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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

September 6, 2017

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The Honorable Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE  
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project  
Project Number 14227  
Comments to the Nevada Hydro Company's June 1, 2017 Notice of Intent to File License Application

Dear Secretary Bose,

On June 1, 2017, the Nevada Hydro Company, Inc. filed a Notice of Intent to File License Application (NOI) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the proposed Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS project). In the NOI, Nevada Hydro requests that FERC's pre-filing licensing requirements are waived to allow the 500-megawatt project to proceed directly to filing a final license application.

As you know, in 2007, Nevada Hydro submitted an application to FERC for the same project. FERC ultimately denied licensing the project in 2011. Nevada Hydro's request to waive these pre-filing licensing requirements would allow for the 2007 Environmental Impact Statement to suffice as an adequate environmental review and would virtually eliminate customary scoping of the project.

Since Nevada Hydro filed its original license application for the project in 2007, the landscape of the City of Lake Elsinore, California, and the surrounding area, has changed drastically. The population has nearly doubled and a number of new housing and commercial projects are in development. Furthermore, land rights in the region have shifted. Therefore, environmental review documents produced during the 2007 application process are outdated and inadequate to assess the project's effect on the region.

To date, opposition to the project has come from a variety of stakeholders, including the City of Lake Elsinore, the County of Riverside, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, and the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, among others. Many stakeholders were not notified of the NOI prior to its filing. Without sufficient collaboration or notification, I remain concerned that there has not been due diligence to ensure community support of the LEAPS project. As such, it is imperative that each step of the application process be carried out deliberately.

Encouraging energy stability has been a top priority of mine during my time in Congress. However, I believe in the case of the LEAPS project, further due diligence must be conducted. I respectfully request that FERC not waive the pre-filing licensing requirements as requested by Nevada Hydro, so that the local community can more sufficiently assess and express the impact a project as large as LEAPS may have on their region.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Calvert", with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress

cc: City of Lake Elsinore  
County of Riverside  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians