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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
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COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

December 21, 2001

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

Dear Secretary Norton,

I am writing once again about the Cadiz 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 most elements of the plan which will greatly expand Metropolitan's ability to store water. At the same time, I continue to have serious concerns about specific elements of the plan, particularly the recharge rate and the adequacy of the independent monitoring plan.

The Cadiz plan rests on the assumptions of a recharge rate determined by the Metropolitan Water District. As the main beneficiary of the project, I am not convinced that Metropolitan can provide the most objective assessment. An independent analysis of the recharge rate would provide the necessary data to ensure that the project is relying on the best possible science. Since they are the experts on groundwater recharge, I would ask that you direct the United States Geological Survey to determine the recharge rate. That would provide the independent determination that I believe is called for.

Additionally, I am concerned about the independence of the monitoring program. As I understand it, this monitoring plan has never been used before and only Metropolitan and the Bureau of Land Management will have the authority to stop the project. While BLM will have oversight it is my understanding that Metropolitan will manage the project day to day. I believe that the USGS should have the day to day monitoring responsibility and the full authority to take the necessary precautions to prevent overdraft of indigenous water.

I believe that Metropolitan's intentions are very good. However, Metropolitan's history regarding Owens Valley dictates that this project receive the

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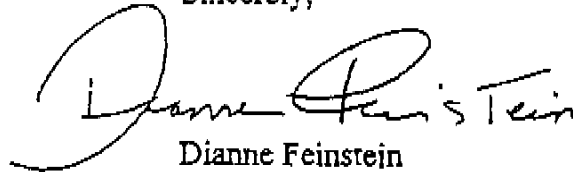
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utmost scrutiny. Until the recharge rate has been correctly determined and an adequate monitoring plan overseen by the USGS has been established, there will be a legitimate concern that the project's water will come at the expense of the Mojave Preserve and other water users. I don't see how you can let this project proceed until these criteria have been met.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator