



PROTECT OR DESTROY?

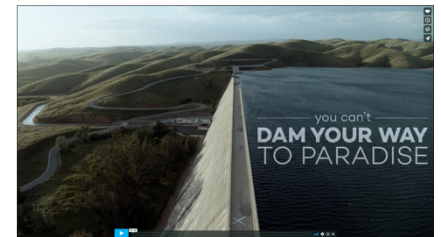


The San Joaquin River Gorge is a jewel awaiting its fate: it can be California's next Wild and Scenic River, or it can be destroyed by an expensive and ineffective dam project. It's a choice.

The San Joaquin River Gorge is a rare find in today's California: a spectacular low-elevation river flowing through public lands near a major population center. The gorge is full of remarkable cultural, recreational, and natural wonders and, in 2014, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recommended this river segment for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. But the river is also threatened by the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed Temperance Flat Dam, a \$2.8 billion boondoggle that would add less than 0.2% to the state's water supply while permanently destroying the San Joaquin River Gorge.



Located near Fresno, Madera, Visalia, Auberry, and other Central Valley communities, the San Joaquin River Gorge provides essential access to the outdoors for a diversity of visitors.



You Can't Dam Your Way to Paradise

Learn more about the San Joaquin River & Temperance Flat Dam in four minutes:
vimeo.com/285322434



QUICK FACTS SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE

- > Outstanding example of a low-elevation Sierra Nevada river system near population centers.
- > Receives the BLM's highest rating for scenic quality.
- > Rich in Native American cultural history and values.
- > Provides critical regional recreation opportunities for residents and visitors alike.
- > Essential wildlife migration corridor and habitat for sensitive, threatened, or endangered species.

THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER GORGE



Over 85,000 people visit the San Joaquin River Gorge every year to enjoy its outstanding scenery, use its extensive trail system, paddle the river's class III-V rapids, and camp in public campgrounds. As a 6,500-acre BLM Special Recreation Management Area, there's an environmental education center and a museum that highlights the unique features of this popular area including its rich Native American heritage. There's a National Recreation Trail and even the world's best example of a granitic cave, the Millerton Cave System. All of this is less than an hour from Fresno and over one million people. And all of it would be flooded forever if the Temperance Flat Dam were built.

TEMPERANCE FLAT DAM



Everything about the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed Temperance Flat Dam is staggering. At 665 feet tall, it would be the second tallest dam in California and the fifth tallest in the United States. Its estimated cost is \$2.8 billion, pricing it among the most expensive dams in the nation. Temperance Flat Reservoir, when full, would store 1.3 million acre-feet of water.

Despite these superlative figures, the dam is expected to yield an average of just 74,000 acre-feet of water annually—less in dry years—to supply under 0.2% of California's water use at a cost greater than users are willing to pay. The dam would reduce the storage capacity of Millerton Lake and submerge the Kerckhoff Hydroelectric Project's powerhouses, resulting in a net loss of power generation. It's not even known where the dam's water would come from: The San Joaquin's water is over-allocated by an astounding 861%, there are no available water rights, and the magnitude of climate change impacts makes water availability even less certain.

Perhaps most staggering are the dam's long-term, unavoidable adverse impacts on fisheries, fish and wildlife habitat, botanical resources, wetlands, cultural resources, recreation, scenery, and greenhouse gas emissions.

WHY WILD AND SCENIC



Even in this time of polarized politics, the American public broadly supports our nation's public lands and waters—it seems to be one of just a few issues that bridges divides and unites diverse interests. The San Joaquin River Gorge is cherished by those who know it, and Wild and Scenic designation will permanently protect this incredible and irreplaceable resource.

And, until the San Joaquin River Gorge is protected by Wild and Scenic River designation and is off-limits to water project development, dam proponents will continue to squander public resources promoting and planning for a questionable project that may never be built. The time for Wild and Scenic is now.



The BLM has determined that nearly 11 miles of the San Joaquin River are eligible as a National Wild and Scenic River. [#sanjoaquinrivergorge](#) to see how people are enjoying the river.

\$2,800,000,000

ESTIMATED COST OF
TEMPERANCE FLAT DAM

QUICK FACTS TEMPERANCE FLAT DAM

- > More expensive than Grand Coulee Dam, one of the largest concrete structures in the world (adjusted for inflation).
- > Second tallest dam in California but only #9 in total reservoir capacity.
- > Would drown 18 miles of river, including the entire San Joaquin River Gorge.



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