

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0545

May 21, 2015

The Honorable Larry D. Dick
President, Board of Directors
Municipal Water District of Orange County
18700 Ward Street
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

The Honorable Randy R. Record
Chair, Board of Directors
Metropolitan Water District of Southern
California
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2944

Dear President Dick and Chairman Record:

This year your respective boards are expected to review the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project ("the Cadiz Project") on behalf of Southern California water providers seeking to supplement their local water supplies, including the Santa Margarita Water District ("SMWD"), a water provider serving my constituents.

California's terrible and lingering drought has reached crisis proportions, which has a direct effect on my district. Following Governor Brown's April 1 Executive Order, several of my constituent cities are now facing mandatory water use cutbacks ranging from 20 to 36 percent. Consequently, identifying and securing new water supplies for our region has never been more critical, which is why I support the Cadiz Project. Over its 50-year life, the Cadiz Project would provide 2.5 million acre-feet of new water to Southern California, serving the needs of 400,000 people each year.

Through contracts with the SMWD, a portion of this water will create a new, reliable supply for many in my district. In fact, a recent report by local economics firm Stratecon Inc. estimates that the Cadiz Project offers up to \$6.1 Billion in water supply benefits for the entire region, including over \$3 billion in water quality and supply reliability improvements.

The Cadiz Project is also one of the few water supply alternatives that has already withstood our State's rigorous California Environmental Quality Act process, arguably one of the most stringent environmental laws in the country, and is now nearly "shovel ready." As a result, the Cadiz Project offers an exceptional, near-term opportunity to improve water supply reliability for my constituents and our economy.

I urge your respective boards to undertake any necessary review to make this supply available as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Mimi Walters