

**Public Comment for CSD Board Meeting Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6 p.m.**

Dear CSD Board Members,

I am writing in response to the April 24, 2026 letter submitted by the Newberry Springs Community Alliance regarding the proposed Letter of Intent (LOI) with Cadiz, Inc.

While I respect the right of all community members to express concerns, the assertions made in that letter present a number of conclusions as legal certainty when, in fact, they are interpretations that overstate both the risks and the implications of entering into an LOI.

First, it is important to clarify what is actually before the Board. A Letter of Intent is not a project approval. It does not authorize construction, water extraction, or environmental impacts. It is a preliminary, non-binding step that allows the District to evaluate feasibility, gather information, and determine whether a project merits further consideration. Characterizing an LOI as an irreversible or catastrophic action is misleading.

Second, the claim that entering into an LOI automatically triggers violations of CEQA or requires immediate preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not accurate. CEQA requirements apply to discretionary project approvals—not to preliminary agreements intended to explore options. Any future project, if pursued, would be subject to full environmental review at the appropriate time.

Third, the suggestion that signing an LOI constitutes a “gift of public funds” or exposes Board members to personal liability is speculative and unsupported in this context. Public agencies routinely enter into preliminary agreements to evaluate infrastructure and water supply opportunities. As long as the District is acting within its authority and for a public purpose, such actions are both lawful and appropriate.

Finally, I am concerned about the use of alarmist language—terms like “existential risk,” “financial suicide,” and threats of personal liability—which do not contribute to informed decision-making. The role of this Board is to carefully evaluate opportunities, ask questions, and rely on qualified legal and technical advisors—not to be influenced by rhetoric that assumes the worst-case outcome as a certainty.

The responsible path forward is not to reject information, but to gather it. An LOI provides the District with the ability to conduct due diligence, understand potential benefits and risks, and make informed decisions in the future.

I respectfully encourage the Board to continue its evaluation of this opportunity based on facts, professional guidance, and the long-term interests of the community.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "D. M. R.", written over the word "Sincerely,".