RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
25th District of California

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

Washington, D.C. Office:
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-5330

September 18, 2026

The Honorable Malia M. Cohen
California State Lands Commission
Chair
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

The Honorable Joe Stephenshaw
California State Lands Commission
Member
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

The Honorable Eleni Kounalakis
California State Lands Commission
Member
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dr. Matthew Dumlao
California State Lands Commission
Executive Officer
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, Director Stephenshaw, and Dr. Dumlao:

We write as Members of Congress representing California's Congressional Districts that are home to the Chemehuevi, Mojave and neighboring Colorado River Tribal nations, and to communities across the Coachella, Imperial, San Jacinto and other southern California regions, in response to the California Water Code 1815 application submitted to the State Lands Commission (SLC) seeking authorization for the proposed Cadiz Project. This proposal carries significant implications for the desert ecosystem, Tribal nations, and communities across California's desert region. For this reason, and because we have long fought to protect the water resources that sustain the communities we represent, we believe the Cadiz Project poses an unacceptable risk to the California desert.

The California desert is a national treasure our constituents call home or visit and value. Encompassing irreplaceable public lands including Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley National Park, and Mojave Trails National Monument, this region spans millions of acres of critical habitat for imperiled species, culturally and historically significant resources, and some of the most visited recreational landscapes in the country. The desert economy is equally significant: regional tourism generates hundreds of millions of dollars in annual economic activity and supports thousands of jobs across desert communities.

We believe this proposal carries far-reaching consequences for the natural and cultural resources and local economies that our constituents depend on, and that it is dangerously inconsistent with our shared efforts to develop reliable and sustainable water supplies for our communities.

The Cadiz Project is subject to both federal and state permitting. In our view, and contrary to its obligations under federal law, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently approved a right-of-way permit for the project without conducting a rigorous review of the impacts associated with this significant groundwater pumping and export scheme. We have not forgotten that a federal court vacated this same permit when it was issued without such review during the first Trump administration. In 2019, we were proud to see state legislation, championed by Governor Gavin Newsom and the State Legislature[1], establish Water Code 1815 to protect the desert and its communities from the impacts of the Cadiz Project.

Water Code 1815 prevents groundwater export from this fragile, sacred desert region unless the proposed exporter can demonstrate no adverse effects to natural or cultural resources. Scientists within federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, have raised serious concerns regarding the scale, permanence, and uncertainty of the impacts this project could have on federal lands and the surrounding communities we represent. We believe these concerns warrant thorough, independent review.

The proposed project area also encompasses the ancestral and traditional homelands of the Chemehuevi and Mojave peoples, nations with deep, enduring, and legally recognized ties to these lands and waters. The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe have consistently and formally opposed the Cadiz Project, citing its potential to cause irreparable harm to culturally significant sites, sacred landscapes, and water resources that are central to their cultural identity and sovereignty. These are not peripheral concerns to be acknowledged and set aside; in our view, they reflect foundational obligations to Tribal nations that deserve to be honored.

We stand with the Tribal nations, community leaders, and advocates who understand that the desert's water resources cannot be treated as a commodity to be exported for private gain.

The California desert demands stewardship of the highest order, for this generation and those that follow. Given the magnitude and potentially irreversible nature of the impacts associated with this proposal, and in light of the protections Water Code 1815 was enacted to provide, we believe the Cadiz Project is incompatible with the protection this national treasure deserves.

Sincerely,

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress

[1] https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000197-853c-db52-a3b7-95bd85150000

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress

Laura Friedman
Member of Congress

From: Kevin Alvarez
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 12:42:20 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.ramos@assembly.ca.gov; senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: My Request Regarding Water Security
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

We are currently experiencing a lack of water in our home. Affordability is a major concern for us, especially on a fixed income. California needs a better water situation in our area.

This is why I support the Mojave Groundwater Bank. It is important that we have a reliable water supply for our community. I ask that the California State Lands Commission prioritize its review of this project and complete that review as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Robert Alvarez
San Bernardino, California

From: Ernestina Barrera
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 11:05:48 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.lackey@assembly.ca.gov; senator.ochoabogh@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Now is the time to secure our water future
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

When I became homeless, it made me think a lot about how important basic needs are. Having a reliable water supply is one of those fundamental things that impacts everything else in life. It's hard to imagine rebuilding stability without it.

That's why I'm writing to you today. I believe the Mojave Groundwater Bank is a project that can help provide safe, reliable water for our region. It's important that we have solutions for our long-term water future, especially as we prepare for a hotter, drier climate.

I urge you to prioritize the review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete that review as quickly as possible. Getting this project reviewed and moving forward would be a significant step toward ensuring water security for communities like mine.

Sincerely,
Ernestina Barrera
Barstow, California

From: Mark Bombek
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:45:24 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.juancarrillo@assembly.ca.gov; senator.valladares@senate.ca.gov
Subject: A Better Water Future for San Bernardino County
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Water is so important for all of us here in San Bernardino County. When we don't have reliable water, it is devastating for our communities and our way of life. We need to make sure we have a water supply that can support us now and in the future.

That is why I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. This project can help ensure we have the water we need. It is a crucial step towards long-term water resilience for our region.

I urge you to prioritize the review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete that review as quickly as possible. Acting promptly will help secure a more stable water future for everyone.

