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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

March 26, 2002

The Honorable Gale Norton  
Secretary-- U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street NW Suite 7229  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Norton,

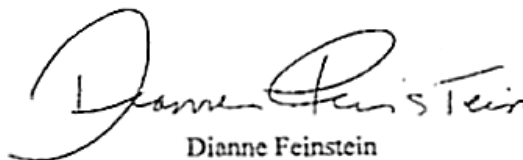
I am writing to call your attention to the Mojave National Preserve. I am the author of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act which established the Mojave National Preserve, the Joshua Tree National Park, and the Death Valley National Park. Protection of the California desert areas remains one of my highest environmental priorities as a U.S. Senator.

As such, I was surprised to read that the National Parks and Conservation Association has characterized the Mojave as one of the 10 most endangered Parks and Preserves in the country. The problems cited by the report need to be investigated. In the meantime, I will continue to do what I can to see that the Mojave continues to receive necessary appropriations to purchase land from willing sellers, to manage wild burros and other non-native species, and to complete the construction of the Kelso Depot Visitor's Center.

The report publicizes one project that I have continued to follow closely and have written to you about on several previous occasions- the Cadiz Groundwater Project. This project involves storing groundwater in the underground aquifer and withdrawing that water as needed for Southern California water districts. The project relies on some questionable assumptions made by private geologists that do not agree with the assumptions of the U.S. Geological Survey. As a result, I believe that this project must receive the highest level of deliberation and scrutiny.

I am counting on your support for the quality control measures to the Cadiz groundwater project I suggested to you in my letter on January 29, 2002.

Sincerely,



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

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