

Final EIR/EIS for Cadiz Project Available

Final Environmental Impact Report/Final Impact Study, Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and U.S. Bureau of Land Management

The final environmental impact report (EIR)/environmental impact statement (EIS) for the recently revived Cadiz Groundwater Storage Program is publicly available on The Pacific Institute's website. The Cadiz Valley Groundwater Storage Project is a private venture in the Mojave Desert in San Bernardino County, California. The project has three functions: 1) store "surplus" water from the Colorado River when it is available; 2) pump the stored water to users in dry years; and 3) possibly pump additional native groundwater.

The project is highly controversial, according to The Pacific Institute. There are concerns about the construction of the pipeline, the availability of surplus Colorado River water, the apparent need to unsustainably pump native groundwater

in order to make the project economically feasible, and the impacts on desert ecosystems and aquifers dependent on that same groundwater.

The project was halted over environmental and economic concerns in 2002, but has recently been revived. Last June, the company announced it had five letters of intent from Southern California water providers to "undertake a mutual project evaluation and seek an agreement identifying and apportioning expected environmental review costs."

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency for the Cadiz Project. The EIR/EIS was prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The Final EIR can be found at www.pacinst.org/reports/cadiz/feir/. Also visit www.cadizinc.com.

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EPA Releases Third Priority Contaminants List

Contaminant Candidate List 3

U.S. EPA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its third list of drinking-water contaminants (CCL 3) known or anticipated to occur in public water systems that may eventually require regulation. EPA will continue to evaluate and collect data on the contaminants, and by 2013 will determine whether or not to propose drinking-water regulations for some of them.

CCL 3 includes 104 chemical contaminants or contaminant groups, and 12 microbes. It includes pesticides, disinfection byproducts, pharmaceuticals, chemicals used in commerce, waterborne pathogens, and algal toxins. EPA evaluated approximately 7,500 chemicals and microbes based on their potential to pose health risks through drinking water exposure.

Visit www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl.

Aquatic Ecosystem Model Updated

Aquatic Ecosystem Simulation Model, AQUATOX

U.S. EPA

EPA's Office of Science and Technology recently released an updated version of AQUATOX, a PC-based ecosystem modeling tool that predicts the fate of nutrients and organic chemicals in water bodies, as well as their direct and indirect effects on resident organisms. The new version offers enhanced modeling capabilities, as well as expanded data management and analysis features.

Visit epa.gov/ost/models/aquatox.

Water-Climate Change Links Lacking

Communicating Climate Change and Water Linkages in the West

Carpe Diem Western Water and Climate Change

A 2009 analysis of major newspaper coverage of water issues and climate change in the West revealed a strong lack of