

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0508

June 12, 2013

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing to request a reevaluation of the impact the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery, and Storage Project (Cadiz Project) will have on my constituents in the 8th District of California. The Cadiz Project, as it currently stands, is likely to impact San Bernardino County's water resources, harming ranchers, rural communities, East Mojave landowners, and the National Chloride Company of America's brine mining operation on Bristol Dry Lake. Moreover, the aggressive project pumping could harm the springs of the Mojave National Preserve and regional air quality, while exporting precious water resources out of San Bernardino County to ratepayers in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

In order to ensure this project won't adversely affect my district, I respectfully request the Cadiz Project be subject to a National Environmental Policy Act review. This may be achieved by the Department of the Interior requiring the project to obtain permission to use a railroad right-of-way contingent on federal analysis of its impacts to adjacent public lands. Additionally, I request that the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) conduct an updated analysis of the hydrologic features of the project area and that any new or revised Cadiz Project proposals adhere to the principle of sustainable yield, meaning no more water would be pumped out of the aquifer than would be replaced through natural recharge as determined by USGS data. This is intended to protect sustainable water supplies for East Mojave communities and businesses.

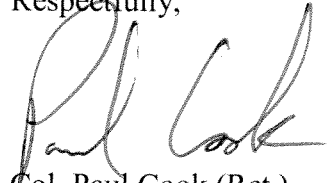
Currently, no federal environmental reviews or approvals have been conducted, despite numerous requests from the Bureau of Land Management that Cadiz Inc. supply them with specific project information relating to the construction of a 43-mile water conveyance pipeline along the Arizona and California Railroad Right-of-Way. While Cadiz Inc. claims it is furthering a railroad purpose by installing fire hydrants and building redundant emergency access roads along the rail line, railroad experts have reported that these actions are not industry standard.

This project must be examined thoroughly before it moves forward. There are serious doubts about the validity of previous environmental studies, specifically the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Professional independent reviews have called into question the 32,500 acre feet per year recharge rate Cadiz Inc. claims will naturally occur. These independent scientists concluded that the actual recharge rate is between 2,000 and 10,000 acre feet per year.

As you can see, there are many concerns about the Cadiz Project. My constituents who live near Cadiz deserve a more thorough investigation into how this project will affect their communities. Fortunately, your agency has the ability to provide my constituents with concrete answers regarding many of the uncertainties concerning this project.

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to express my feelings about the Cadiz Project. I look forward to discussing this matter further with you or your staff. Please feel free to contact my office at (202) 225-5861 if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Col. Paul Cook (Ret.)
Congressman, 8th District of California