Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS)
Advanced Pumped Storage

- Upper reservoir
- Lower reservoir
- Connecting tunnel
- Reversible turbines/pumps in underground powerhouse
- Connections to electrical grid
3,075 surface acres at elevation 1,240 MSL

Current elevation 1,241.5 MSL

Optimal operating range – elevation 1,240 to 1,249
Upper Reservoir – Decker Canyon

- Approximately 120 surface acres with open reservoir
- Dam will rise approximately 200 feet above the current grade
- Capacity of 5,750 acre feet of water
Powerhouse and Pumps

- The powerhouse will be underground near Grand Avenue west of Santa Rosa in Lakeland Village.
- The turbines can produce 500 MW of electrical power for up to 12 hours.
- The pumps will convey water back from the Lake to Decker Canyon during down time.
Connecting to the grid

- LEAPS includes 32 miles of high power transmission lines and towers connecting the powerhouse to the grid

- The lines primarily run through the Cleveland National Forest

- A line will connect to existing transmission lines near Lee Lake to the north (or possibly at the proposed Alberhill Substation if approved by the PUC)

- A line will connect to existing transmission lines near Camp Pendleton to the south.
EVMWD first explored the LEAPS concept in the mid-1990’s.

In 1997, EVMWD partnered with Nevada Hydro as co-applicants in LEAPS and pursued permit from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

When the project ran into difficulties getting a state water quality permit in 2011, EVMWD suddenly withdrew its support.

FERC dismissed the joint LEAPS application.

LEAPS Part 1 – a very brief history
Following dismissal, Nevada Hydro sued EVMWD for breach of contract

EVMWD countersued

The lawsuit dragged on for 6 years
Nevada Hydro and EVMWD settled the lawsuit last year.

EVMWD will obtain project related water for LEAPS

Nevada Hydro has agreed to add 15,000 acre feet of water to the Lake along with water lost to evaporation in the upper reservoir

6,000 acre feet will fill up the upper reservoir

Remaining 9,000 acre feet will add about 3-feet to the Lake’s surface elevation
Nevada Hydro kept the project alive by refiling a new application with FERC in 2012.

Little activity until 2017

Nevada Hydro is now moving the application forward by submitting updated plans and studies

Study submittals are to be completed by June 30, 2019.
Next step – Public input

- FERC will hold additional public scoping meetings once the updated studies are submitted.
- FERC will also invite public comment on the Environmental Impact Statement when it is ready.
Tonight’s Agenda

Identifying the community’s priority concerns in advance of the upcoming public input phase

- Water quantity and quality
- Shoreline impacts
- Construction Impacts
- Community benefits to offset long term impacts
Recommendation