

Save The Confluence

www.savetheconfluence.com email: getinvolved@savetheconfluence.com

July 11, 2023

Re: Over 87,300 Individuals Oppose the Big Canyon Dam Project

Dear Mr. Steve Irwin,

The Little Colorado River and its confluence with the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon have been of deep cultural significance to Native peoples since time immemorial, yet in early 2020, Pumped Hydro Storage LLC, without consultation with area residents, submitted an application for a preliminary permit to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to build a pumped hydro storage dam on a tributary to the Little Colorado River (LCR) within the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation has expressed their disapproval of the project alongside tribes such as the Hopi, Zuni, and Hualapai. Their disapproval as well as ours stems from the fact that the development area is near many sacred cultural areas for the local Indigenous tribes and because of the billions of gallons of local groundwater it would require that many tribal members to this day depend on for their livelihoods.

In addition to the express disapproval of the aforementioned Tribal Governments, are the signatures of over 87,300 individuals, (as of June 2023) who support a request for Pumped Hydro Storage, LLC, to cancel its application for preliminary permit. The petition can be viewed at the link below:

www.change.org/stopbigcanyondam

For any business that sees itself as operating ethically and with integrity within a given community, and not simply as an individual economic actor, concerned only with maximizing its own profit, these 87,300 signatures should demonstrate the deep opposition to this project across the region as well as its overt impracticality in wanting to extract about 14.3 billion gallons of groundwater in an arid region in the midst of a megadrought.

Therefore, in light of this clear and ever-increasing opposition, which I urge you to consider with the utmost sincerity, Save the Confluence requests that Pumped Hydro Storage, LLC's application for a preliminary permit to build the Big Canyon pumped hydro storage project above the Little Colorado River be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Delores Wilson-Aguirre
Save the Confluence
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