August 3, 2023

Tracy Stone-Manning
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C St NW #5665
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Stone-Manning,

We write regarding the Cadiz groundwater mining project and urge you to deny the company’s current request for a pipeline right-of-way. The Cadiz project threatens to drain the Mojave Desert of 16 billion
gallons of water annually, an unsustainable rate of extraction that would have disastrous impact on Tribal Nations, local communities, desert wildlife and nearby protected lands like Mojave Trails National Monument and Mojave National Preserve.

In defense of scarce ecologically and culturally important water resources, the Biden administration correctly and successfully sought to invalidate pipeline rights-of-way issued to the company in the final weeks of the Trump administration. The Cadiz project has failed to materialize for decades because it would be a major ecological and environmental justice disaster, inflicting harm on Tribal nations and California communities that are already feeling the impacts of drought and climate change. The project would mine carcinogen-contaminated water and export this expensive water to communities while draining desert springs that are essential to the survival of desert wildlife and that tribal peoples in the California desert region hold sacred and depend on for their spiritual and cultural practices and way of life. The Cadiz project is opposed by the National Congress of American Indians, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, the Twentynine Palms Band of Mission Indians, the Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Indian Nations and a wide range of organizations.

Californians need sources of drinking water that are safe and reliable. The water Cadiz purports to provide would be neither, and its extraction and export from the desert would cause significant harm to both nature and people. We thank the Biden administration for its past actions on Cadiz and urge you to deny the request for the pipeline right-of-way.

Sincerely,

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