DIANNE FEINSTEIN
CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504
http://feinstein.senate.gov

December 21, 2001

Mr. Ron Gastelum
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 N. Alameda
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Gastelum,

Attached is the letter I have sent to Secretary Norton regarding the Cadiz Project as well as the letter I received from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Director Mike Pool to my latest inquiry about the project.

I understand the importance of the Cadiz Project for Metropolitan to reduce its water take from the Colorado River under the 4.4 Plan and I strongly support the storage portion of the project. I know Metropolitan's intentions are good but I also know that Metropolitan wants to do everything possible to avoid another "Owens Valley."

At the same time, I continue to have serious concerns about the export portion of the plan which would allow Met to sell groundwater based on a recharge rate determined by Met's own geologists. The United States Geological Survey has concluded that the recharge rate in the desert calculated by Metropolitan is 5 to 25 times too high. I believe this discrepancy must be resolved before the project begins and I have asked the Secretary of Interior to allow the USGS to determine the actual recharge rate.

Additionally, I am not convinced that the monitoring program, which has never been used before, will adequately protect the aquifer from overdraft, and that Metropolitan and the BLM are the right agencies to make this determination. I believe the USGS, which has both expertise and objectivity, is in a better position to serve as the authority for overseeing the monitoring program. Since this project is so important, I want to make sure that the project will increase Metropolitan's water supply without jeopardizing indigenous water that feeds the Mojave. I am sure that Metropolitan wants to do the same.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

FRESNO OFFICE:
1130 O Street
Suite 3106
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 485-7430

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:
11111 Santa Monica Boulevard
Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 914-7300

SAN DIEGO OFFICE:
750 B Street
Suite 1030
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 231-9712

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE:
One Post Street
Suite 2450
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 393-0707