

Mojave Water Agency

DATE: September 13, 2012

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Kirby Brill, General Manager

BY: Lance Eckhart, Principal Hydrogeologist

SUBJECT: CONSIDER RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CADIZ VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION, RECOVERY, AND STORAGE PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION

No recommendation

PREVIOUS CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Board of Directors, August 23, 2012: Workshop presented to the Board.
- Engineering and Operations Committee, September 11, 2012: The Committee discussed the project.

BACKGROUND

Cadiz, Inc. is a private corporation founded in 1983. The corporation owns approximately 45,000 acres in and around the Cadiz Valley area, and currently conducts agricultural activities in the area. A project was originally proposed during 1999-2002 as a joint effort between Cadiz, Inc. and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC). After extensive review, MWDSC voted against the project.

The current project proposal (2009-present), the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project ("project"), is a joint project between Cadiz, Inc. and the Santa Margarita Water District (SMWD), with several other project participants, including Three Valleys Municipal Water District, Golden State Water Company, Suburban Water Systems, Jurupa Community Services District, California Water Service Company, and the Arizona and California Railroad (ARZC). Phase I of the project proposes to extract an average of 50,000 acre-feet per year of water from the Cadiz Valley area, and deliver it to project participants via the Colorado River Aqueduct. A pipeline would be built along the ARZC railroad right-of-way to deliver water from the extraction area to the Colorado River Aqueduct. Project participants' service areas are located in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties. Phase II of the project proposes to deliver and store Colorado River water in the Cadiz Valley groundwater

basin during wet years, and later extract and return the water to project participants during dry years. Phase II is not under consideration at this time.

SMWD certified the Final Environmental Impact Report on July 31, 2012. SMWD is the project lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act.

ANALYSIS

MWA Staff presented a workshop to the Board of Directors on August 23, 2012. The Board requested that staff present additional information to an appropriate committee for discussion and then return to the Board with a resolution for consideration opposing the project. Additional analysis will be presented to the Board during the September 13 meeting, including a review of information presented to Staff from opponents and supporters of the project, and an evaluation of “pros and cons” of MWA taking a position or no position on the project.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

RESOLUTION NO. 959-12

**RESOLUTION OF THE MOJAVE WATER AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OPPOSING THE CADIZ VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION, RECOVERY,
AND STORAGE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2012, the Santa Margarita Water District certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project ("Project"), SCH # 2011031002; and,

WHEREAS, the Project proposes to export water from desert groundwater basins within San Bernardino County for use outside of the County; and,

WHEREAS, the Project proposes to extract an average of 50,000 acre-feet of water per year from the groundwater basins, resulting in a potentially unsustainable use of a limited water resource;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors opposes the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project.

Adopted this 13th day of September, 2012.

Art Bishop, President

ATTEST:

Doug Shumway, Secretary