



DEL PUERTO CANYON RESERVOIR

Myths and Facts

MYTH The project includes two massive dams as tall as the length of a football field (360-feet) looming over Patterson.

FACT The project includes one 260-foot tall earthen dam on the Del Puerto Creek west of I-5, and one 153-foot saddle dam on Del Puerto Canyon Road. The dams are at least 4 miles from downtown Patterson. Few, if any, homes in Patterson would be able to see either dam.

MYTH It is not safe to live below a dam.

FACT Communities live safely below dams that are as much as 100 years old. The table below shows that there are numerous communities and thousands of people living safely downstream of California reservoirs. California has one of the strongest dam safety programs in the world. The California Division of Safety of Dams is responsible for the oversight of dam design, construction, and maintenance for over 1,200 dams. Dam design and construction standards have advanced significantly over the last 100 years.

MANY COMMUNITIES CO-EXIST SAFELY WITH DAMS IN CALIFORNIA (SEE PHOTOS ON PAGE 4)

Dam	Completed	Community and Distance Below Dam	Closest Residence	Population	Reservoir Capacity (acre-feet)
Lafayette Dam	1933	Lafayette: < 1 mile	< 250 feet	26,500	4,250
Folsom Dam	1952	Folsom: < 1 mile	900 feet	79,000	977,000
San Pablo Dam	1919	Greenbriar: 1 mile El Sobrante: 3.4 miles	0.33 miles	13,000	38,600
Del Valle Dam	1968	Livermore: 10 miles	0.33 miles	90,000	77,100
Bradbury Dam	1953	Santa Ynez: 7 miles	0.5 miles	4,400	205,000
Friant Dam	1942	Friant: 1 mile	0.75 miles	500	520,528
Castaic Dam	1974	Castaic: 4 miles	1.2 miles	20,000	325,000
Shasta Dam	1945	Redding: 11 miles	1.6 miles	92,000	4,552,000
Proposed Project - Del Puerto Canyon	Under Study	Patterson: 4 miles	2 miles	22,500	82,000

MYTH An earthquake will cause the dam to fail.

FACT There has not been a dam breach in California caused by an earthquake in almost 100 years. The last breach of a dam for any reason was more than 50 years ago. Before the dam is designed and built, a detailed seismic hazards analysis will be completed for nearby faults, including earthquake history, fault slip rates, site soil types, and ground motion. The dam would be designed and built to withstand a maximum credible earthquake of 6.9 occurring on any of the three nearby faults – San Joaquin Fault (near I-5), Ortigalita Fault (25 miles away) and Greenville Fault (30 miles away). These faults are NOT considered active, as none has had activity along them within the last 11,000 years. A seismic monitoring system will be built into the dam to allow for constant monitoring of the structural integrity of the dam.

MYTH A landslide into the reservoir would cause wave action that would overtop the dam or cause it to fail.

FACT There are more than 90,000 dams in the United States. There has never been an instance of a landslide causing overtopping of any of these dams. Because landslides can be common in the hills along the west side of the Central Valley, extensive geotechnical evaluations will further characterize landslide risks for the reservoir and dam. The dam structure will be anchored to bedrock and additional design and construction measures will be used to stabilize or remove potential landslide areas that may be located within the dam impoundment area.

MYTH Patterson homeowners will have to pay for flood insurance because the reservoir is nearby.

FACT FEMA does not require homeowners downstream from a dam to purchase flood insurance. In this case, the dam would reduce flooding in lower portions of Del Puerto Creek, which would eliminate flood insurance requirements for residents and businesses currently within the FEMA 100-year flood zone for Del Puerto Creek. There have been 15 floods in the last 60 years on Del Puerto Creek—these floods would not have occurred if the dam were in place.

MYTH Patterson homeowners would not have the necessary insurance if there were a dam failure.

FACT The dam and reservoir owners (Del Puerto Water District and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority) will properly insure the dam and reservoir with flood liability insurance, which will cover third parties, including Patterson residents.

