



# San Bernardino County Farm Bureau

November 8, 2016

Chairman Randy Record  
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
P.O. Box 54153 Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153

Re: Farm Bureau Support of Cadiz Water Project

Dear Chairman Record,

The Farm Bureau of San Bernardino County ("Farm Bureau") is a non-profit, non-governmental organization of Farmers, Ranchers and Growers advocating in the best interests of agriculture.

Farmers in San Bernardino County and throughout California have been terribly impacted by our state's prolonged drought and resulting strain on traditional water supplies. According to an August 2016 UC Davis study, California's agricultural economy suffered losses of \$603 million and 4,700 jobs this year. Almost 550,000 acres of land have been fallowed. And, with a growing population and strict environmental regulations, the state's existing water supply are expected to remain under great stress. To address these challenges, the San Bernardino Farm Bureau has advocated innovation and smart practices, including the development of new, reliable water sources.

After having given careful consideration to the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project ("Cadiz Water Project" or "Project"), the Farm Bureau voted to endorse this innovative Project at its meeting earlier this month. It is the opinion of the Farm Bureau that without additional water sources, despite improvements in water use efficiency and increases in the amount of "crop per drop" produced on California farms, the agricultural community will continue to struggle. The Cadiz Water Project will provide a much-needed, reliable supply of 2 .5 million acre-feet of new water over 50 years by capturing and conserving water that it presently lost to evaporation at Mojave Desert dry lakes.

The Project will benefit as many as 400,000 people in California annually, and will not impact the desert ecosystem, plants, animals, springs, or the aquifer itself. It successfully completed a rigorous California Environmental Quality Act review process, received approvals from public water agencies and our own San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, and was upheld in unanimous trial and appellate court decisions. With such a significant environmental record, it is clear the Cadiz Water Project will be a productive, high quality source of water that will do no harm to the environment.

Cadiz Inc. has been a member of the San Bernardino agricultural community for decades, using best agricultural practices and safely managing its groundwater resources. Implementation of the Cadiz Water Project will improve the management of the basin and also enable new groundwater banking opportunities. These benefits will support continued local farming and also improve storage opportunities for others throughout the State, including Metropolitan, as additional supply and banking options in Southern California reduce pressure on existing, competitive sources. Such new opportunities are critical to a sustainable water supply in San Bernardino and statewide.

We understand that the Metropolitan Board will in the months ahead consider arrangements to transport Cadiz water to water users in Southern California. We urge you to give favorable consideration to these arrangements and help your partner agencies make the Cadiz Water Project available for everyone's benefit as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHILLS", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chuck Hills  
President

CC:  
MWD Board of Directors,  
Jeff Kightlinger, General Manager