



## FOIA request to FERC produces 2 documents

### ‘Privileged’ info indicates Nevada Hydro will get water; EVMWD lawsuit mediated

By **JANNLEE WATSON**  
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Because of redactions made to documents I requested from the **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**, it’s difficult to pinpoint who will be the water supplier for **Nevada Hydro’s LEAPS** project. The documents, despite the redactions, strongly indicate that water will be available and negotiations between the company, **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District** (EVMWD), and other entities are progressing.

But – let’s start at the beginning.

In January, FERC notified Nevada Hydro of several deficiencies and the need for additional information in its license application filed for the LEAPS project. The company was given 90 days to respond.

Nevada Hydro’s response was published April 3 on FERC’s online-accessible **eLibrary**, which included many documents responding to the request for more information. Most all the documents were available to the public, but two – how Nevada Hydro planned to keep the level of **Lake Elsinore** above 1,240 feet and who was going to supply the additional water needed for the reservoir and daily evaporation – were determined to be “privileged,” meaning not available for public review.

On April 10, I sent an email to FERC requesting the documents under the **Freedom of Information Act** (FOIA). After being notified of my request, Nevada Hydro on April 27 opposed release of the documents citing private financial details, including rate information, with potential water suppliers for the project.

The company argued that public disclosure of certain portions of the documents “would reveal internal business strategies, trade secrets, deliberations and views of negotiations that made it exempt from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 4.”

FERC agreed with Nevada Hydro’s assessment, and I received on May 8 a copy of a letter sent to Nevada Hydro by FERC stating it intended to release the documents to me but would redact (black out) portions containing confidential business-related information.

After two follow-up requests to FERC (“Where are the documents?”), I received them earlier this month.

In the first document, Nevada Hydro proposes to pre-purchase 15,000 acre-feet of water to fill the **Decker Canyon reservoir**



**HOW MUCH WATER IS NEEDED?:** Nevada Hydro is planning to pre-purchase 15,000 acre-feet of recycled water to fill the Decker Canyon reservoir and raise Lake Elsinore by three feet. Additional water will be purchased to offset evaporative losses.

and raise the level of Lake Elsinore by three feet. The company also plans to enter a long-term water agreement to purchase enough water to offset evaporative losses at the lake associated with the LEAPS project.

Nevada Hydro explains in detail why the water purchases would “ensure that the elevation of Lake Elsinore with the LEAPS project would always be higher than the elevation of Lake Elsinore without the LEAPS project.”

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## GOCO previews big plans for Glen Ivy Hot Springs

It was a standing-room-only crowd that attended the June **Municipal Advisory Council** meeting to learn what **GOCO Hospitality** has planned for **Glen Ivy Hot Springs**.

The 158-year-old spa and adjacent property was purchased in January 2016 by GOCO, an international wellness hospitality development and management company headquartered in Bangkok.

The current resort covers about 20 acres and GOCO seeks to develop the remaining 62.5 acres which include open land and groves, and the conference and retreat center used by Glen Ivy’s former owner, the spiritual group **Emissaries of Divine Light**.

**Joel Morse** of **T&B Planning**, a Tustin-based consulting firm specializing in land use planning, told the audience plans for the

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# GOCO REVEALS PLANS ...

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property were still in the early stages and not all questions could be answered. He asked that questions be withheld until after his presentation.

Morse said, "GOCO's goal is to make Glen Ivy a world-class retreat and wellness center." To that end, GOCO asked current Glen Ivy guests what they would like added to the facility. Popular answers included an outdoor bar and lounge concept, evening activities, a café with coffee shop, additional pools and water facilities, plus workshops, seminars and demonstrations.

Since purchasing the spa, GOCO has made \$2.5 million in improvements, including remodels of the restaurant, bar and personal services areas, changes to the menu which now includes many home-grown vegetables, and offers evening access during the summer months.

Future plans include the **Glen Ivy Hot Springs Resort Hotel** with 120-140 rooms for short-term stays, and an all-day dining restaurant. The hotel also will have a library and meeting spaces, a pool with lounging areas and a kids' learning center.

Also planned is a **Community Retail Village**, with shops geared to lifestyle- and wellness-related retail, coffee shop and deli, organic food store, art gallery, workshop spaces for classes and events, and a central courtyard for community events, weekend markets and exhibitions.

## GOCO RETREAT TEMESCAL VALLEY

**GOCO Retreat Temescal Valley** is being designed for guests interested in a more intense wellness experience and a longer stay. The **GOCO Wellness Retreat** will feature 30 to 40 rooms, with doctors and specialists available for consultations, treatment rooms, a wellness restaurant with personalized food menus, tea lounge and juice bar, and areas designated for indoor and outdoor activities.

GOCO plans to build and manage 60 attached residences in three- to four-story buildings, ranging in size from 650 to 1,600 square feet. The units will be available for lease, sale or lease back and will be fully furnished.

Also planned are 180 detached, single-family homes ranging in size from 2,000 to 5,000 square feet that target individual ownership by people who appreciate the wellness concept and long-stay residents.

Outdoor activities, in addition to the current pools and mineral baths, will include yoga and exercise areas, hiking, biking and walking trails, a lazy river for rafting, organic gardening, Japanese onsen (bath) and gardens, and community parks including an Oak Tree Preservation Park. The "Temescal Experience in Temescal Valley" will feature sweat lodges (saunas) and mineral baths, recreating what attracted Native Americans to the area centuries ago.

## APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN MARCH

Morse told the audience that the specific plan application for the project was submitted to the county in March, but conceptual designs were still being worked on and that a GOCO design team from Bangkok will be here refining the plan over the next two months. "We have 80 percent assuredness that what we want to do can be done," Morse said.

After the specific plan is submitted for county review, a scoping meeting will be held to solicit public comment on the plan. At that point, the environmental impact report (EIR), process will begin, and all substantive public comments will be addressed.

Once the draft EIR is completed, public comments again will be solicited and reviewed by county planners in preparation for a public hearing before the county **Planning Commission**. Commissioners will vote to recommend either approval or denial of the project to the **Board of Supervisors**.

The final hearing, again allowing public comments, will be before the Board of Supervisors which will vote to approve or deny the project.

Morse said the process before the county is lengthy but GOCO will keep the community updated as each step unfolds.

## TRAFFIC IS MAJOR CONCERN

The primary concern voiced by those in attendance was the traffic impact the expansion would have on Temescal Canyon Road and Trilogy Parkway. Morse said the traffic impact analysis would be addressed in the EIR. He was open to the suggestion that GOCO obtain property in another area of Temescal Valley that would serve as a parking lot for employees who would be bused to and from the retreat.

Glen Ivy currently has about 300 employees and receives 190,000 visitors each year.

**Trilogy** residents balked at an easement GOCO would need for a gated road connection to Trilogy's Gleneagles Drive cul-de-sac that would serve as a secondary exit from the retreat in case of an emergency. Morse said he had reviewed the situation and learned that **Shea Homes** had granted the easement to Glen Ivy Hot Springs prior to Trilogy being built.

## VIEWS, OAK TREES ALSO QUESTIONED

Other concerns by Trilogy residents included the viewscape from homes located on the seventh hole of the golf course. They questioned the location of solar panels, the location of homes in the retreat's residential area, and how many trees would be removed from the stand of oaks that borders Trilogy.

Morse said he couldn't answer all the questions because the conceptual designs were not yet completed but they planned to remove as few oak trees as possible and, currently, only eight homes were planned in that area and it would be a side view of the residences. He said the plan was to buffer the retreat's northern boundary with Trilogy.

One woman had issues with the lights in the parking lot, calling them "blinding," and asked if something could be done about the situation and if the parking lot was to be expanded, could different lighting be used.

Morse told her and others in the audience, "That's why we're meeting with you this early in the process. We want to work with you to address concerns and issues now while we're still in the planning stages."

Also attending the meeting was **Ingo Schweder**, CEO and founder of GOCO, his wife, **Josephine Leung**, responsible for design and development, and **Clive McNish**, general manager of Glen Ivy Hot Springs.

# Temescal Valley soon to have Fire Safe Council

The **Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD)**, is eager to create a **Fire Safe Council** in Temescal Valley and the **We Are Temescal Valley Public Safety Committee** is eager to do it!

RCRCD is no stranger to the community – it's responsible for the **Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center** and manages many acres of land in this area for conservation purposes.

RCRCD is a local government agency that, according to its website, "helps conserve natural resources (soil, water, plants and wildlife), by providing technical advice to land users, educational programs for the community, and conducts on-the-land conservation projects."

According to **Erika Presley**, an RCRCD resource conservationist who spoke at the **MAC** meeting in May, "We share the same concern as many of you do – wildfire in Temescal Valley because of the community's proximity to acre upon acre of vegetation that would easily fuel a wildland fire."

She said the goal of the **California Fire Safe Council**, a nonprofit state agency, is to mobilize citizens and empower them to protect their homes, communities and environments from wildfire.

The goals of the local councils are to promote fire protection and prevention by recruiting volunteer support for fire-hazard reduction projects, encouraging fire-safety education, and developing communitywide fire management plans. The council also provides a forum for communities to discuss, analyze and solve fire-related issues before they become a crisis – such as the



**TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT:** The only thing separating this Wildrose Ranch back yard from the April 2017 Jameson Fire was Clay Canyon Drive. While homes were threatened, primary damage was to vinyl fences, patio covers, outdoor furniture and landscaping.

illegal use of fireworks. The councils also can apply for grant funding for fire-reduction projects.

Presley said RCRCD will assist in anyway needed toward the creation of a Temescal Valley Fire Safe Council. The Public Safety Committee will soon be announcing a community meeting for anyone interested in helping with the formation of the council.

If you think a Fire Safe Council is a good idea for Temescal Valley and would like to be involved, let us know at [WeAreTV.org@gmail.com](mailto:WeAreTV.org@gmail.com)

## Three cleanups scheduled

**Bob Hafner** and members of the **WeAreTV Beautification Committee** are feeling especially enthusiastic and have planned community cleanups over the next three weekends.

The cleanups have been scheduled 7 to 10 a.m. and include:  
**Saturday, July 14** – Along De Palma Road; meet at Glen Eden Sun Club. **Saturday, July 21** -- At the tanning vats historical landmark, Temescal Canyon Road just east of the I-15 freeway. **Saturday, July 28** -- Along Temescal Canyon Road, from Carl's Jr. to Campbell Ranch Road.

Bring gloves and wear closed-toe shoes – other supplies will be furnished. This is a good opportunity for teens who need community-service hours. Bring your form with you.

If you have questions, email Bob: [bob.hafner@verizon.net](mailto:bob.hafner@verizon.net)



## MONTHLY PHOTO CONTESTS UNDERWAY AGAIN!

The monthly photo contests have begun again and according to Chairman **Rob Mucha**, the theme for the July contest is "Keeping Cool in Temescal Valley." This photo by California Meadows resident **Laura Cortez** was a third-place winner at May's Community Faire in the Things To Do category. Glen Ivy Hot Springs is certainly a "cool" thing to do in Temescal Valley. To enter the monthly contest, you must be a Temescal Valley resident and the entry must be photographed in Temescal Valley. Email your entries for the July contest to: [tvfairephotos@gmail.com](mailto:tvfairephotos@gmail.com)



## A BICENTENNIAL MOMENT . . .

Did you know the Riverside County beekeeping industry began in Temescal Valley? Learn more on our new bicentennial history page: [www.WeAreTV.org/bicentennial](http://www.WeAreTV.org/bicentennial) And please join us at 9 a.m., **Saturday, July 28** for our next committee meeting in the Temescal Room at the Trilogy Lodge, 24503 Trilogy Parkway.

# LEAPS PROJECT ... Continued from Page 1

The amount of water needed to assure the lake level would not fall lower than 1,240 feet was based on two hydrology studies cited in the document.

The company also noted that with the lake level no lower than 1,240 feet, the aeration effects the project would have on the lake would make it more able to support “substantially larger and more robust populations of warm-water fish, which in turn will substantially enhance recreation and fishing at Lake Elsinore.”

Two pages of the seven-page document under the subheading “Negotiating Agreements in Principle – Current Status,” were redacted. Unfortunately, this section probably explained additional methodology and named the water supplier or suppliers with whom Nevada Hydro is negotiating.

The document ends with Nevada Hydro reminding FERC that the author of one of the studies cited in the document is now engaged in 500 additional hours of analysis on implementation of the company’s plan and will let the commission know when the study is complete.

The second document is a copy of a court order regarding the lawsuit Nevada Hydro filed in September 2012 against EVMWD. The lawsuit claimed breach of contract by the water district when in 2011 the district terminated a 1997 LEAPS agreement it had with Nevada Hydro.

The lawsuit was scheduled to begin last September before a **San Diego County Superior Court** jury. Water district officials, when asked about the status of the lawsuit, have offered no response saying they can’t discuss pending litigation.

The court document I received dealt with an extended stay of action for the lawsuit and continued status conferences.

It claims that the parties have privately mediated their dispute and “developed a framework for the potential settlement of this action, which included the negotiation of a possible Water Supply/Management Agreement” for the LEAPS project.

In ordering the extended stay of action, the legal document concluded: “... the Parties mutually desire to continue their good faith negotiations toward a possible Water Supply/Management Agreement that would provide a water supply for the LEAPS project, improve Lake Elsinore water levels and water quality, and provide a pathway for global resolution of this litigation.”

The stay also was ordered because “such negotiations will necessarily involve third party vendors and/or suppliers and will require additional time to explore.”

A status conference has been scheduled 9 a.m., **Friday, July 27** before **Judge Timothy M. Casserly** in Dept. 31 of the **North County Regional Center**, 325 S. Melrose Drive, Vista.

