

United States Senate

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October 29, 2001

Nina Rose Hatfield
Acting Director
Bureau of Land Management
Interior Building, Room 5660
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Hatfield:

I am writing to urge you to extend the public comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program. The comment period is scheduled to end on November 5, yet many organizations seek an extension of the comment period because of the complexity of the issues involved with this proposal.

In a letter to my colleague Senator Dianne Feinstein, dated September 28, Mike Pool, California State Director for the Bureau of Land Management outlined what I believe are basic gaps in the information needed to fully assess the Cadiz project. Of fundamental concern is the statement in the letter that "The exact recharge rate of . . . watersheds is not known at this time." The letter also details discrepancies in the findings of various water modeling and monitoring programs.

The Cadiz project is large, complicated and would impact one of the most fragile of environments, the desert. I believe that a longer public comment period will allow for a more complete understanding of the possible impacts that this project could potentially have on the Mojave Desert.

Thank you for your consideration. You may respond to me through Leannah Bradley, my Southern California director, at 213-894-5000.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

cc: Mike Pool, BLM, Sacramento
Jim Williams, BLM, Riverside