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CALIFORNIA WATER COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
Written Statement of Congressman Josh Harder

Commissioners, thank you for allowing me to provide a statement on behalf of a new water project that will be essential to my community in the Central Valley – the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project.

The purpose of today's meeting is to evaluate new water storage projects—including those eligible through the Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP)—providing the state with key public benefits. There is no greater public benefit than investing in smart and safe water storage opportunities that will grow our water supply, helping our families, farmers, and most-hit communities secure a safe drinking source of water. The Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project is a win-win project that achieves all this and more. Congress already recognized the importance of this project by authorizing it in the WIIN Act (P.L. 114-322), securing support from both Democratic and Republican administrations alike. This year, the Department of the Interior recommended the project yet again to receive federal support.

We all know that California is experiencing a historic drought. In Stanislaus County—which I represent in Congress—droughts like this one mean layoffs of thirty percent or more for agricultural workers because of a simple fact, farms don't have enough water to operate. Layoffs on that scale don't just hurt the workers, they crush whole communities. As the Central Valley gets its footing over the next few years, we simply can't afford to be knocked down again.

You have an opportunity today to make a positive difference in my community by helping build Del Puerto, delivering water to a region that is often left behind and forgotten in these conversations. I trust that you will take the needs Central Valley and the incredible opportunity the Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project represents into consideration as you consider funding investments for new water storage projects. Thank you again, Commissioners, for your time and attention to this critical issue.



Josh Harder
Member of Congress