Sincerely,
Mark Bombek
Victorville, California

BORON COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

27167 Carmichael Street, P.O. Box 1060, Boron, California 93596
Telephone: (760) 762-6127 Fax: (760) 762-6508

September 17, 2026

Members of the California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Support for the Cadiz Northern Pipeline Project

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of Boron Community Services District, we are writing in support of the Cadiz Northern Pipeline Project and its potential to strengthen California's water resilience.

At a time when small, rural, extremely disadvantaged communities like Boron face increasing pressure from drought, rising costs, and water quality challenges, Cadiz is making water supply and low-cost water treatment more accessible for small, rural, and disadvantaged communities.

Boron is a small community located in Eastern Kern County who *solely* depends on treated imported water from Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency currently being purchased at a rate of $838.00 per acre foot. The District's groundwater is also contaminated with arsenic and does not meet Federal or State water quality standards for distribution. And even if the groundwater was safe to drink and did meet water quality distribution standards, the Antelope Valley Water Basin has been adjudicated, and the District is only allocated so much water per year to pump from the Basin. Since the District, more or less, has one monopolized supply option at a very high cost along with many of its residents having less ability to pay the higher costs, this adds much stress to the District and its economic stability.

We recently saw what can happen when a disadvantaged community is suddenly at risk of losing its primary water supply, which all too often is the only water supply for these rural communities. As chronicled by the Los Angeles Times on July 20, 2021, the 5,000 residents of the disadvantaged California community of Needles found themselves entirely dependent on just one water well with one aging pump after three wells failed to meet water quality standards and were ordered by the State of California to shut down.

In addition, UC Davis's Center for Watershed Sciences identified more than 1,000 California communities who face heightened similar risks due to the severe drought conditions occurring across the West.

Cadiz' Northern Pipeline can provide important regional benefits by expanding the State's ability to store, convey, and exchange water supplies during dry years. This includes facilitating exchanges among State Water Project, Central Valley Project, Colorado River, and local water users during severe drought years. These types of exchanges can help reduce pressure on stressed groundwater basins and preserve supplies for communities that have fewer options.

Cadiz also offers low-cost water treatment systems through their subsidiary, ATEC Water Systems. ATEC removes contaminants including arsenic, nitrates, chromium-6, PFAS, and 1,2,3-TCP. This process is especially challenging for small groundwater-dependent communities to afford.

Under Governor Gavin Newsom's leadership, California is urgently focusing on diversifying supplies, expanding storage, modernizing infrastructure, and protecting communities from the growing risks of drought and climate change. For Boron, that urgency is real, and the Northern Pipeline Project is exactly what California should advance.

For these reasons, the Boron Community Services District supports the Cadiz Northern Pipeline Project and encourages the State Lands Commission to move quickly in recognizing the importance of projects that add practical, flexible water management tools for California. We have no time to waste before the next dangerous drought hits our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schneider

Natalie Schneider
General Manager
Boron Community Services District

From: Veronica Casas
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:31:01 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.harabedian@assembly.ca.gov; senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Remembering our water future is vital
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

It is a scary thought to think about not having enough water to survive. We need to do what is necessary to store rain water so that we have the water we need to survive.

Projects like the Mojave Groundwater Bank are important for our future. Storing water now will help ensure we have a reliable supply for generations to come. This is something that benefits everyone in our communities.

I believe it is important that we plan ahead for our water needs. We need to make sure we have a resilient water supply, especially as we face a hotter, drier future.

I ask that you prioritize your review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Veronica Casas
Upland, California

From: Cool Breeze
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:05:45 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.lackey@assembly.ca.gov; senator.ochoabogh@senate.ca.gov
Subject: A timely boost for the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. Having reliable and affordable water is incredibly important for our communities here in San Bernardino County. It's essential that we have a stable water supply to meet our needs now and in the future. I urge the California State Lands Commission to prioritize its review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete that review as quickly as possible so we can benefit from this project.

Sincerely,
Amron Castillo
Barstow, California

DESERT LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

12200 Del Oro Street, Boron, California 93596
Telephone: (760) 762-3161 Fax: (760) 762-5349

September 21, 2026

Members of the California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Re: Support for the Cadiz Northern Pipeline Project

Dear Chair and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of Desert Lake Community Services District, we are writing in support of the Cadiz Northern Pipeline Project and its potential to strengthen California's water resilience.

At a time when small, rural, extremely disadvantaged communities like Desert Lake face increasing pressure from drought, rising costs, and water quality challenges, Cadiz is making water supply and low-cost water treatment more accessible for small, rural, and disadvantaged communities.

Desert Lake is a small Boron community located in Eastern Kern County who *solely* depends on treated imported water from Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency currently being purchased at a rate of $838.00 per acre foot. The District's groundwater is also contaminated with arsenic and does not meet Federal or State water quality standards for distribution. And even if the groundwater was safe to drink and did meet water quality distribution standards, the Antelope Valley Water Basin has been adjudicated, and the District is only allocated so much water per year to pump from the Basin. Since the District, more or less, has one monopolized supply option at a very high cost along with many of its residents having less ability to pay the higher costs, this adds much stress to the District and its economic stability.

We recently saw what can happen when a disadvantaged community is suddenly at risk of losing its primary water supply, which all too often is the <u>only</u> water supply for these rural communities. As chronicled by the Los Angeles Times on July 20, 2021, the 5,000 residents of the disadvantaged California community of Needles found themselves entirely dependent on just one water well with one aging pump after three wells failed to meet water quality standards and were ordered by the State of California to shut down.

