

**From:** [David Zeff](#)  
**To:** [Jensen, Laura@DWR](mailto:Jensen, Laura@DWR)  
**Subject:** Save Del Puerto Canyon  
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California Water Commission Member Laura Jensen,

I'm writing to urge you to oppose the proposed Del Puerto Reservoir project in Del Puerto Canyon. Del Puerto Canyon should be a park!

This project threatens to destroy one of northern California's most geologically and biologically unique canyons.

Del Puerto Canyon, located at the eastern edge of the Diablo Range near the San Joaquin Valley, is a place of immense ecological, historical, and cultural significance.

It is home to mountain lions, bobcats, burrowing owls, one of the state's largest populations of golden eagles, and endangered San Joaquin kit foxes. It is also culturally significant to both the native Hoyoamne and Miumne Yokuts people.

Del Puerto Creek flows through a narrow, historic gateway once traveled by Spanish explorers in the late 1700s. This iconic area would be inundated by the proposed 260-foot dam.

The project would flood the first five miles of the canyon, eliminating all recreational access to a place very commonly used for hiking and outdoor education.

This is not a drinking water project. Water conservation and ground water storage are better, cheaper alternatives.

This proposed project is not only an environmental and cultural tragedy, but also a public safety risk. The reservoir would be built on a very unstable geologic formation: near the San Joaquin fault and in an area of active landslides.

A catastrophic dam failure could devastate Patterson and damage vital infrastructure including Interstate 5 and the California Aqueduct system.

The City of Patterson and its parks and recreation department have long supported preserving this area for public recreation and environmental education, including plans for an outdoor amphitheater and park.

Del Puerto Canyon should be a park, with expanded recreational access, including for equestrian use.

Local opposition to the reservoir is growing, and I stand with the many voices calling to save Del Puerto Canyon, not dam it.

Please do everything in your power to halt this destructive project. Our communities and future generations deserve to experience the natural, historical, and cultural wonder of Del Puerto Canyon.

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