MYTH There would be no way to evacuate if there were a problem at the dam.

FACT The California Division of Safety of Dams requires that flood maps (referred to as inundation maps) are developed that show flooding that could happen from a hypothetical failure of the dam. The state also requires that the project partners develop emergency action plans that include evacuation plans. These plans will be developed in coordination with local, regional, and state emergency responders, and the community will be kept informed of recommended actions through the same tools people are being informed about wildfires now.

MYTH Farming doesn't benefit the people of Patterson.

FACT Farming in the region contributes directly to the local and regional economy with jobs (on-farm, packing, processing, and shipping), purchasing of equipment and supplies, local taxes (e.g., 23% of Patterson school bonds). Farmers also actively provide support for local businesses, schools, activities, and charities.

MYTH The project is privately owned and benefits just a few landowners.

FACT The project partners, Del Puerto Water District and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Authority, are local public agencies. These public agencies will own and operate the dam and reservoir. The hundreds of family farms in the region, averaging 120 acres, are the ones that will be using the reservoir water, and they will also be the ones paying for the project. The water will be used to support livestock, poultry, and dairy and to grow diverse crops, including fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Water from the proposed dam will also be delivered to wildlife refuges in support of the Pacific Flyway and other environmental benefits.

MYTH Our tax dollars are paying for this project.

FACT The landowners who will be using the water are paying for the project design, construction, and operation. In addition, the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) could provide up to 25% of construction costs for federal benefits such as Central Valley Project (CVP) water supply reliability, flood protection, and refuge water supply and storage.

MYTH The dam will lower property values.

FACT Home prices are influenced by a wide variety of factors, including the strength of the local and regional economy and the demand for housing. The reservoir project is an important investment to support the local and regional economy. Also, reservoirs can provide community amenities that increase home values, such as recreation. As described below, the project partners are willing to partner with recreation managers to develop appropriate recreation opportunities around the reservoir.

MYTH Dust and air pollution during construction would harm the health of people in Patterson.

FACT The nearest resident or school is 2 miles from the construction site. The project would comply with all requirements of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. These requirements are established to avoid community health impacts.

MYTH The project would eliminate recreation opportunities in the canyon.

FACT The project would have no effect on Frank Raines Park. The lands that would be inundated for the reservoir are private property, where no recreation is allowed. A portion of Del Puerto Canyon Road would be relocated. The new road would provide a safer route for cyclists and access to similar terrain for viewing and birding.

The project partners are coordinating with Stanislaus County and the City of Patterson to identify recreational amenities that would not conflict with the primary purposes of the reservoir, such as hiking, birding, picnicking, and interpretive centers. The County and/or City would be responsible for determining the necessary planning steps and funding needs. The partners are committed to work with the County and City to identify and develop appropriate recreation facilities around the reservoir.

MYTH The reservoir should be available for water-based recreation.

FACT The reservoir would not be suitable for water-based recreation. The reservoir levels will vary widely during summer months as the water is used for irrigating crops.

MYTH The project would harm bird and wildlife habit as well as sacred tribal sites.