In addition, UC Davis's Center for Watershed Sciences identified more than 1,000 California communities who face heightened similar risks due to the severe drought conditions occurring across the West.

Cadiz' Northern Pipeline can provide important regional benefits by expanding the State's ability to store, convey, and exchange water supplies during dry years. This includes facilitating exchanges among State Water Project, Central Valley Project, Colorado River, and local water users during severe drought years. These types of exchanges can help reduce pressure on stressed groundwater basins and preserve supplies for communities that have fewer options.

Cadiz also offers low-cost water treatment systems through their subsidiary, ATEC Water Systems. ATEC removes contaminants including arsenic, nitrates, chromium-6, PFAS, and 1,2,3-TCP. This process is especially challenging for small groundwater-dependent communities to afford.

Under Governor Gavin Newsom's leadership, California is urgently focusing on diversifying supplies, expanding storage, modernizing infrastructure, and protecting communities from the growing risks of drought and climate change. For Desert Lake, that urgency is real, and the Northern Pipeline Project is exactly what California should advance.

For these reasons, the Desert Lake Community Services District supports the Cadiz Northern Pipeline Project and encourages the State Lands Commission to move quickly in recognizing the importance of projects that add practical, flexible water management tools for California. We have no time to waste before the next dangerous drought hits our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Schneider

Natalie Schneider
General Manager
Desert Lake Community Services District

From: Scott Dwelley
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 12:32:24 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.johnson@assembly.ca.gov; senator.seyarto@senate.ca.gov
Subject: We can secure our water future
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Eleni Kounalakis and Director Stephenshaw,

I'm hopeful about the Mojave Groundwater Bank because I remember when California had to reduce watering, which affected our lawns, and limit household water use. It's frustrating to get into those situations due to poor management and lack of preparation. We need to be better prepared for the future, and I believe projects like the Mojave Groundwater Bank can help ensure a more reliable water supply for our communities. I urge you to prioritize the review of this important project and complete it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Scott Dwelley
Riverside, California

Maria Echaveste, Esq.

Berkeley, CA

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Lands Commission Approval for Transfer of Lease 7527, State Indemnity School Lands, San Bernardino County

Dear Governor Newsom:

Under your leadership, California has led the nation to make access to safe, reliable and affordable water a right, not a privilege. The state has invested billions of dollars to prepare for a hotter, drier future in which water will become both scarcer and more expensive. You have called this a "commitment to every Californian." Communities across the state are working together to develop affordable new water supplies, recharge our groundwater basins, and prepare for the next drought, and we need your help to get it done.

California has an opportunity to dramatically expand the water supplies available to disadvantaged, rural and hard-to-reach communities by giving an idle pipeline originally built to transprt natural gas a new, critical purpose: carrying clean, affordable water. Once converted, the pipeline will allow Cadiz, Inc. to work with its partners to save, store, distribute, and exchange new local water supplies from conservation, advanced water treatment, stormwater capture, and wastewater reclamation. One remaining State action is needed: the State Lands Commission is processing an application to transfer the lease for a one-mile parcel of school lands crossed by the pipeline. The Commission is conducting all required environmental reviews for its action under State law, and we respectfully ask your Administration to prioritize the Commission's work in completing its review as quickly as possible. Under your leadership, California will be the first in the world to repurpose a natural gas pipeline to transport water.

Today, our communities depend almost entirely on water imported hundreds of miles from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta—and your Administration has warned that climate change will reduce the reliability of those supplies. Repurposing an idle pipeline to carry precious water would put your California Water Plan 2028 into action—helping us capture, store and conserve water, recharge our groundwater basins, and develop new local supplies to protect our schools, homes and fire protection services for generations to come.

I am writing to you as a long-time resident of California and activist with a long history of advocacy on behalf of underserved communities, among other activities. In the interest of full disclosure, I am also a member of the Board of Directors of Cadiz, Inc. I want to stress that I joined the Board of Cadiz because of my deep concern over the future of water in California and

believe strongly that the efforts of Cadiz and its partners to convert existing pipelines to transport water are essential to the water infrastructure of California.

Sincerely,



Maria Echaveste

cc: California State Lands Commission
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
State Controller Malia Cohen
Director CA Department of Finance Joe Stepenshaw
Executive Officer Matthew Dumlao
General Counsel Seth Blackmon

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Lands Commission Approval for Transfer of Lease 7527

Dear Governor Newsom:

California has led the nation in making safe, reliable and affordable water a right, not a privilege investing billions to prepare for a hotter, drier future in which water will become both scarcer and more expensive. You have called this a "commitment to every Californian," and your Administration has made great progress on that commitment by ensuring that no community is left behind. Our communities are working together to develop affordable new water supplies, recharge our groundwater basins, and prepare for the next drought and we need your help to get it done.

As a farmer and member of the Newberry Springs community, I see firsthand how important reliable and affordable water is to the future of our rural communities. Agriculture, local families and small businesses all depend on groundwater, and protecting those supplies for the long term is critical to keeping communities like ours viable. The pipeline runs directly through Newberry Springs, and repurposing it to carry water would give our region an important new tool to move, store and exchange water, strengthen groundwater reliability and help ensure that rural communities are part of California's water future.

We have an opportunity to dramatically expand the water supplies available to rural and hard-to-reach communities by giving an idle pipeline originally built to transport natural gas a new, life-giving purpose: carrying clean, affordable water. Once converted, the pipeline will allow us to save, store, distribute and exchange new local water supplies from conservation, advanced water treatment, stormwater capture and wastewater reclamation. One remaining State action is needed: the State Lands Commission is processing an application to transfer the lease for a one-mile parcel of school lands crossed by the pipeline. The Commission is conducting all required environmental review for its action under State law, and we respectfully ask your Administration to prioritize the Commission's work in completing its review as quickly as possible. Under your leadership, California will be the first in the world to repurpose a natural gas pipeline to transport water.

Repurposing an idle pipeline to carry needed water would put your California Water Plan 2028 into action helping us capture, store and conserve water, recharge our groundwater basins, and develop new local supplies to protect our schools, homes and fire protection services for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Mitch Hammack
Hammack Hay



Newberry Springs, California [redacted]

From: mike jackson
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 8:06:35 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.juancarrillo@assembly.ca.gov; senator.valladares@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Honestly, let's help secure our water supply
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Having good jobs and reliable utilities is really important for a good quality of life, and frankly, it can be stressful and depressing when those things are uncertain. I'm writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank because I believe it can help ensure we have a more reliable water supply for our communities. I ask that the California State Lands Commission prioritize its review of this project and complete that review as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Michael Jackson
Adelanto, California

Get Outlook for Android

From: Joy Jeannette
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 2:52:39 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.juancarrillo@assembly.ca.gov; senator.valladares@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Exploring Groundwater Bank Options for Our Future
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Cohen, and Director Stephenshaw,

Watching every precious drop of water has made me think a lot about how important a reliable water supply is. We need to make sure we have enough water for our communities, especially as we prepare for a hotter, drier future.

I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. I urge the California State Lands Commission to prioritize its review of this project and complete that review as quickly as possible. This project is vital for ensuring a more diverse and resilient water supply for our region.

Sincerely,
Joy Jeannette
Adelanto, California

From: Ryan Jones
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 8:00:35 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.wallis@assembly.ca.gov; senator.ochoabogh@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Our water supply security is a worry
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Trying to ensure a reliable water supply for our communities is a constant worry. It impacts everything we do and plan for.

That is why I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. This project represents a significant step towards securing a more stable water future for our region.

I urge you to prioritize the review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and to complete that review as quickly as possible. Acting promptly will help ensure that we can access this vital resource.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Ryan Jones
Cabazon, California

From: rhonda Leath
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 4:32:18 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.lackey@assembly.ca.gov; senator.ochoabogh@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Just approve the Mojave Groundwater Bank now
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Reliable water is so important for our communities, and frankly, we have been suffering. I am writing to express my strong support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. I urge you to prioritize the review of this project and to complete that review as quickly as possible so we can have a more secure water future.

Sincerely,
Rhonda leath
Apple valley, California

From: Christine Lee
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:53:19 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.michellerodriguez@assembly.ca.gov; senator.rubio@senate.ca.gov
Subject: We hope for your swift review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Reliable water is so important for our communities, especially as we face a hotter and drier future. It ensures we can protect our homes and support our local economy. The Mojave Groundwater Bank is a project that can help make sure we have the water we need.

I am asking you to please prioritize your review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete that review as quickly as possible. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Christine Lee

From: ruth lessard
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 6:07:43 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings;malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov;eleni.kounalakis;Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov;assemblymember.garcia@assembly.ca.gov;senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Now, let's review the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Job loss can be devastating for a family. Having a reliable source of water is important for our communities and for creating economic stability. I support the Mojave Groundwater Bank because it will provide a new source of water.

I urge the California State Lands Commission to prioritize its review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete that review as quickly as possible. This project is important for the future of our region.

Sincerely,
Ruth Lessard
Fontana, California

Sent from my iPhone

LiUNA!

California State Council of Laborers

CSAEW

California & Nevada State Association of Electrical Workers

California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers

September 24, 2026

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the undersigned labor organizations and the thousands of skilled workers we represent, we respectfully request that completion of the State Lands Commission staff report for the Cadiz Mojave Groundwater Project be prioritized.

The project is an important component of a broader regional strategy to expand water supply, recycling, groundwater recharge and conservation while reducing pressure on imported water. Completion of the State Lands Commission process is also critical to allowing regional agencies to pursue Proposition 4 and other state and federal funding for projects serving disadvantaged communities.

The regional water projects and associated clean-energy infrastructure represent more than $3 billion in potential investment and thousands of skilled jobs in San Bernardino County. The Cadiz Ranch is also the planned location for RIC Energy's proposed hydrogen production facility, which would depend on the new water supply and create additional construction and operating opportunities.

State Lands Commission staff is conducting its review through the established process, and we support that work. Completing and publishing the staff report will provide greater certainty for financing, grant funding and construction planned to begin in 2027.

These projects advance priorities your Administration has championed—water resilience, clean infrastructure, investment in disadvantaged communities and good-paying union jobs. In closing, we appreciate your consideration of our request and thank you for your continued partnership in support of working men and women.

Respectfully,

Joseph Cruz
Executive Director
California State Council of Laborers

Matt Cremins
Director
California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers

Scott Wetch
California State Association of Electrical Workers

From: Jack Lugo
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings
Subject: Public Comment Opposing Cadiz Mojave Groundwater Bank Project – Native American Land Conservancy
Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 1:04:02 PM

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen and Members of the California State Lands Commission,

On behalf of the Native American Land Conservancy (NALC), I am writing to express our strong opposition to Cadiz Inc.'s proposed Mojave Groundwater Bank Project and its request for authorization under California Water Code Section 1815 to export groundwater from the Mojave Desert.

NALC is dedicated to the preservation and protection of Native American sacred sites, cultural landscapes, and natural resources. Through our conservation and stewardship efforts, we recognize the deep connections between Indigenous communities, their ancestral lands, and the ecosystems that sustain them.

The proposed Cadiz Project raises serious concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of groundwater resources in one of California's most fragile desert environments. The project's proposed extraction of an average of 50,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually raises serious concerns about potential impacts to natural springs, wildlife habitats, and culturally significant landscapes.

Of particular concern are the potential impacts to springs and surrounding landscapes that hold cultural and spiritual significance for Indigenous communities. These places are not simply natural resources; they are integral to Tribal histories, traditional knowledge, ceremonies, and cultural continuity.

We recognize the opposition expressed by the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, whose ancestral territories encompass the region. Their concerns deserve meaningful consideration and respect throughout the decision-making process.

Protecting these landscapes is essential to preserving the living relationships between Indigenous peoples and their ancestral homelands. Once damaged or depleted, these resources may not be recoverable.

The Mojave Desert supports a delicate ecosystem in which groundwater-dependent springs provide critical habitat for native wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, mountain lions, bobcats, and migratory birds.

Groundwater extraction on the scale proposed by Cadiz could disrupt these interconnected ecological systems, potentially resulting in long-term environmental consequences extending beyond the immediate project area.

NALC believes that the preservation of biodiversity, natural water systems, and culturally significant landscapes should remain a priority in decisions affecting California's public resources.

We recognize the importance of developing reliable water supplies for California communities. However, addressing the state's water challenges should not come at the expense of fragile desert ecosystems or Tribal cultural resources.

Instead, California should prioritize sustainable, community-centered solutions, including water conservation, improved efficiency, stormwater capture, groundwater restoration, and water recycling. These approaches can strengthen long-term water security while minimizing harm to sensitive environments.

The State Lands Commission has an important opportunity to protect the Mojave Desert's ecological and cultural resources for future generations.

We respectfully urge the Commission to deny Cadiz Inc.'s request for authorization under California Water Code Section 1815 and ensure that the protection of Tribal cultural resources, groundwater systems, and desert ecosystems remains central to its decision-making.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully request that this comment be included in the public record.

Sincerely,

Jack Lugo

Policy Fellow

Native American Land Conservancy (NALC)

From: Saul Luna
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 1:05:18 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.michellerodriguez@assembly.ca.gov; senator.rubio@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Now we need your help with the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Having experienced times when water shortages were debilitating, I am writing to express my strong support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. Having reliable and affordable water is incredibly important for our communities. I urge the California State Lands Commission to prioritize its review of this vital project and complete that review as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Saul Luna
Ontario, California

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Acquanetta Warren, Mayor

Tel: 909-350-6732
Email: awarren@fontanaca.gov

September 25, 2026,

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Lands Commission Approval for Transfer of Lease 7527

Dear Governor Newsom:

Under your leadership, California has led the nation in making safe, reliable and affordable water a right, not a privilege—investing billions to prepare for a hotter, drier future in which water will become both scarcer and more expensive. You have called this a "commitment to every Californian," and your Administration has made great progress on that commitment by ensuring that no community is left behind. Our communities are working together to develop affordable new water supplies, recharge our groundwater basins, and prepare for the next drought—and we need your help to get it done.

San Bernardino County faces a growing threat to our long-term water security from anticipated declines in State Water Project deliveries and the increasing challenge of sustainably replenishing our groundwater basins. Here in Fontana, we are meeting those challenges while working hard to help deliver your goal of 2.5 million new homes by 2030, including one million affordable homes. Your Administration has recognized Fontana as a pro-housing community, and we are planning for more than 17,000 new homes by 2029. To build new housing, we need reliable, affordable water. We are doing our part. Now we need your help securing the water supplies that will allow us to keep building without putting higher costs on the families who will call these new homes their own.

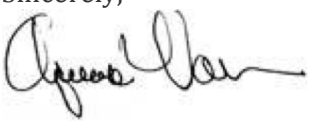
Fontana is already putting a regional approach into action. Fontana Water Company, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District and Cadiz are working to address legacy perchlorate contamination from nearby Superfund sites that has prevented groundwater recharge at the Cactus Basins. This groundbreaking effort, in partnership with the County will protect local water quality while unlocking groundwater recharge and strengthening the reliable, affordable water supply Fontana and the region need to grow.

We have an opportunity to activate a network of idle and underutilized pipelines that can deliver new water supplies to Fontana and communities throughout the San Bernardino Valley— including an idle pipeline originally built to transport fossil fuels that can be given a new, life- giving purpose: carrying clean, affordable water. Once converted, the pipeline will allow us to save, store, distribute, and exchange new water supplies from conservation, advanced water treatment, stormwater capture, and wastewater reclamation.

One remaining State action is needed: the State Lands Commission is processing an application to transfer the lease for a one- mile parcel of school lands crossed by the pipeline. The Commission is conducting all environmental review required for its action under State law, and we respectfully ask you to support the Commission in completing its work as quickly as possible. With your leadership, California will be the first in the world to repurpose a fossil fuel pipeline to transport clean, affordable drinking water to communities in need.

Today, our communities are heavily dependent on water imported hundreds of miles from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta—and your Administration has warned that climate change will reduce the reliability of water from the Delta. Repurposing an idle fossil-fuel pipeline to carry precious water puts your California Water Plan 2028 into action—helping us capture, store and conserve water, recharge our groundwater basins, and develop new local supplies to protect our schools, homes and fire protection services for generations to come.

Sincerely,



ACQUANETTA WARREN
Mayor, City of Fontana

cc
California State Lands Commission Chair
The Honorable Malia M. Cohen, State Controller
The Honorable Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, California Department of Finance
Matthew Dumlao, Executive Officer, California State Lands Commission
Seth Blackmon, Chief Counsel, California State Lands Commission

From: Richard
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 1:59:35 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.juancarrillo@assembly.ca.gov; senator.valladares@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Noting concerns about water limitations and supporting the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Having gone through periods of water limitations has been a deeply negative experience for my household and community. I was not able to water my plants and grass, and eventually had to replace my lawn with rocks. The overall feeling of being limited on something as essential as water is not something I want to face again. Therefore, I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. I ask that the California State Lands Commission prioritize its review of this project and complete that review as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Richard Mendez
Adelanto, California

From: Salina Molina
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 4:40:13 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.ramos@assembly.ca.gov; senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: I urge you to prioritize review
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Living without water is like living with no air. I have lived with my water shut off before, and it was horrible. Reliable water is essential for all of us.

That is why I support the Mojave Groundwater Bank. I urge you to prioritize the review of this project and complete it as quickly as possible. We need a more reliable water supply for our communities.

Sincerely,
Salina Molina
Highland, California

From: April J. Morell
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2026 10:28:42 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.garcia@assembly.ca.gov; senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: We hope for a dependable water future
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenantlevelname Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Life without water is simply the worst experience. It is impossible to sustain life without it. Having a reliable water supply is incredibly important for our communities here in San Bernardino County. I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. I ask that the California State Lands Commission prioritize its review of this project and complete that review as quickly as possible. We need to ensure a dependable water future for our region.

Sincerely,
April Morell
Rancho Cucamonga, California

From: Ronnie Olivas
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2026 7:16:29 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.garcia@assembly.ca.gov; senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: We hope for a swift review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank project
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenantlevelname Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. Having experienced times when drought and water shortages have impacted our community, I understand how critical a reliable water supply is for everyone in San Bernardino County. It's something we truly depend on for our homes and our future.

This project represents a significant step towards ensuring that we have the water we need, especially as we face a hotter and drier future. It's about building long-term water resilience for our region. Knowing that this project can provide a safe, reliable, and affordable water source brings me a lot of hope.

I urge the California State Lands Commission to prioritize your review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank. Completing this review as quickly as possible will help secure a vital resource for our communities. We need to act promptly to ensure our water future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Ronnie Olivas
alta loma, California

From: Rafael Ortiz
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 8:16:38 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.juancarrillo@assembly.ca.gov; senator.valladares@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Following up on the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Thinking about water makes me miserable. We need a reliable water supply in our county. It is something we cannot live without.

I support the Mojave Groundwater Bank. This project would help ensure we have water for our homes and communities. It is important to have a stable water source for everyone.

I am asking the California State Lands Commission to please prioritize your review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank. Completing this review as quickly as possible would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Rafael Ortiz
Adelanto, California

From: Paul Perlas
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 8:36:30 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.juancarrillo@assembly.ca.gov; senator.valladares@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Just a quick note on the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw, As a plant lover, I know how important clean water is. My plants need plenty of it to thrive, and I imagine many people in our community feel the same way about their own needs. Reliable water is essential for our homes and our quality of life. I support the Mojave Groundwater Bank and urge the California State Lands Commission to prioritize its review and complete it as quickly as possible. Sincerely, Paul Perlas Hesperia, California

From: Ranee Pulaski
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2026 8:01:49 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.ramos@assembly.ca.gov; senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Just prioritize Mojave Groundwater Bank review now
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Having reliable water is so important for my children. We need to be able to run water for showers and washing clothes. It is essential for our daily lives.

Affordable and dependable water is a basic need for our community. The Mojave Groundwater Bank is a project that can help ensure we have this. It is designed to conserve water that would otherwise be lost.

I urge you to prioritize the review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete it as quickly as possible. This project can bring much-needed water security to our region.

Sincerely,
Ranee Pulaski
San Bernardino County, California

From: Sally Salas
Sent: Thursday, October 8, 2026 4:40:57 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.garcia@assembly.ca.gov; senator.ochoabogh@senate.ca.gov
Subject: We hope for prompt review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

We had to stop watering our yard, and it made the neighborhood look terrible. We also had to use low-flush toilets, which sometimes do not work well. Reliable water is so important for our communities. I support the Mojave Groundwater Bank and ask that you prioritize its review and complete it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Sally Salas
Redlands, California

From the Desk
Senator Richard Polanco (ret.)

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Lands Commission Approval of the Transfer of Lease 7527, State Indemnity School Lands, San Bernardino County.

