

August 13, 2018

California State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the California State Legislature:

As you know, water is the lifeblood of our communities. Not only is it critical for our daily subsistence, eating and drinking, but it is a critical resource for everything from emergency response to business operations across California.

Unfortunately, the water supplies that currently serve the state – and especially Southern California – are not sufficient to meet the needs of our population and the demands of our 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. As evidenced by recent droughts and uncertainties about climate change impacts, we cannot simply hope for adequate rain. Although conservation and water recycling can and should be part of our strategy to maximize existing water supplies, the fact is that we must also invest in and support a variety of water projects to prepare our communities for the future.

For these reasons, our coalition of dozens of organizations representing business, labor, agriculture, water and local government is proud to support the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project. The Project will improve the reliability of Southern California's water supply and create and support thousands of jobs by conserving groundwater that is currently becoming too salty for productive use and evaporating away. Located approximately 80 miles east of Barstow, the Cadiz Water Project will be built entirely on private land and governed by a comprehensive, court-approved groundwater management plan to be enforced by San Bernardino County. Importantly, the Project has already been fully reviewed and found to be environmentally safe in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; all of its approvals have been upheld by California trial and appellate courts.

As the Legislature continues its work this year, we urge you to not to play politics with a project that has consistently and successfully followed the local, state and federal review processes established to protect our natural resources and support the growing California population and economy. In fact, a recent survey found that 74 percent of San Bernardino County voters surveyed don't want Sacramento to restrict the County from using local water resources responsibly, when the County has fully complied with state and federal environmental rules. The Cadiz Water Project is an important component of our state's water supply and storage portfolio and deserves fair consideration. Changing the rules for this Project alone, as was contemplated last session, would inhibit our state's ability to meet our growing water supply needs, block the creation of skilled jobs, including jobs for returning veterans, and also would set a dangerous precedent that could impact other sustainable water infrastructure, affordable housing and transportation projects.

We urge you to reject the politics often played with the Cadiz Water Project. California's diverse communities will be best served when we work together to advance environmentally sustainable water projects, support good-paying skilled jobs and defend the integrity of our state's environmental review laws. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Heather Stratman*

Heather Stratman, Chief Executive Officer  
Association of California Cities – Orange County



*Jeff Montejano*

Jeff Montejano, Chief Executive Officer  
Building Industry Association of Southern California



*Valerie Nera*

Valerie Nera, Policy Advocate  
California Chamber of Commerce



CALIFORNIA  
HISPANIC  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

*Mike Heitman*

Mike Heitman, President & CEO  
Garney Construction



*Angela Gibson Shaw*

*Borre Winckel*

Borre Winckel, President & CEO  
Building Industry Association of San Diego



*Valerie Nera*

Valerie Nera, Policy Advocate  
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*Angela Gibson Shaw*



*Angela Gibson Shaw*

Angela Gibson Shaw, President  
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Paul Granillo, President & CEO  
Inland Empire Economic Partnership



Tracy Hernandez, CEO  
Los Angeles County Business Federation



Jeff Allred, President, Public Policy  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce



Dave Rodriguez, State Director  
League of United Latin American Citizens



UNITED LATIN  
CITIZENS

Tony Capitelli, Government Affairs Director  
Orange County Association of Realtors

Alicia Bertram, Government Affairs  
Orange County Business Council



ORANGE COUNTY  
BUSINESS COUNCIL



ORANGE COUNTY  
ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Jeff Allred, President & CEO  
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership

Paul Simonds, Chairman  
Southern Orange County Economic Coalition

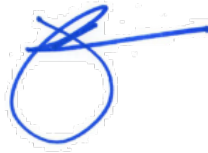


Jon Preciado, Business Manager  
Southern California District Council of Laborers

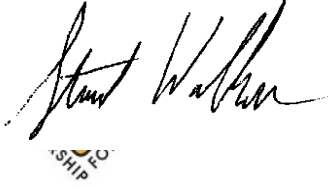




John Hakel, Executive Director  
Southern California Partnership for Jobs



John Joseph Hanula AIA, Senior Vice  
President, Global Business Development –  
Water  
Stantec Inc.



Stuart Waldman, President  
Valley Industry & Commerce Association

