

COVER SHEET

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
CADIZ GROUNDWATER STORAGE AND DRY-YEAR SUPPLY PROGRAM
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

LEAD AGENCIES:

The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Riverside, California

COOPERATING AGENCIES:

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

PROPOSED ACTION:

Construction and operation of the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program (Cadiz Project) including a groundwater monitoring and management program, amendment of the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan for an exception to the utility corridor requirement, and issuance of associated right-of-way grants and permits.

For further information, contact Metropolitan or BLM at:

Metropolitan Water District
Water Resources Management Group
P.O. Box 54153
Los Angeles, California 90054-0153
Attention: Mr. Jack Safely (213) 217-6981

Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District
6221 Box Springs Boulevard
Riverside, California 92507-0714
Attention: Mr. James Williams (909) 697-5390

DESIGNATION:

Final EIR/EIS

ABSTRACT:

In February 1999, Metropolitan issued a Notice of Preparation of an EIR for the Cadiz Project which would be constructed and operated by Metropolitan in the Cadiz and Fenner Valleys of the eastern Mojave Desert, San Bernardino County, California. The BLM determined that an EIS would be required as the proposed action includes an amendment of the CDCA Plan for an exception to the utility corridor requirements and grant(s) of right-of-way across federal lands. The BLM issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the proposed action in March 1999. In May 1999, the BLM issued a Notice of Public Meeting and extension of the scoping comment period. The Draft EIR/EIS was published in November 1999 with a 104-day public review period that ended in March 2000.

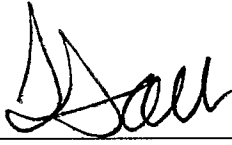
Because numerous comments raised questions regarding groundwater management issues, a Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS was prepared to provide additional information and to present the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (Management Plan) that has been incorporated into the proposed project. The Management Plan will govern the water storage and extraction operations in the affected groundwater basins to ensure that project operations will not result in any unacceptable adverse impacts to groundwater resources or air quality. The Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS was circulated for an 80-day public review period that ended in January 2001.

The Cadiz Project is proposed by Metropolitan who is acting in partnership with the private company Cadiz Inc. The project will involve construction and operation of a 35-mile pipeline for conveying water between the Iron Mountain Pumping Plant on the Colorado River Aqueduct and the Cadiz/Fenner area, a Cadiz Pumping Plant at Metropolitan's existing Iron Mountain Pumping Plant facility, 390 acres of spreading basins for percolation of Colorado River water into the groundwater basin in the Cadiz/Fenner area, a wellfield for extracting stored Colorado River water and indigenous groundwater, and associated power poles and line along the conveyance pipeline and in the wellfield.

This Final EIR/EIS contains comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS and the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS, detailed responses to those comments, and integrates the information contained in the Draft EIR/EIS and Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS with revisions as appropriate in response to comments. The Final EIR/EIS is also available for review on request at the Metropolitan and BLM offices and at the following public libraries:

- Metropolitan Water District
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012
- Bureau of Land Management
6221 Box Springs Boulevard
Riverside, California 92507
- Bureau of Land Management
101 West Spikes Road
Needles, California 92363
- Norman Feldheim
Central Library
555 West 6th Street
San Bernardino, California 92410
- Needles Branch Library
1111 Bailey Avenue
Needles, California 92363
- Twentynine Palms Branch Library
6078 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, California 92277
- Barstow Branch Library
304 East Buena Vista Street
Barstow, California 92311

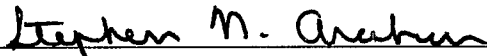
This Final EIR/EIS has been approved for public distribution.



Tim Salt
District Manager
California Desert District
U.S. Bureau of Land Management

SEP 13 2001

Date



Stephen N. Arakawa
Manager, Water Resources Management Group
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

SEP 14 2001

Date

The following technical reports and documents for the Cadiz Project are available:

- Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (September 2001)
- Public Participation and Response to Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS (September 2001)
- Public Participation and Response to Comments on the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS (September 2001)
- Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (September 2001)
- Draft EIR/EIS Public Participation (November 1999)
- Environmental Planning Technical Reports:
 - Project Feasibility and Facilities (November 1999)
 - Groundwater Resources (November 1999)
 - Biological Resources (November 1999)
 - Cultural Resources (November 1999)

The Final EIR/EIS shall govern over the Environmental Planning Technical Reports in the event of any discrepancies between the documents.

The Final EIR/EIS and technical reports are available for review at the Metropolitan Water District office located at 700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California and at the BLM offices in Needles (101 West Spike's Road, Needles, California) and Riverside (6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California).