Dear Governor Newsom:

During my sixteen years in the Legislature, I founded the Latino Caucus and served my final four years as Senate Majority Leader. I authored major water measures, including the Urban Water Management Planning Act and legislation restructuring the Metropolitan Water District Board. Although my proposal to create a desalination authority was vetoed, I remain committed to advancing water policy, particularly for disadvantaged communities that continue to lack access to safe, affordable drinking water.

I commend your leadership in establishing California as a national model by recognizing access to safe, reliable, and affordable water as a fundamental right. To advance that commitment, your administration has invested billions of dollars to prepare the state for a hotter, drier future in which water supplies will become more limited and costly.

California has an opportunity to become the nation's first jurisdiction to repurpose a natural gas pipeline for water conveyance. Doing so would advance the California Water Plan 2028 by expanding capacity to capture, store, conserve, and distribute water; recharge groundwater basins; and develop resilient local supplies. By putting existing infrastructure to a new public use, the project would position California at the forefront of water resilience.

The California State Lands Commission must complete its environmental review and act on the lease-transfer application for the one-mile state parcel crossed by the pipeline. We respectfully urge your administration to expedite this process. Prompt action would unlock a cost-effective water resource for communities that rely heavily on supplies conveyed hundreds of miles from the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta—a source your administration has cautioned will become increasingly unreliable as tbe climate changes.

Once converted, the pipeline would enable communities to store, distribute, and exchange locally sourced water generated through conservation, advanced treatment, stormwater capture, and wastewater reclamation. Coordinating these supplies would reduce reliance on imported water, strengthen drought resilience, and maximize local investment.

With your support, this project would transform unused infrastructure into a lasting source of water security for homes, schools, and fire protection services while positioning California as the world's first jurisdiction to repurpose a natural gas pipeline for water conveyance.

We respectfully request your assistance in advancing this vital project.

Respectfully,

Richard G. Polanco
Former Senate Majority Leader

Cc:
State Lands Commission
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
State Controller Malia Cohen
Director CA Finance, Joe Stepenshaw
Executive
Officer Matthew Dumlao
General Counsel Seth Blackmom

From: Craig Schuett
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 9:44:59 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings;malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov;eleni.kounalakis;Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov;assemblymember.castillo@assembly.ca.gov;senator.cervantes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: My Deepest Regards Regarding the Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Water is expensive, and our region needs a reliable water supply for the future. I am writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. This project is important for ensuring we have the water we need. I ask that you prioritize your review of this project and complete it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Craig Schuett
Riverside, California

Sent from my iPhone

From: Tiki Wish
Sent: Tuesday, October 6, 2026 12:55:17 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.garcia@assembly.ca.gov; senator.reyes@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Just need review of Mojave Groundwater Bank
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Reliable water is so important for our communities in San Bernardino County. It affects everything from our homes to our local economy. When water is scarce or unreliable, it creates a lot of uncertainty for residents and businesses alike.

That's why I am writing to express my strong support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. This project offers a promising solution for ensuring a safe, reliable, and affordable water supply for our region, especially as we prepare for a hotter, drier future. It is crucial that we develop new water resources to complement our existing ones and build long-term water resilience.

I urge the California State Lands Commission to prioritize its review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete that review as quickly as possible. Acting promptly will help secure a more stable water future for all of us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trisha Shaw
Rancho Cucamonga, California

From: John Sousa
Sent: Sunday, October 4, 2026 11:45:22 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.ramos@assembly.ca.gov; senator.ochoabogh@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Exploring groundwater bank benefits for our region
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

I am writing to respectfully underscore the profound importance of a secure and resilient water supply for the continued vitality and prosperity of San Bernardino County. Water is not merely a utility; it is the fundamental cornerstone of our communities, supporting public health, economic stability, agricultural productivity, and ecological balance. Ensuring its availability for current and future generations is an imperative undertaking, especially given the challenges posed by a changing climate and ongoing population growth.

In this context, I wish to express my unwavering support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank initiative. This strategically vital project offers a robust solution to enhance regional water reliability by establishing a much-needed new source and augmenting our existing water management portfolio. Its potential to serve as a sustainable buffer against periods of drought and to support long-term resource security is immense and cannot be overstated.

It is therefore crucial that the California State Lands Commission provides expeditious and thorough consideration to the review and approval processes for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. Prudent and proactive management of our water resources is essential for building regional resilience. I urge the Commission to prioritize this critical endeavor, completing its assessment promptly to facilitate the swift implementation of this project. Timely action will unequivocally contribute to safeguarding the future water security of all residents and enterprises within our region and the broader state.

Sincerely,

John Sousa
Mentone, California

From: markuresti
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 11:03:46 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.michellerodriguez@assembly.ca.gov; senator.rubio@senate.ca.gov
Subject: A Better Water Future Awaits
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Water is something we all need. It's scary to think about not having enough.

Reliable water is important for everyone in our communities. It ensures we can meet our basic needs and keeps our towns running. The Mojave Groundwater Bank is a project that can help secure a better water future for our region.

I urge you to prioritize the review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete it as quickly as possible. This will help ensure a more resilient water supply for us all.

Sincerely,
Mark uresti
Claremont, California

From: Richard Vass
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 2:50:32 AM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.rubio@assembly.ca.gov; senator.rubio@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Exploring the Mojave Groundwater Bank for San Bernardino
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Many people in our region, even in places like Greater Los Angeles, are struggling with water availability. It's hard to grasp how severe the situation might be for those living in the desert areas of San Bernardino County.

