

Response to Comments

**CADIZ VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION,
RECOVERY, AND STORAGE PROJECT**

Final Environmental Impact Report
SCH# 2011031002



*Santa Margarita
Water District*

Prepared for
Santa Margarita Water District

July 2012



Response to Comments

CADIZ VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION, RECOVERY, AND STORAGE PROJECT

Final Environmental Impact Report
SCH# 2011031002



Santa Margarita
Water District

Prepared for
Santa Margarita Water District

July 2012



626 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213.599.4300
www.esassoc.com

Oakland

Orlando

Palm Springs

Petaluma

Portland

Sacramento

San Diego

San Francisco

Santa Cruz

Seattle

Tampa

Woodland Hills

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery, and Storage Project Final EIR

Page

Final EIR

Volume 5 - Comments

1. Introduction	1-1
1.1 Organization of the Final EIR.....	1-1
1.2 CEQA Environmental Review Process	1-2
1.3 List of Commenters.....	1-2
2. Comment Letters	2-1
2.1 Overview.....	2-1
2.2 Agencies	
2.2.1 Federal	
2.2.2 Native American Tribes	
2.2.3 State	
2.2.4 Local	
2.3 Organizations	
2.4 Individuals	
2.5 Form Letter	
2.6 Public Hearing Transcripts	
2.7 Comment Letters Received after Deadline	

Volume 6 - Responses

3. Master Responses	3-1
3.0 Overview of Response to Comments	3-1
3.1 Groundwater Recharge Estimates and Evaporation Estimates	3.1-1
3.2 Groundwater Modeling	3.2-1
3.3 Groundwater Pumping Impacts	3.3-1
3.4 Springs	3.4-1
3.5 Potential for Generation of Dry Lake Dust	3.5-1
3.6 Vegetation Effects of Drawdown.....	3.6-1
3.7 Water Rights Law	3.7-1
3.8 Groundwater Management, Monitoring, and Mitigation Plan	3.8-1
3.9 Biological Resources	3.9-1
3.10 SMWD as CEQA Lead Agency	3.10-1
3.11 CEQA Public Process.....	3.11-1
3.12 Project vs. Program Level Analysis	3.12-1
3.13 Railroad Right-of-Way and NEPA Analysis	3.13-1
3.14 Alternatives	3.14-1
3.15 Terminology	3.15-1

	<u>Page</u>
4. Response to Individual Comments	4-1
4.1 Overview	4-1
4.2 Agencies	4-2
4.2.1 Federal	4-2
4.2.2 Native American Tribes	4-54
4.2.3 State	4-79
4.2.4 Local	4-87
4.3 Organizations	4-149
4.4 Individuals	4-303
4.5 Form Letter	4-363
4.6 Public Hearing Transcripts	4-364
4.6.1 Rancho Santa Margarita, California, Tuesday, January 24, 2012	4-364
4.6.2 Joshua Tree, California, Wednesday, February 1, 2012	4-377
4.7 Comment Letters Received after Deadline	4-393
5. Draft EIR Text Revisions	5-1
6. Additional References	6-1

Volume 7 – Appendices

Draft EIR Revised Appendices

Appendix B: Groundwater Management – UPDATED

- B1. Groundwater Management, Monitoring, and Mitigation Plan – UPDATED

Appendix E: Air Quality Reports – UPDATED

- E2. Fugitive Dust and Effects from Changing Water Table at Bristol and Cadiz Playas – UPDATED
- E3. Emissions Worksheets – UPDATED

Appendix F: Biological Resources Reports – UPDATED

- F3. Rare Plant Survey Report – UPDATED
- F4. Vegetation, Groundwater Levels and Potential Impacts from Groundwater Pumping Near Bristol and Cadiz Playas – UPDATED

Appendix H: Hydrology Reports – UPDATED

- H3. Assessment of Effects of the Cadiz Groundwater Conservation Recovery and Storage Operations on Springs – UPDATED

Volume 7 – Appendices (cont.)

FEIR New Appendices

Appendix K: Draft EIR Notification Materials

- K1. Draft EIR NOA and Meeting Notification Newspaper Advertisements
- K2. Notice of Extension of Review Period of the Draft EIR Newspaper Advertisements

Appendix L: Dry Lake Evaporation

- L1 Estimated Evaporation from Bristol and Cadiz Dry Lakes
- L2 Quantifying Evaporative Discharge from Bristol and Cadiz Dry Lakes

Appendix M: Railroad Right of Way

- M1. Memorandum of Opinion M-37025: Partial Withdrawal of M-36964-
*Proposed Installation of MCI Fiber Optic Communications Line within
Southern Pacific Transportation Co.'s Railroad Right-of-Way*
- M2 Interim Guidance Relating to the Scope of a Railroad's Authority to
Approve Uses within Railroad Rights-of-Way Granted under the Act of
March 3, 1875
- M3 ARZC Lease Amendment

Appendix N: Memorandum of Understanding by and among the Santa Margarita Water District, Cadiz Inc., Fenner Valley Mutual Water Company, and the County of San Bernardino

Appendix O: Cultural Resources Survey Summary – June 2012

DRAFT EIR – Volumes 1- 4 (provided on CD)

Volume 1

Executive Summary

1. Introduction
2. Project Background
3. Project Description
4. Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures
5. Cumulative Impacts
6. Growth-Inducement Potential and Secondary Effects of Growth
7. Alternatives Analysis
8. Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources
9. Report Preparers
10. Acronyms
11. References

Volume 2

- Appendix A: Notice of Preparation and Scoping Report
- Appendix B: Groundwater Management
 - B1: Groundwater Management, Monitoring, and Mitigation Plan
 - B2: Groundwater Stewardship Committee October 2011 Summary of Findings and Recommendations
- Appendix C: Pipeline Alignment Map Book
- Appendix D: Power Requirements Analysis

Volume 3

- Appendix E: Air Quality Reports
 - E1: URBEMIS 2007 Output Sheets
 - E2: Fugitive Dust and Effects from Changing Water Table at Bristol and Cadiz Playas
 - E3: Emissions Worksheets
- Appendix F: Biological Resources Reports
 - F1: Focused Survey for Desert Tortoise, Habitat Evaluation for Burrowing Owl, and General Biological Resource Assessment
 - F2: Streambed Delineation
 - F3: Rare Plant Survey Report
 - F4: Vegetation, Groundwater Levels and Potential Impacts from Groundwater Pumping near Bristol and Cadiz Playas
- Appendix G: Cultural and Paleontological Resources Reports
 - G1: Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment
 - G2: Paleontology Survey and Assessment

Volume 4

- Appendix H: Hydrology Reports
 - H1: Cadiz Groundwater Modeling and Impact Analysis
 - H2: Supplemental Assessment of Pumping Required
 - H3: Assessment of Effects of the Cadiz Groundwater Conservation Recovery and Storage Project Operations on Springs
 - H4: Springs Fieldwork
 - H5: Addendum to September 1, 2011 Cadiz Groundwater Modeling and Impact Analysis
- Appendix I: Economic Impact Report
- Appendix J: Significant and Unavoidable Impacts Identified in General Plan EIRs for Counties and Cities within the Water Area of Use