March 29, 2019

Honorable Senator Henry Stern, Chair
Senate Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support – SB 307 (Roth) California Desert Protection

Dear Chair Stern,
On behalf of the following organizations, we write to express our support for SB 307 (Roth), which provides a state review process for potential groundwater extraction projects in the California desert that will use a conveyance facility, to ensure the desert’s natural and cultural resources are protected.

The California desert is home to unique scenic, historical, archeological, ecological, wildlife, cultural, scientific, educational, and recreational values used and enjoyed by millions of Americans for hiking and camping, scientific study, and scenic appreciation. Through acts of Congress and designations by past Presidents, the California desert is home to national parks, preserves, monuments and wilderness areas that protect the unique values and history of the California desert including but not limited to: Mojave National Preserve, Mojave Trails National Monument, Joshua Tree National Park, Sheepothole Valley Wilderness, and Clipper Mountains Wilderness.

These protected lands and the California desert at large face numerous threats, most notably climate change, that could disrupt the desert’s ecological balance. In addition to the increasing threats from climate change, the Trump administration has instituted a series of actions that could undermine the future of California’s desert by paving the way for an environmentally disastrous project that proposes to export groundwater from an ancient desert aquifer at an alarming rate of overdraft.

This project is proposed by Cadiz Inc. (Cadiz) and is known as the “Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery & Storage Project” which aims to pump 50,000 acre/ft. or 16 billion gallons of water annually for 50 years from an aquifer that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) concluded only recharges at an annual average of between 2,000-10,000 acre feet. Cadiz borrows its name from the unincorporated California town where the project is proposed and is located in the middle of the Mojave Desert and surrounded by the Mojave Trails National Monument, which the Trump administration is considering to rescind.

It is critical that California continues to protect its natural resources despite any attempt from the Trump administration to roll back environmental protection.

We urge your support for SB 307 (Roth).

Sincerely,

David Lamfrom
Director, California Desert and National Wildlife Programs  
National Parks Conservation Association

Lucas Frerichs
Associate Director of State Policy  
The Nature Conservancy

Arnie Sowell
Vice President, California Policy  
NextGen California

Dan Jacobson
California Director  
Environment California

Sarah Kennington
President  
Morongo Basin Conservation Association

Kim Delfino
California Program Director  
Defenders of Wildlife

Victoria Rome
California Legislative Director  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mary Creasman
Chief Executive Officer  
California League of Conservation Voters

Ileen Anderson
Public Lands Deserts Director, Senior Scientist  
Center for Biological Diversity

Kate Hoit
California Director  
The Vet Voice Foundation
Michael Madrigal
President
Native American Land Conservancy

Mark Butler
Executive Council Member
Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks
Former Superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park

Jennifer Clary
California Water Programs Manager
Clean Water Action

Marce Gutiérrez-Graudinš
Founder/ Director
AZUL

Jonathon Nelson
Policy Director
Community Water Center

Marcie Keever
Legal Director
Friends of the Earth

Adam Keats
Senior Attorney
Center for Food Safety

Matt O’Malley
Executive Director
San Diego Coastkeeper

Geary Hund
Executive Director
Mojave Desert Land Trust

Paul Smith
Owner
29 Palms Inn
Campbell House

Susan Jordan
Executive Director
California Coastal Protection Network

Eva Soltes
Founder/Director
Harrison House Music, Arts & Ecology

Drew Feldmann
Conservation Chair
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

Maite Arce
President and CEO
Hispanic Access Foundation

Garry Brown
Founder & President
Orange County Coastkeeper
Inland Empire Waterkeeper

Juan Altamirano
Associate Director of Public Policy
Audubon California

Linda Castro
Assistant Policy Director
California Wilderness Coalition

Greg Suba
Conservation Program Director
California Native Plant Society

Conner Everts
Executive Director, Southern California Watershed Alliance
Facilitator, Environmental Water Caucus

Kathryn Phillips
Director
Sierra Club California

Jim Lindburg
Legislative Director
Friends Committee on Legislation of California

Dennis Schramm
Board of Directors
Mojave National Preserve Conservancy
Former Superintendent of Mojave National Preserve

Erica Martinez
California Policy Advocate
Earthjustice

Ara Marderosian
Executive Director
Sequoia ForestKeeper

Edward L. LaRue, Jr., M.S.
Chairperson
Desert Tortoise Council, Ecosystems Advisory Committee

Darryl Williams
Board of Directors, Treasurer
California Wild Sheep Foundation
Phoebe Seaton  
Co-Director and Attorney at Law  
**Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**

Joy Sterling  
Chair  
**California Democratic Party Rural Caucus**

Jora Fogg  
Policy Director  
**Friends of the Inyo**

Meg Foley  
Executive Director  
**Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**

Belinda Faustinos  
Executive Director  
**Nature for All**

Tracy Cook  
Environmental Committee  
**Indivisible CA33**

Paula Venegas Álvarez  
**Chicano Indigenous Community for Culturally Conscious Advocacy & Action**

Valentin Lopez  
Chairman, **Amah Mutsun Tribal Band**  
President, **Amah Mutsun Land Trust**

Raven Stevens  
Community Liaison  
**Gateway Neighborhood Association**

Pablo Garza  
CA Political Director, Ecosystems  
**Environmental Defense Fund**

Bill Allayaud  
California Director of Government Affairs  
**Environmental Working Group**

Dan Smuts  
Senior Director, Pacific Region  
**The Wilderness Society/The Wilderness Society Action Fund**

Brian Sybert  
Executive Director  
**Conservation Lands Foundation**

David Diaz  
Executive Director  
**Active San Gabriel Valley**

Katherine Litzky  
Policy Manager  
**California State Parks Foundation**

Dr. Elizabeth Dougherty  
Executive Director  
**Wholly H2O**

Bill Allayaud  
California Director of Government Affairs  
**Environmental Working Group**

April Newlander  
Executive Director  
**Sanctuary Forest Inc.**

David Myers  
President  
**The Wildlands Conservancy**

Allen Hernandez  
Executive Director  
**Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice**

Christina Huff  
Secretary  
**Lost Coast Interpretative Association**

Jessica Craven  
Steering Committee Co-Chair  
**Feminists in Action**

Diana Vasquez  
Policy Manager  
**California Environmental Justice Alliance**

Jennifer Tanner  
**Indivisible California Green Team**

Angela Mooney D’Arcy  
Executive Director  
**Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples**

Tanya Henderson  
Executive Director  
**Amargosa Conservancy**

Matthew Baker  
Policy Director  
**Planning and Conservation League**
Michelle Fowle
Founder and Chair
Indivisible Northridge

Cody Petterson
President
San Diego County Democrats for Environmental Action

Umesh Ketkar
Chairperson
Indivisible South Bay – LA

Hans Johnson
President
East Area Progressive Democrats

Arthur Pugsley
Senior Attorney
LA Waterkeeper

Elizabeth Vitanza and John Ballon
co-founders
Civic Sundays

Karen May
Coordinator
Southland Resistance

Vlad Popescu
Community Organizer
Indivisible CA-43