Despite recent court proceedings that have overturned the Del Puerto Water District’s (DPWD) Environmental Impact Report for their proposed dam structures above Patterson, the project is still dangerously close to becoming reality, with preliminary work possibly right around the corner. However, if we can get sufficient attention, it’s still possible to stop the project and protect the future of Patterson, and the beauty of Del Puerto Canyon — but that needs your action!

DPWD General Manager Anthea Hansen had promised that a PUBLIC FORUM would be held once the Covid-19 pandemic waned.

“Providing full explanations of the project and the associated flood mapping, in a public forum where those interested can ask questions and receive responses, is a commitment we have made. We had hoped do this at scheduled meetings in March and April, but we won’t be able hold this meeting until COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. We look forward to meeting with the community when possible to present the completed mapping and to discuss other aspects of the project.”

~ DPWD GM, Anthea Hansen (04/02/2020, Patterson Irrigator)

Hansen and the DPWD never did offer the public forum promised and instead utilized Covid restrictions to their advantage, approving their project over video conference in Oct. of 2020, just six months after Hansen made that “commitment”.

The approval of the DPWD’s EIR was challenged in court by groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity and in the fall of 2022, Stanislaus County Superior Courts agreed that their plans had significant discrepancies and overturned the DPWD’s approval of their EIR.

Despite this outcome, the DPWD is still moving forward with the project, making the necessary adjustments to their plan for submittal to the County. Our legal teams will continue to challenge this dangerous and ill-thought of plan, but it will take many of us making calls, writing letters, talking to our neighbors, to local politicians, to our community members, and posting on their Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and other social media accounts.

Donations to our GoFundMe go directly to our legal team and outreach efforts.

Did you know that Gov. Newsom, former district Rep. Josh Harder, and Sen. Alex Padilla’s office have already allocated funds for the dam? These representatives have yet to visit and learn about these areas of concern before making dangerous decisions that will impact us. We need YOU to help contact them to tell them to allocate those funds for a new State or National Park, protecting Del Puerto Canyon.

Topics of concern:
• The reservoir will hold up to 82,000 acre feet of water right above Patterson, a small amount compared to the San Luis Reservoir (2.04 million acre feet) or previously approved Los Banos Grandes Reservoir (1.73 million acre feet), but enough to serve as a looming danger, for perpetuity, above the direction of Patterson’s growth, projected to serve up to 55,000 residents.
• It will be held back by a series of enormous dams, one right beside I-5 and very visible.
• The canyon is geologically unstable and the dam would be built on an earthquake fault that suffered a 6.3 quake in 1883.
• In the event of a dam breakage, Patterson could be inundated with a wall of water 10 feet deep.
• Del Puerto Canyon was chosen by the Del Puerto Water District without consulting the citizens of Patterson.
• Josh Harder obtained Congressional funds for the project without talking to the citizens of Patterson.
• The City of Patterson’s Parks and Recreation Commission had identified the Gateway of Del Puerto Canyon as a significant cultural location and had it slated for a regional nature park before the DPWD’s dam plans.
• The Stanislaus Board of Supervisors, without talking to the citizens of Patterson, authorized the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which allows the project to go ahead.
• DPWD has refused to allow recreation access despite calls from the community to incorporate a recreational aspect to the project.
• Property values will take a hit and folks will be have the issue of flood insurance if within the inundation zone of the dam?
• 95% of the water will be used by corporate agriculture outside of Patterson, and most outside of our county...
• Despite DPWD’s claims that there is no recreation in the Canyon, recreation has existed there for generations.
• A Native American Yokuts pathway carved into the historic Gateway rocks will be destroyed if the dam is built.
• Del Puerto Canyon’s culture, history, beauty, and home of endangered species make it a great candidate for a park.

Here are people whom you can write on back
SAVE DEL PUERTO CANYON -- NO PATTISON DAM!!

US Congressman John Duarte
Duarte.house.gov
Turlock office -- 90 S. First Street, (209) 226-6880.

Patterson City Council
1 Plaza, Patterson, CA 95363
Mayor Michael Clauzel: mclauzel@ci.patterson.ca.us
Councilmember Shavaugn Alves: salves@ci.patterson.ca.us
Councilmember Jessica Romero: jromero@ci.patterson.ca.us
Councilmember Dominic Farinha: dfarinha@ci.patterson.ca.us
Councilmember Carlos Roque: croque@ci.patterson.ca.us

Senator Alex Padilla
(202) 224-3553,
(202) 224-2200.
https://www.padilla.senate.gov/contact/contact-form/

Patterson Irrigator
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Patterson, CA 95363
news@pattersonirrigator.com

Governor Gavin Newsom
916-445-2841, also find him on Twitter

Modesto Bee
https://www.modbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/

Sacramento Bee
https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/

San Francisco Chronicle

San Jose Mercury News
https://www.mercurynews.com/letters-to-the-editor/

Los Angeles Times
https://www.latimes.com/opinion/submit-letter-to-the-editor

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
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Buck Condit
(209) 525-4440

District 4
Mani Grewal
(209) 525-4445

District 2
Vito Chiesa
(209) 525-6440

District 5
Chamnce Condit
Vice-Chairman
(209) 525-4470

District 3
Terry Withrow
Chairman
(209) 525-6560

U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland
1849 C Street, NW, MS 5311
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-7960
Fax 202-208-5515
E-mail -- DOI_Ethics@sol.doi.gov (all ethics inquiries)

California State Office of Historic Preservation
Address: 1725 23rd St, Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone: (916) 445-7000

California State Parks
Office of Historic Preservation
https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov
(916) 445-7000

Patterson City Manager Ken Irwin
209-895-8010

Del Puerto Water District General Manager
Anthea Hansen
ahansen@delpuertowd.org
17840 Ward Ave, Patterson, CA 95363

Patterson Planning Commission Chairperson
Ron West 209-895-8000

Scan me to watch:
“Guide to the mysterious Del Puerto Canyon, a National Treasure in peril”

Take the UC Davis Del Puerto Canyon usage survey here: