



**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COALITION**  
FOR A SECURE WATER FUTURE

*An Alliance of Local Business, Labor, and Residents  
In Support of Access to Safe, Clean, Reliable, and Affordable Water*

April 20, 2021

President Bob Kuhn and the Board of Directors  
Three Valleys Municipal Water District  
Via email to [naguirre@tvmwd.com](mailto:naguirre@tvmwd.com) and [mlitchfield@tvmwd.com](mailto:mlitchfield@tvmwd.com)

RE: Support for Bonanza Spring Study

Dear Honorable Members of the Board:

We are a coalition of local businesses, labor unions and residents who share deep concerns about the San Gabriel Valley's water security and the future availability of reliable supplies of drinking water for our region. Out of this concern we write to urge you to continue the Bonanza Spring study and the pursuit of potential new water sources.

This year, like many years in the past and no doubt many years in the future, California is facing a water crisis. The California Department of Water Resources reports that the 2020-2021 winter was the third driest on record. Los Angeles County is now in severe drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. MWD's allocation from Northern California is now expected to be just five percent of normal, and the Federal government has declared a drought emergency in 50 California counties. Unfortunately, conditions like this are all too frequent, and will be more frequent and more severe in the future due to climate change.

The economic impact of the 2011-2017 drought was estimated to reach as much as \$2 billion a year as a lack of sufficient water hurt families and businesses through lost jobs and higher costs. These impacts are particularly hard on under-served and disadvantaged communities, where jobs are typically more at risk, and where drought-induced water rate increases and penalties have a greater impact. Given Southern Californians' experience with past droughts and fear of future droughts, it is not surprising that a recent public opinion poll by The Building Industry Association of Southern California shows that residents in every Division of the Three Valleys Municipal Water District strongly believe that you should make studying and pursuing every water supply option that promises to provide clean, reliable, safe, and affordable water your highest priority. The Bonanza Spring study is such a study, and it has strong support across all demographics and political persuasions in all seven of the District's Divisions.

Our Coalition is disappointed that your Board continues to give fuel to the opposition's campaign to hide from science by contemplating prematurely terminating the Bonanza Spring study, even as another severe water crisis looms over Southern California. While this matter ostensibly concerns only a study, it has become apparent that Cadiz Water Project opponents are very afraid of what we would learn when this study is completed. We suspect their fear is motivated by their knowledge that the arguments they have made will not stand

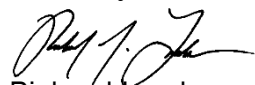
up to scientific scrutiny, and therefore must prevent the study's planned data collection from occurring. But you were not elected to your seats to worry about what the data will show – you were elected to get the data and to make an informed decision about providing water supply to your constituents.

San Francisco-based Sierra Club or the Washington DC based Natural Parks Conservation Association may celebrate your vote to set back the Cadiz Water Project via a study exit, but we urge you to consider your local residents who work every day and may not be aware of your meetings, or even your role in securing their water supply. We urge you to remain dedicated to securing an affordable and reliable water supply for everyone you represent right here in the Three Valleys District.

With California's population expected to grow by 25% by 2050, the Delta conveyance under constant attack by the same organizations that are fighting this study, and the Colorado River moving into its third decade of drought, you cannot afford to ignore Cadiz. It could serve 10,000 of your residents at a cost lower than other alternative water supplies, and has a certified EIR that has been upheld by the Courts. We acknowledge that we cannot say at this time whether the Cadiz Water Project will ultimately be the right call for your service area, but we can say with 100% certainty that a decision of that magnitude needs to be made based on good data and good science, not good lobbying by well-funded elitist environmental organizations.

While the Board has undergone changes since the approval of the study scope last year, the mission of Three Valleys has not changed. It remains **to supplement and enhance local water supplies to meet our region's needs in a reliable and cost-effective manner**. Some of you may not have been here when this study was started, but all of you were placed on this board to fulfill that mission. The Bonanza Spring study will give you a tool to evaluate the potential of the Cadiz Water Project to meet the region's needs in a reliable and cost-effective manner. The members of our Coalition urge you to continue the Bonanza Spring Study and protect the voices of your residents who cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,



Richard Lambros

Senior Policy Consultant

Engineering Contractors' Association

On Behalf of the Members of the San Gabriel Valley Coalition for a Secure Water Future

