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October 13, 2026

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

**Subject: Cadiz Northern Pipeline Project – Support Contingent on Completion of
Regulatory and Legal Requirements**

Dear Chair Cohen,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, thank you for the opportunity to comment on matters related to the Cadiz Northern Pipeline project. The County recognizes the significant potential of the proposed project to enhance water supply reliability, expand groundwater storage capacity, and support regional resilience in the face of drought and ongoing Colorado River shortages. Cadiz Inc.'s proposal to repurpose an existing, long-idle natural gas pipeline into a conveyance system capable of moving groundwater north toward Kern County represents a notable effort to utilize existing infrastructure for public benefit.

We also acknowledge the substantial progress made at the federal level, including the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) approval of a 50-year right-of-way governing long-term operation of the pipeline across BLM-managed lands. Recent project developments, such as construction contracts, financial partnerships, and exploration of interstate exchange mechanisms, demonstrate momentum and a growing interest in new approaches to regional water management.

At the same time, the County is mindful of the important regulatory and legal processes that remain underway. Environmental organizations and several Tribal governments have filed lawsuits concerning federal approvals, and SB 307 (Roth, 2019) requires the State Lands Commission (SLC), in consultation with other resource agencies, to ensure that transfers of desert groundwater using public conveyance will not adversely affect natural or cultural resources. In addition, we understand that a portion of the pipeline under SLC lease is subject to separate requirements that must be addressed.

The County respects the role of the SLC and the importance of thorough environmental review, Tribal consultation, and compliance with all applicable state and federal laws. Our support for the Cadiz Northern Pipeline project is therefore contingent on the successful completion of these required

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processes and on clear findings that the project's operations will protect California's desert ecosystems, cultural resources, and groundwater basins.

We appreciate the Commission's careful work on this matter and remain committed to supporting responsible, sustainable water supply solutions for California. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Phillip Peters, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Eleni Kounalakis, CA State Lands Commission Member
Joe Stephenshaw, CA State Lands Commission Member
Matthew Dumlao, Executive Officer, CA State Lands Commission
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Susan Kennedy, Chairman and CEO, Cadiz, Inc.
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange