, 2000 through January 8, 2001. The NOA provided a public notice that the Supplement had been completed and that Metropolitan and the BLM were accepting public comments on the document. The NOA also indicated how a copy could be obtained for review. A copy of the NOA of the Supplement is provided in Appendix A of this volume.

Metropolitan and BLM held two public hearings during the public review period to accept verbal and written comments on the Draft EIR/EIS. Public testimony at those hearings was taken by a court reporter. Transcripts of the hearings are provided in this volume in Section 2. The hearings were held at Twentynine Palms on November 29, 2000 and Los Angeles on December 18, 2000. Additionally, the Cadiz Project was discussed at a meeting of the California Desert District Advisory Council on October 21, 2000 in Barstow.

Numerous written comment letters on the Supplement were received during the public review period and are also included in this volume in Section 2.

Responses to the written and oral comments received on the Supplement at the public hearings and by letter are included in the responses to comments portion of this volume (Section 3). Each hearing transcript including written comments handed in and comment letters received during the comment period are included in the comments received portion of this volume (Section 2). The transcript from each meeting is numbered (T1, T2, etc.) and each comment within the transcript is bracketed and numbered (T1-1, T1-2, etc.) Comment letters are organized and coded as received from federal (F), State (S), or regional/local agencies (R), businesses (B), groups/organizations (G), and the general public (P). Each letter received is numbered as well (e.g. F3) and the comments within each letter are bracketed and numbered (e.g. F3-1, F3-2). The numbering sequence for comment letters follows on from those received on the Draft EIR/EIS.

Responses to comments utilize the coding system described above. Additionally, where similar or related comments were made by a number of commentors, a master response was prepared to provide a comprehensive response to that issue. The master responses are included in Section 3 of this volume. Where a comment resulted in modification to the text of the Final EIR/EIS, this is noted in the response. The Final EIR/EIS for the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program incorporates all the necessary changes based on the comments received during the public review period.