

Cadiz Valley Water Project

Cadiz, Inc. is implementing the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery, and Storage Project (the Project). To address concerns raised by several parties in a lawsuit against Cadiz relating to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Project, *“Anthony Brown, one of Southern California’s most respected hydrologists and Principal Hydrologist at Aquilologic...was engaged to conduct an independent review of the Project hydrology and evaluate the merits of criticisms”* (Wall Street Journal, October 21, 2013).

The project involves the development of a desert basin as a source of supplemental water supply for Southern California.

Groundwater would be extracted for a number of years and provided to water utilities via the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). A second phase would involve the storage of surplus surface water from the CRA and California Aqueduct within the groundwater basin. The objectives of our work were as follows:

- Evaluate the project conceptual hydrologic model;
- Provide a description of the groundwater hydrology of the Project that a non-hydrologist could understand;
- Confirm whether criticisms related to groundwater hydrology were valid, and what steps need to be taken to address valid criticisms, notably the potential impact of groundwater pumping on mountain springs, subsidence, saline intrusion, and depletion of long-term aquifer storage;
- Present data or analysis that would refute criticisms that were not valid; and
- Contrast the Project with other groundwater basins, perhaps more familiar to the general public.

Upon completion of our review, we prepared a report in support of litigation that documented the lack of impacts, presented a water balance for all watersheds surrounding the Project, and refuted claims made by opponents. Based upon the findings in this report, one lawsuit brought by opponents to the Project was dismissed, and the plaintiffs in that case decided to support the Project.