

Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) Project

**Public Scoping Meeting
March 8, 2021**

**State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Presented by: Chase Hildeburn**

Meeting Logistics

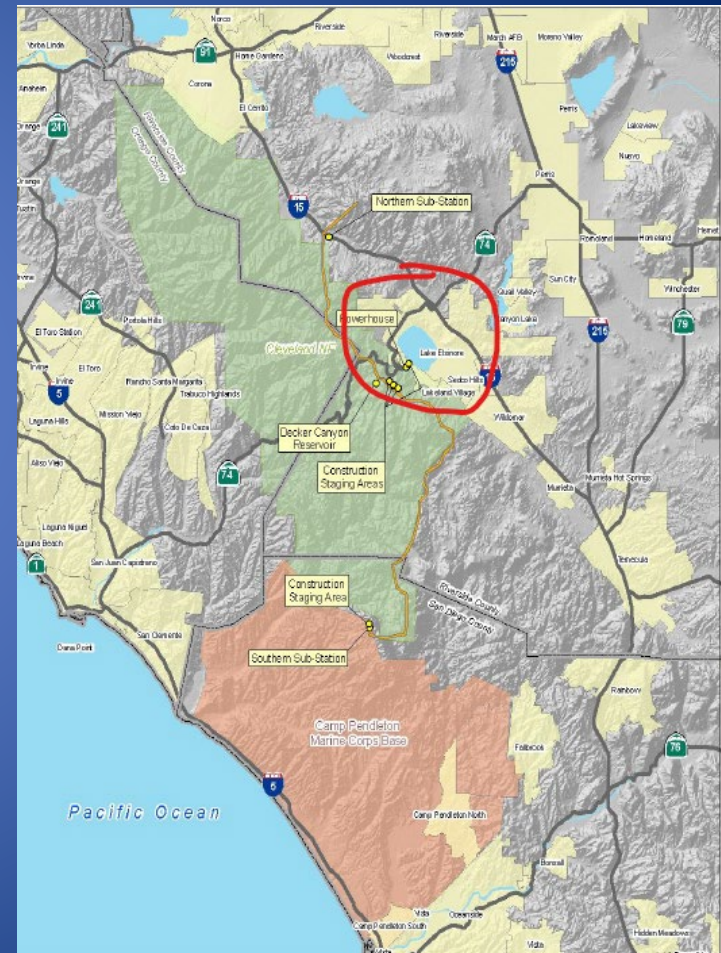
- Please remain on Mute
- Please turn off Camera
- Meeting will be Recorded
- Presentation will be available on Project webpage:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_is_sues/programs/water_quality_cert/leaps_14227.html
- Save questions and comments until the end of the presentation

Presentation Outline

- LEAPS Proposed Project Overview & Recent Proceedings
- Background
 - State Water Board's Mission
 - State Water Board's Role Regarding the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Water Quality Certification
- CEQA Process
 - Public Input
 - Environmental Resources
- Next Steps and What to Expect
- Verbal Comment Period

LEAPS Project Overview

- Nevada Hydro Company, Inc.
 - 500 MW & 6,000 MWh
 - Pumped storage facility
 - Lower Reservoir Lake Elsinore
 - Upper Reservoir Decker Canyon
 - 1,500 feet above Lake Elsinore
 - SCE and SDG&E transmission systems



State Water Board's Mission

To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov>

State Water Board: Background

- Authority over water rights and water quality to provide protection of California's waters
- Protect and enforce many water uses including the needs of industry, agriculture, municipal districts, and the environment
- Balance between the various beneficial uses of water

Why is the State Water Board involved?

- State Water Board conditions federally licensed Projects via issuance of water quality certifications (Section 401 of Clean Water Act)
- In 2017, Nevada Hydro submitted Final License Application to FERC No. 14227

Water Quality Certification

- If a water quality certification is issued, its conditions become a mandatory part of the FERC license
- Conditions in the water quality certification are additive to any federal requirements on the Project

Six CEQA Objectives*

1. Disclose to decision makers and the public the significant environmental effects of proposed activities
 2. Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental damage
 3. Prevent environmental damage by requiring implementation of feasible alternatives or mitigation measures
- (continued next slide)

*From the CEQA Deskbook, 3rd Ed., Bass, Bogdan, Rivasplata

Six CEQA Objectives (continued)

