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Assembly California Legislature

ED CHAU
周本立, 加州眾議員

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-NINTH DISTRICT



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March 20, 2018

Board of Directors
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite B
Monrovia, CA 91010

Dear Board of Directors:

I write regarding the proposed Cadiz Water Project, which the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Water District) is considering supporting through entering into a Letter of Intent. On behalf of my constituents, I urge the Water District not to support the project given the many environmental, economic and public health concerns that are associated with it.

Cadiz is not a conservation project, but instead a groundwater mining project that would extract up to 25 times more water than is recharged, irreparably damaging the nearby national parkland and wildlife that residents of the San Gabriel Valley enjoy and want to see protected. The project would also devastate the jobs and tourism economy that desert communities rely upon.

Furthermore, the Metropolitan Water District has found that the project contains significant water quality problems, including contaminants such as arsenic, chromium-6 (a carcinogen), nitrate, and bromide in concentrations that would pollute Colorado River water supplies. Treating this polluted water would increase costs to ratepayers, and distracts from important local water supply development projects that create local jobs.

Finally, support of this project would give legitimacy to The Trump administration's effort to prioritize this unsustainable project, including placing it on its "Emergency & National Security" infrastructure priority list despite it being neither an emergency or of national security. Last year, the Trump administration rescinded required federal environmental review for this project that proposes to pump 16 billion gallons of groundwater a year (50,000 acre-feet/year) from a fragile aquifer underneath the Mojave Trails National Monument, Mojave National Preserve, and Joshua Tree National Park. Federal scientists at the United States Geological Survey and National Park Service have determined the groundwater recharge rate for the aquifer to be between 2,000-10,000 acre-feet/year. The Cadiz project would do more harm than good and have long-lasting consequences for the health and well-being of our local environment.

For these reasons, I urge you the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District to not support the Cadiz project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Chau".

Ed Chau
Assemblymember, 49th District.

