

Ben Wicke
President, Board of Directors
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
31315 Chaney Street,
Lake Elsinore, CA 92531

Dear Mr. Wicke,

As a concerned citizen of the Elsinore Valley, I must object to the proposal by The Nevada Hydro Company and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District to construct and operate the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) project. I and many others in this area stand together in firm opposition to the project. It would not only permanently damage our Lake, but also our National Forest.

I do not want to see my Lake drop by 10% every day, revealing 49 to 134 acres of lakebed. I do not want to see fish and zooplankton dying in screens or pumps. The District has claimed the project will generate funds for purchasing more imported water – but how can we purchase water if there is none to be had? Supply from the Delta and the Colorado River are dwindling and allocations are unlikely to increase. Conservation measures, reclaimed wastewater and slowing development are more prudent.

In addition to the obvious financial concerns that have been expressed in the Environmental Impact Statement for this project, we believe that Southern California's largest natural lake, the San Jacinto River and Santa Ana River watersheds, the Cleveland National Forest, local wildlife, and the quality of life for people in the Inland Empire will be negatively impacted by the LEAPS project as it is currently envisioned. Even though we are the fastest growing area of California, we have not written off the natural and aesthetic environment of the Inland Empire, and we hope that our elected Water District officials will not do so either.

Please consider alternative methods of increasing your water supply – and decreasing demand, such as mandatory and voluntary conservation measures. I urge you and the rest of the Board to carefully consider the financial, environmental and quality-of-life detriments of this project.

Sincerely,