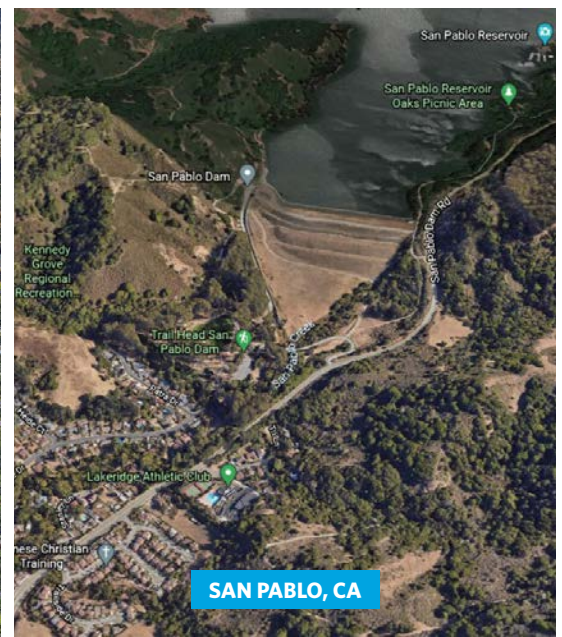
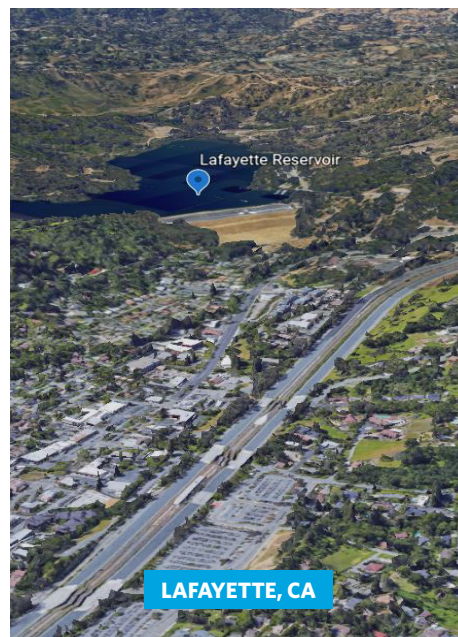
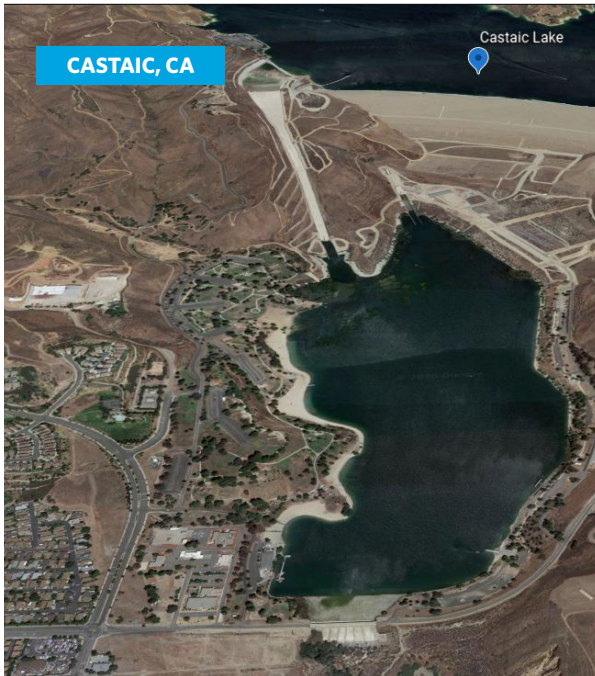
FACT The reservoir would be located in the lower 3 miles of Del Puerto Canyon, an area that has historically been disturbed by human activities, including farming and ranching. Any significant impacts to species and habitat will be mitigated in consultation with state and federal wildlife agencies.

There are no known tribal cultural resources, including sacred lands, recorded in the project area. The project partners have consulted with the Native American Heritage Commission and are coordinating with the North Valley Yokuts Tribe, to ensure respectful treatment of the existing archaeological sites and any artifacts that may be found within the project area.

MYTH The project would pollute groundwater.

FACT There is nothing in the reservoir that would pollute groundwater. The reservoir would be filled from the Delta Mendota Canal, which is not polluted. In fact, some of the flow in Del Puerto Creek captured in the reservoir would be used to replenish the groundwater supplies used by the City of Patterson. During construction, the only chemicals that would be on site would be fuels and oils for construction equipment, which would be managed according to all applicable state regulations.

COMMUNITIES LIVING NEAR CALIFORNIA DAMS



For more information and to sign-up for project updates, visit delpuertocanyonreservoir.com