



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Office of the Director
Reston, Virginia 20192

In Reply Refer To:
Mail Stop 100
#20020106

JAN 15 2002

Honorable Diann Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2001, in which you discuss concerns about the Cadiz Project and possible assistance the USGS could provide.

I am sure that by now you have heard many discussions concerning the uncertainties associated with ground water recharge rates. Currently, we believe the recharge rate is less than 5,000 acre-feet per year. Reconciling disparities in recharge rate estimates can be achieved only through detailed regional and local studies over an extended period of time. However, given the urgency of the need to make rational decisions fairly quickly, the Cadiz Project managers have proposed a monitoring and management plan that contains stipulations that can result in the Project's being closed down should the monitoring data reflect the need to do so. Our scientists most knowledgeable about this Project are confident that this monitoring and management plan will be an effective tool to assess the status in the ground water and provide the information necessary to protect the regional ground water resources.

We appreciate the confidence shown in the USGS by your request. However, while it is appropriate for us to conduct the monitoring programs, we believe that the day-to-day management authority should remain with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As a sister bureau in the Department of the Interior (DOI), and with integral land management responsibilities, we are confident that the BLM senior managers would take appropriate action should monitoring data develop a picture that warrants adjustments in or closing of the Project.

Honorable Dianne Feinstein

2

As you know, the USGS has participated in a number of discussions among the affected DOI bureaus, stakeholders, and your staff. We look forward to continuing these discussions. Should you or your staff need further information, please contact me on 703-648-7411 or Mike Shulters, California District Chief, on 916-278-3026.

Sincerely,



Charles G. Groat
Director