



METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

September 28, 2001

Dear Interested Party:

Notice of Availability of the Final EIR/EIS for the  
Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program

This notice is to inform you that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have jointly prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) for the proposed Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program (Cadiz Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Agencies cooperating in the preparation of the Final EIR/EIS are the National Park Service and U.S. Geological Survey. BLM and Metropolitan also worked closely with San Bernardino County in the development of the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (Management Plan) that has been incorporated into the Cadiz Project. The Final EIR/EIS is available for public review through November 5, 2001.

The Draft EIR/EIS, published in November 1999, evaluated a range of alternatives for conveying water between the Colorado River Aqueduct and the aquifer underlying the Cadiz and Fenner valleys. A Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS (Supplement), published in October 2000, provided additional information regarding management of groundwater resources and related air quality issues in response to comments on the Draft EIR/EIS, and incorporated the Management Plan into the proposed project. The Final EIR/EIS presents the project as modified by the Supplement and in response to comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and the Supplement. A plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980) is also proposed to allow for the proposed right-of-way for the pipeline outside of an existing utility corridor.

The aim of the Cadiz Project is to ensure the reliability of Metropolitan's existing water supply in the Colorado River Aqueduct. The project achieves this goal by storing Colorado River water in the Cadiz/Fenner aquifer when available and withdrawing the stored water along with indigenous groundwater under specified conditions during dry years. These groundwater operations would be managed in accordance with the requirements of the Management Plan. The project area is located in the eastern Mojave Desert region of San Bernardino County in the Cadiz and Fenner valleys and crosses federal land administered by the BLM.

Copies of the Final EIR/EIS are available for review at Metropolitan and BLM offices and at public libraries as follows:

- Metropolitan Water District, 700 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California
- Bureau of Land Management, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California

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- Bureau of Land Management, 101 West Spike's Road, Needles, California
- Norman Feldheym Central Library, 555 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, San Bernardino, California
- Needles Branch Library, 1111 Bailey Avenue, Needles, California
- Twentynine Palms Branch Library, 6078 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms, California
- Barstow Branch Library, 304 East Buena Vista Street, Barstow, California

The documents are also available for review at the Metropolitan and BLM web sites at the following Internet addresses:

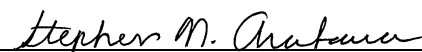
- <http://www.mwdh2o.com>
- <http://www.ca.blm.gov/needles/nepa01.html>


The Final EIR/EIS is available for public review through November 5, 2001. Since authorization of the proposed pipeline right-of-way would require an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, the public may protest the proposed plan amendment by November 5, 2001, to BLM's Director (Director, Bureau of Land Management, Protest Coordinator, 1050LS, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240).

For further information about the proposed project, you may contact:

- Mr. Jack Safely, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, (213) 217-6981, or
- Mr. James Williams, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, (909) 697-5390.

Very truly yours,

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

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