

California Legislature

March 20, 2018

Board of Directors
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B
Monrovia, California 91016

Dear Esteemed Board of Directors:

Your agenda for this evening's board meeting includes an item to "Consider Non-Binding Letter of Intent Regarding Purchase and Sale Agreement for Water Made Available by the Cadiz Valley Water Project." We urge you to reject Cadiz's proposal, given the numerous environmental, economic, and public health concerns associated with the project.

The Cadiz Water Project is out of step with sustainable water management and policy that our communities seek. It is a groundwater mining proposal, to extract far more water than the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that rain would return to the desert aquifer underlying the Cadiz Valley. The Cadiz idea contradicts state and local sustainable groundwater laws and policies. The San Gabriel Valley offers a model for sustainable groundwater management. Cadiz offers the opposite of sustainability – depleting a desert aquifer and destroying the desert environment that depends on that groundwater.

The Cadiz proposal creates more problems than it solves. It would damage California's precious desert environment and ultimately would cost more than other alternative water supplies. We have noted a few problems here:

- *Destruction of Public Lands.* Mining groundwater under the Cadiz Valley, which includes large parcels of state and federal lands, will harm the natural springs on which wildlife in a national preserve and national monument depend. At one point, Cadiz agreed to a monitoring plan with the federal Bureau of Land Management, but its more recent proposal to use an old rail line for its pipeline may allow Cadiz to avoid federal land protection requirements.
- *Dangerous Water Quality.* The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) notes that Cadiz water contains significant water quality problems, including the carcinogenic chromium-6 and other contaminants such as arsenic, nitrate, and bromide. Federal and state law would prevent Cadiz from introducing those contaminants into the Southern California water supply via the MWD Colorado River Aqueduct, on which Cadiz depends for delivery of water to the Upper District.

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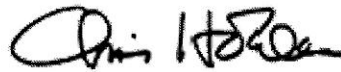
- *Costly Water.* Treating Cadiz water before it enters the Colorado River Aqueduct will be costly. Even without treatment costs included, Cadiz water is more expensive than Metropolitan water. Treating this polluted water source from an area 200 miles away not only increases costs to ratepayers, it distracts us from advancing local water supply development projects that create local jobs. Meanwhile, less expensive solutions that rely on existing San Gabriel Valley water supplies continue to develop.

Given all the problems with the Cadiz proposal, we call on you to take the responsible course and reject Cadiz's proposal to sell you water mined from the California desert.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY RENDON
Speaker of the Assembly
63rd District



CHRIS R. HOLDEN
Assemblymember
41st District