



January 27, 2021

Members of the Three Valleys MWD Board:

I write on behalf of South Orange County Economic Coalition, which represents thousands of employees and citizens in the region. South Orange County has no significant local water source and are almost fully reliant on water imported to southern California by the Metropolitan Water District. I understand that areas within your service area have a similar situation.

For us and them, water supply reliability is not a given, so projects like the Cadiz Water Project are important, not just for water affordability, but also for the maintenance of our economy and our quality of life. We therefore find it shocking that nearly 10 years after the Santa Margarita Water District certified the Cadiz Environmental Impact Report, opposition groups are still fighting this well-planned, sustainable project. We commend you for your effort to answer their remaining questions about the project's possible environmental impacts and urge you to continue the desert springs study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara J. Thomas".

Barbara J. Thomas
Executive Director