

## **Flawed Cadiz project good for no one**

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Re: "Cadiz project protects desert, offers needed water supplies," March 26.

Although Scott Slater, CEO of Cadiz Inc., attempts to paint the "Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project" as being beneficial to the region, it is anything but. Their proposed operations have been blasted by scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service. They have gone to great lengths to prevent and avoid local, state and federal oversight of their operations. The water they plan to sell is contaminated with naturally high levels of poisonous arsenic and carcinogenic hexavalent chromium, requiring it be blended with Colorado River water or undergo reverse osmosis before it can be used for drinking - making it very expensive water.

Cadiz sued the Metropolitan Water District in 2000 when the MWD withdrew its support for a similar plan after many problems were revealed (costing MWD ratepayers more than \$2 million in legal fees), yet Cadiz is dependent on the MWD aqueduct to transport its water and expects their full cooperation. (And you can be sure that MWD will not agree to lowering their water quality by blending contaminated Cadiz water with their clean Colorado River water.)

The fact that the Cadiz project has gotten as far as it has is testament to the political influence they have bought through large political donations and offering "consultant contracts" to key decision makers who can sway opinions in their favor. The Cadiz water project is good for no one save the Cadiz investors - it should not go forward.

- Paul Clement, Upland