

**From:** jen Hippiechic <jenhippiechic@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 13, 2021 8:14 AM  
**To:** California Water Commission  
**Subject:** What's wrong with dams?

By 2015, the dam industry had choked more than half of the Earth's major rivers with some 57,000 large dams. The consequences of this massive engineering program have been devastating. The world's large dams have wiped out species; flooded huge areas of wetlands, forests and farmlands; and displaced tens of millions of people. The "one-size-fits-all" approach to meeting the world's water and energy needs is also outdated: [better solutions](#) exist. While not every dam causes huge problems, cumulatively the world's large dams have replumbed rivers in a massive experiment that has left the planet's freshwaters in far worse shape than any other major ecosystem type, including tropical rainforests. In response, dam-affected communities in many parts of the world are working to [resolve the legacies](#) of poorly planned dams. Elsewhere (and especially in North America), communities are starting to [take down dams](#) that have outlived their usefulness, as part of a broader river restoration movement. We have only ONE undamed river in the whole United States of America. Please rethink these projects. We can do better.  
Jennifer DePierro