No New Reservoirs in State Parks

Henry Coe State Park is preserved land for all people

Henry W. Coe State Park is described by its own website as “the largest state park in northern California and protects and preserves 87,000 acres of scenic hills and mountain ridges in the Diablo Mountain Range. This largely undeveloped park welcomes backpackers, equestrians, mountain bikers, day-hikers, and anyone seeking solitude in a nearly untouched setting.” Pacheco will destroy that legacy and intent of this special place.

Pacheco Dam sets a dangerous precedent for all state parks in California

Allowing a reservoir to destroy portions of the Park sets a dangerous legal precedent that threatens to undermine decades of conservation work and destroy precious open places all over the state that have been protected for generations.

It’s counter to California’s 30 x 30 Initiative

By inundating over a mile of sensitive habitat in the Park and flooding about 1,500 acres of open space, this project would run counter to efforts to conserve at least 30% of California land and waters by 2030 to protect biodiversity and mitigate climate change impacts. Rather than adding any natural value, the reservoir will fragment critical wildlife corridors, create a dead space of vegetation known as the “bathtub ring” effect, and invite invasive species into a “nearly untouched setting.”

There are better alternatives to Pacheco Dam

There are better alternatives to the project that Valley Water has identified in its Water Supply Master Plan 2040, including groundwater recharge and storage, potable reuse, desalination and other infrastructure upgrades. Join Friends of the River today in urging Valley Water to Save Henry Coe State Park – Stop Pacheco Dam.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (Valley Water) is proposing to build a new reservoir located in the foothills east of the Santa Clara Valley, 1.8 miles upstream of the existing dam. Friends of the River is concerned because this project is:

Illegal

Pacheco Dam would put a reservoir on a portion of Henry Coe State Park. This violates the California Public Resources Code and sets a terrible precedent that could threaten all State Parks.

Expensive

At $2.5 billion, the proposed new Pacheco Dam is an expensive deadbeat project in need of cash from state taxpayers.

Environmentally Destructive

Valley Water claims the new Dam would benefit sensitive fisheries, yet it may not fill most years, will scar the landscape and would fragment critical wildlife corridors for other threatened and endangered species.

For more information, visit our website friendsoftheriver.org