I believe many people are facing these challenges. That's why I think the Mojave Groundwater Bank is a beneficial initiative for San Bernardino.

This project can help ensure a more reliable water supply for communities that truly need it. It's important that we have solutions to prepare for the future.

I urge you to prioritize the review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Richard Vass
East Pasadena, California

Richard Vass Sr.

Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority
A Joint Powers Authority and Public Agency of the State of California
PO Box 370, Adelanto, CA 92301
Telephone: (760) 246-8638

September 21, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: State Lands Commission Approval for Transfer of Lease 7527

Dear Governor Newsom:

Under your leadership, California has led the nation in making safe, reliable and affordable water a right, not a privilege—investing billions to prepare for a hotter, drier future in which water will become both scarcer and more expensive. You have called this a "commitment to every Californian," and your Administration has made great progress on that commitment by ensuring that no community is left behind. Our communities are working together to develop affordable new water supplies, recharge our groundwater basins, and prepare for the next drought—and we need your help to get it done.

The Mojave River region is at a crossroads. Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Adelanto and Barstow are planning for nearly 26,000 new homes while also experiencing major new economic growth—including BNSF's $4 billion Barstow International Gateway, expected to create thousands of new jobs. At the same time, available groundwater supplies in the Centro and Baja Subareas are being sharply constrained, while the cost of both water and energy continues to rise. The energy and water infrastructure needed to support this growth has not kept pace. The irony is that much of the infrastructure we need is already in the ground: pipelines cross our desert that are underutilized or sitting idle. The Mojave River Pipeline, completed in 2006 specifically to bring supplemental water into our groundwater basin, has been used only a few times in twenty years. We should be putting this existing infrastructure to work so our communities have the affordable water they need to build the homes, create the jobs and deliver the economic opportunity your Administration has fought so hard to provide.

We have an opportunity to activate a network of idle and underutilized pipelines to move new water supplies throughout the Mojave River region—including an idle pipeline originally built to transport fossil fuels that can be

given a new, life-giving purpose: carrying clean, affordable water. Once converted, the pipeline will allow us to save, store, distribute, and exchange new local water supplies from conservation, advanced water treatment, stormwater capture, and wastewater reclamation. One remaining State action is needed: the State Lands Commission is processing an application to transfer the lease for a one-mile parcel of school lands crossed by the pipeline. The Commission is conducting all environmental review required for its action under State law, and we respectfully ask your Administration to support the Commission in completing its work as quickly as possible. Under your leadership, California will be the first in the world to repurpose a fossil fuel pipeline to transport water.

The State Water Resources Control Board recently approved funding for our Mojave Basin One Water initiative to expand recycled water use, recharge our groundwater basins and make every available drop go further. The effort brings communities across the High Desert together to develop new local supplies and connect them across a region where nearly 425,000 people live, many in disadvantaged communities. The repurposed natural gas pipeline is the backbone that allows us to build on the State's investment by connecting recycling, recharge and new local water supplies into a regional system that can deliver real water security.

Today, our communities depend almost entirely on water imported hundreds of miles from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta—and your Administration has warned that climate change will reduce the reliability of those supplies. Repurposing an idle fossil-fuel pipeline to carry precious water would put your California Water Plan 2028 into action—helping us capture, store and conserve water, recharge our groundwater basins, and develop new local supplies to protect our schools, homes and fire protection services for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Darron Poulsen

Darron Poulsen
General Manager

cc
California State Lands Commission
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
State Controller Malia Cohen
Director CA Department of Finance Joe Stepenshaw
Executive Officer Matthew Dumlao
General Counsel Seth Blackmon

From: Chris Wirth
Sent: Saturday, October 10, 2026 3:12:52 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings; malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov; eleni.kounalakis; Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov; assemblymember.juancarrillo@assembly.ca.gov; senator.valladares@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Not enough water is a worry
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

To have a reliable water supply is so important for our community. It affects everything from our homes to our ability to plan for the future. The thought of not having enough water is a bad experience that we all want to avoid.

That is why I support the Mojave Groundwater Bank. I am asking that the California State Lands Commission prioritize its review of this project and complete that review as quickly as possible. This project can help ensure we have the water we need.

Sincerely,
Christopher Wirth
Victorville, California

From: LYNDA WU
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2026 8:31:30 PM
To: CSLC CommissionMeetings;malia.cohen@sco.ca.gov;eleni.kounalakis;Stephenshaw, Joe
Cc: gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov;assemblymember.tangipa@assembly.ca.gov;senator.alvarado-gil@senate.ca.gov
Subject: Implementing Long Term Water Solutions
Sensitivity: Normal

Attention: This email originated from outside of SLC and should be treated with extra caution.

Dear Chair Cohen, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, and Director Stephenshaw,

Living in California means always thinking about water. Every day feels like a drought because we know how quickly things can change. I try to conserve water whenever I can, like waiting to flush the toilet. It's just smart planning for a state like ours.

That's why I'm writing to express my support for the Mojave Groundwater Bank. This project offers a way to secure a more reliable water supply for communities that need it. I ask that you please prioritize your review of the Mojave Groundwater Bank and complete it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,
Lynda Wu
Mammoth Lakes, California