

Virgil Mink
Trabuco Ranger District
Cleveland National Forest
1147 East 6th Street
Corona, CA 92879

Dear Mr. Mink,

As a concerned Elsinore Valley citizen, 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 damage our lake, but also our National Forest.

We cannot understand how the proposed 30-mile corridor easement could be granted at zero cost to the applicant. The power lines would present a threat to the significant hang-gliding activities in this area, not to mention to the aircraft that fly across the mountains. We also object to a reservoir being placed in a National Forest and then being put off-limits to public use. According to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project, if the dams were to fail, hundreds of residents would be in the path of the water.

This is not what we envision for our National Forests. According to the U.S. Forest Service Web site, "Multiple Use means managing resources under the best combination of uses to benefit the American people while ensuring the productivity of the land and protecting the quality of the environment."

In addition to the obvious financial concerns that are expressed in the EIS, 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 Forest Service personnel will not do so.

We urge you to deny the special use permits and easements requested by these developers. I urge you to look much more closely into the financial, environmental and quality-of-life detriments of this project.

Sincerely,