You can read the documents here:

[DOCUMENT 1](#)

[DOCUMENT 2](#)

Learn more about the LEAPS project and its possible impact on Temescal Valley:

<http://www.wearetv.org/2017/10/07/leaps/>

## CALENDAR

### EVENTS

- **Sycamore Summers Science Program:** For students in grades 1-6. **Friday, July 27** — “The Great Survivors: Animals of the Desert.” Classes begin at 10 a.m., preregistration necessary — 951-277-0219 or [scic@rcrcd.org](mailto:scic@rcrcd.org). Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays**, 11875 Indian Truck Trail. **FREE!**
- **Community Cleanups:** Sponsored by the We Are Temescal Valley Beautification Committee, 7 to 10 a.m., **Saturday, July 14, 21 and 28**. Check elsewhere in newsletter for locations.
- **T’s Tavern & Sports Grill Car Show:** All makes, models, bikes, trucks and clubs welcome. Raffle, contests, food, awards and live music, 4 to 7 p.m., **Saturday, July 14**. In the Vons center.
- **Summer Splash / Movies in the Park:** Water slides, slip ‘n’ slides, games, refreshments and water balloon fights, 3:30 p.m., **Saturday, July 21**, Deleo Regional Sports Park, 25655 Santiago Canyon Road. Movie, “Coco,” starts at dusk. Bring sunblock, towels, bathing suits, blankets and lawn chairs.
- **El Cerrito County Library:** 7581 Rudell Road, behind El Cerrito Middle School. Many fun activities for the kids! 951-270-5012 or check out the July activities on [Facebook](#).
- **County Bookmobile:** 9 to noon, **every Monday** and 2 to 4 p.m. **every Tuesday**, Deleo Regional Sports Park, 25655 Santiago Canyon Road.
- **Tom’s Farms: FREE!** Every weekend — **Craft Faire**, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; **Magic Show**, noon and 2 p.m.; **live music**, 12:30 to 5 p.m.

### TEMESCAL VALLEY MEETINGS

- **We Are Temescal Valley Education Committee:** 6:30 p.m., **Thursday, July 19**, Senor Tom’s restaurant.
- **Temescal Valley Disaster Response Team:** Team Leader meeting, 6:30 p.m., **Monday, July 23**, Horsethief Canyon Ranch Clubhouse, 13289 Mountain Road.
- **Temescal Valley Water District Board Meeting:** 8:30 a.m., **Tuesday, July 24**, 22646 Temescal Canyon Road.
- **Temescal Heritage Foundation Bicentennial Committee:** 9 a.m., **Saturday, July 28**. Temescal Room, Trilogy Lodge, 24503 Trilogy Parkway.
- **We Are Temescal Valley Beautification Committee:** 7 p.m., **Thursday, Aug. 2**, Senor Tom’s restaurant.
- **We Are Temescal Valley citizens’ group:** 8:30 a.m., **Saturday, Aug. 4**, Trilogy Lake Center, 24477 Trilogy Parkway.
- **Temescal Valley Municipal Advisory Council Meeting:** 6 p.m., **Wednesday, Aug. 8**, Trilogy Lodge, 24503 Trilogy Parkway.

### MEETINGS THAT AFFECT US

- **Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Board Meeting:** 4 p.m., **Thursday, July 12 and 26**, 31315 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore.
- **Riverside County Board of Supervisors:** 9 a.m., **Tuesday, July 17 and 31**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside. **NOTE: Approval of an amended environmental impact report for El Sobrante Landfill is on the July 17 agenda.** Learn more [HERE](#)
- **Corona-Norco Unified School District:** Business meeting, 7 p.m., **Tuesday, July 17 and Wednesday, Aug. 1**, 2820 Clark Ave., Norco.
- **Riverside County Planning Commission:** 9 a.m., **Wednesday, July 18 and Aug. 1**, Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St., Riverside.
- **Lake Elsinore Unified School District:** No meeting in July; next meeting: 9 a.m., **Thursday, Aug. 2**, 545 Chaney St., Lake Elsinore.

Join CSA 134 for a day of water fun in the sun!

A stylized sun graphic with a curved orange line for the horizon and several short, vertical orange lines for rays, set against a background of palm fronds.

DELEO PARK

# Summer SPLASH

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018  
3:30<sup>PM</sup> - 6:30<sup>PM</sup>

WATER SLIDES • SLIP IT SLIDES • GAMES • REFRESHMENTS • WATER BALLOON FIGHT  
REMEMBER TO BRING SUNBLOCK, A TOWEL & A BATHING SUIT  
DELEO REGIONAL PARK - 25655 SANTIAGO CANYON, TEMESCAL VALLEY, CA  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT [RKROSS@RIVCO.ORG](mailto:RKROSS@RIVCO.ORG) OR LOG ON TO [WWW.RIVCOCCSD.ORG/RECREATION](http://WWW.RIVCOCCSD.ORG/RECREATION)  
STICK AROUND AFTER SUMMER SPLASH FOR THE MOVIE IN THE PARK FEATURE PRESENTATION OF  
DISNEY'S COCO BEGINNING AT 7:00PM