

From: [Chris Quock](#)
To: [California Water Commission](#)
Subject: Public comment for the 11-19-2025 meeting regarding Agenda Item 9
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To the Members of the CA Water Commission regarding Agenda Item #9,

Please do not consider Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir as a candidate to receive reallocated funding through the Water Storage Investment Program's emergency rulemaking process. It is not one of the 5 projects that are currently prioritized or listed for these funds from the CWC and does not have storing water for drinking and other potable uses as one of its major goals. If funding from withdrawn projects needs to be recommitted to other water infrastructure projects, it should be prioritized strictly among those 5 listed in the notice as a priority for this emergency rulemaking, and then according to which ones already have full CWC approval or are designed to also directly enhance potable water supplies as criteria.

Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir is a project plagued by many issues. This includes the proximity of its main and saddle dams to both the San Joaquin Fault and parts of the City of Patterson that could be at risk of flooding in the event of a potential dam failure. Their Environmental Impact Report was voided in court, and there is a likely chance of lengthy legal battles when the water district releases a revised version. Its specific placement in an area where there are pre-existing plans for a public park and language some project supporters have used to discourage public access have elevated tensions around city residents and minority groups visiting the canyon. Several known archaeological sites would be also destroyed, including at least one Native American artifact site they acknowledge in Section 3.6-5 of their [voided initial EIR](#) as a "unique cultural resource" that may be "eligible for listing" in the National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources. Supporting this project would run counter to the CWC's recent efforts to respond to criticisms regarding its treatment of Native Americans and other historically underrepresented groups.

Additionally, I think special districts which limit voting rights to only some county landowners walk a fine line when they make decisions that impact public infrastructure currently also paid for by the taxes of and directly used by other county residents who are not eligible to vote in their elections. In order for Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir to be completed, it would have to expand its scope to include redesigning a public roadway and associated public right-of-way, something that is typically a function of the host county. I think representatives of state-level bodies should be hesitant to support plans that could potentially expand the scope of special districts who limit the scope of the franchise based on land ownership status to take on decisions that might normally be subject to more open general voting/initiative processes.

Please reject any calls by Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir's sponsors to be prioritized for reallocated funds from cancelled projects as part of this emergency rulemaking process.

-Christopher Quock