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**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
October 27, 2006

SUBJECT: Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS)

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the update on the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS).

BACKGROUND: The Executive Office has been providing updates on a quarterly basis on the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage (LEAPS) Project. To date the County has not received a response to the letter signed by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors on April 18, 2006 to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which outlined the County of Riverside's concerns regarding the LEAPS project.

(Continued)

Departmental Concurrence


Tina Grande, Senior Management Analyst

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2006/2007

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE.

County Executive Office Signature



- Consent
- Policy
- Consent
- Policy

Dep't Recomm.:
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.31 on 4/18/06;
2.1 on 8/1/06

District: 1

Agenda Number:

2 . 3

BACKGROUND continued:

On August 1, 2006, the Board was notified that the county responded to the Revised Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) on LEAPS and the Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano 500 kV Interconnect (TE/VA Interconnect) project.

On October 2, 2006, the county received a copy of a status report to FERC from EVMWD, informing FERC that the negotiations with The Nevada Hydro Company, concerning an operations agreement regarding the appropriate compensation for using the lake, and a disparity on whether the co-applicants were seeking permit authorization for a stand-alone transmission project, is ongoing. FERC issued a Notice of Modified Transmission Alignment Proposal and Staff NEPA Alternatives for the LEAPS project on October 3, 2006, which will be considered for the FEIS. The county will be preparing comments, if necessary, on the modification.

In the response to a recent inquiry, Jim Fargo, a representative from FERC, estimated that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be out in December 2006. This means that the earliest FERC can act on the LEAPS application is May 2007. This calculation is based upon an assumption that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board issues a quality certificate before the current March 2007 deadline. The issuance of the quality certificate is contingent upon the analysis contained in the CEQA document currently being prepared by the EVMWD. FERC needs this certificate to act on the license application.

FERC issued a Notice of Modified Transmission Alignment Proposal and Staff NEPA Alternatives for the LEAPS project on October 3, 2006, which will be considered for the FEIS. The county will be preparing comments, if necessary, on the modification.

Jim Fargo also stated that no further public meetings are planned at this point, which was a recommendation by the County of Riverside in the coordinated response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the LEAPS project.

The Executive Office will continue to work with the Planning Department on monitoring this project and report to the Board of Supervisors on a quarterly basis.