4. Disclose to the public reasons for agency approval of projects with significant environmental effects
5. Foster interagency coordination in the review of projects
6. Enhance public participation in the planning process

CEQA

- CEQA informs State Water Board and the Public about the Project's significant environmental effects and ways to reduce those impacts
- Since Nevada Hydro, Inc. is not a public agency, State Water Board is lead agency for CEQA

Previous Environmental Analysis

- October 2017- Applicant-Prepared EIR provided initial environmental analysis and proposed mitigation measures
 - Will be posted to the LEAPS FTP website

Order of CEQA Events

Collect Comments (Verbal and Written)



Issue Draft EIR for Public Comment



Issue Final EIR

Potentially Significantly Affected Environmental Resources

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Wildfire

In Addition:

- Growth-Inducing Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
- Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

Public Input

- State Water Board is seeking comments on:
 - Previous environmental information
 - Project alternatives
 - Potential significant impacts
 - Mitigation measures
- All scoping comments are due April 13th, 2021
- The Draft EIR and Draft WQC will also have public review and comment periods

Next Steps

- **Accepting written comments until 2:00 pm (Pacific Standard Time) on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.**
- Send comments to: Mr. Chase Hildeburn
 - Email: WR401program@waterboards.ca.gov
 - Mail: State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
Water Quality Certification Program
Attn: Chase Hildeburn
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Next Steps

- Presentation will be posted to the Project webpage: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/leaps_14227.html
- Past Project Environmental analysis will be posted to the Project FTP website: <https://ftp.waterboards.ca.gov/#/>
 - Username: CHildeburn-FTP
 - Password: LEAPS2021
- State Water Board staff will work with Cardno to develop a Scoping Report.
 - Also will be posted to FTP site
- Public comment period for the Draft EIR

Future Updates

- To receive future updates, sign up online to receive emails at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml

- Select “State Water Resources Control Board”
- Enter email address and full name
- Under categories, select “Water Rights”
- Select Box for “Water Rights Water Quality Certification”
- Click “Subscribe” button at the top




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Water Quality Certification Program

Announcements

- On March 4, 2020, the State Water Board issued a water quality certification for the Canyon Dam Low-level Outlet Install Cutoff Wall Project
- On February 3, 2021, the State Water Board issued a final water quality certification and final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Upper Drum-Spaulding Hydroelectric Project and Lower Drum Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2310 and No 14531, respectively).
- On January 15, 2021, the State Water Board issued a final water quality certification associated final water quality certification FAQs for the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2299) and the La Grange Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 14581)
- On December 18, 2020, the State Water Board's Executive Director issued a Notice of Intent and an Initial Study Negative Declaration for the the Upper Drum-Spaulding Hydroelectric Project and Lower Drum Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2310 and No 14531, respectively).
- On December 10, 2020, the State Water Board extended the public comment period for the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2299) and the La Grange Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 14581) Draft Water Quality Certification, until January 4, 2021 (12/10/2020)
- On November 30, 2020, the State Water Board issued a draft water quality certification and associated draft water quality certification FAQs for the Don Pedro Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2299) and the La Grange Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 14581)

 [Subscribe directly to the Water Rights Water Quality Certification Email List](#)

Program Links

- Program Staff
- Current Projects
- Notices of Water Quality Certification Applications
- Water Quality 401 Certifications

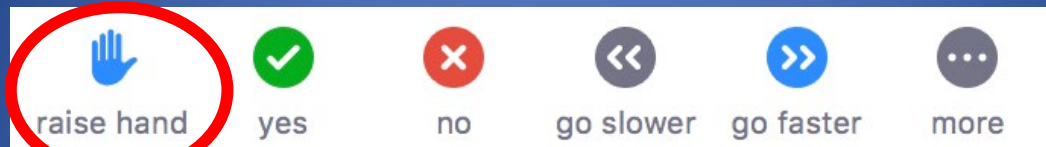
Related Agencies

- FERC Information
 - Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission Website
 - Hydroelectric Hydroelectric

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/water_quality_cert/

How to Make a Comment

- Use the “Raise Hand” feature to indicate you would like to ask your question verbally



- Please wait to be called on and then Unmute your microphone
 - Introduce yourself (name and affiliation) prior to speaking
- Please stay on topic
- Please speak clearly
- Please respect the 5 minute time limit

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