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From: NANCY JEWETT <njewett@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, December 13, 2021 10:25 AM
To: California Water Commission
Subject: I oppose Del Puerto Canyon Dam

A homeowner in Turlock, I moved from Pacifica in 2000. I missed the abundant access to beautiful outdoor trails and spaces available to the public in the Bay Area. Found Turlock Lake State Park, which has been closed for almost a year now, George Hatfield, McConnell, Caswell and Knights Ferry. But the most spectacular outdoors space I found was the two-laned public road that winds from just west of Patterson through Del Puerto Canyon up to the Stanislaus County Line and on to the Junction with Mines and San Antonio Roads.

I soon discovered that I was not the only one who loved this road and the wild canyon landscapes it offers. Bicyclists, birdwatchers, archaeologists, botanists, ornithologists, geologists, wildlife researchers, artists, Paterson families, folks looking for the peace and quiet of the canyon, had been making the journey up Del Puerto Canyon Road since it was built. I have been taking photos of wildflowers along that road for 21 years now and have read papers in botanical journals that include research done in the canyon. I have seen and wondered at the bedrock mortars and acorn processing rock sites that line the creek in the lower Canyon, that will be destroyed by the proposed dam. I have watched Road Runners, Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles and numerous smaller bird species hunting in the lower canyon stream ecosystem that will be destroyed by the dam. I met a man birdwatching, last week, who said he has seen Kit Foxes at night in the lower canyon. He was shocked and saddened when I told him about the proposed dam, he hadn't heard about it.

The Del Puerto Canyon Road entrance is a 12 minute drive from Patterson High School. I have met many Patterson families who have been enjoying the outdoor experience of the canyon for generations. The destruction of this very precious ecosystem will rob many people of a quality of life treasure, obliterate the rich history at Patterson's doorstep, remove a scientific and teaching natural laboratory, and cutoff public access to a spectacular, scenic, public right of way.

I find the prospect heartbreaking and infuriating. Water infrastructure has other options, this one is brutal.

Please listen to the publics pleas to Save Del Puerto Canyon.

Thank you,
Nancy Jewett

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