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House of Representatives

In Recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the New Don Pedro Project

**Hon. Josh Harder
Of California
In the House of Representatives
Saturday, May 22, 2021**

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the New Don Pedro Project, which has helped to make our way of life in the Central Valley possible—supplying water, electricity, and recreational activities to my community.

The New Don Pedro Project is a 585-foot-high dam and reservoir designed and constructed by the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts to store rainfall and regulate water for the Valley. Today, the Don Pedro Project stores irrigation water for approximately 200,000 acres of farmland and drinking water for the City of Modesto; generates 203 megawatts of hydroelectricity for more than 230,000 electric accounts; and offers recreational fishing, boating, and camping along 160 miles of shoreline. In addition, the regulated river flows are released from Don Pedro to benefit fisheries and maintain the health of the Tuolumne River. The reservoir and operation of the Don Pedro Project also allows for efficient water usage and provides flood control capabilities.

For those of us in the Valley, water is crucial to our economy more than anywhere else in the country. Since its completion on May 22, 1971, the Don Pedro project has supplied the irrigation water for the farmers who have made the Central Valley one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. We must be constantly vigilant to make sure our water supply is secure, reliable, and safe for growing crops. Our livelihoods depend on it. It's also crucial to preserving our environment and ensuring we're prepared for droughts as well as floods. Fifty years from now, I want to still be able to go fishing in the Tuolumne River and swim at the Don Pedro lake. Water is critical to our future, and I'm committed to working with both the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts to preserve it.

I am honored to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the New Don Pedro Project, an engineering marvel which exemplifies the continued innovation of the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts and brings invaluable resources and opportunities to the Central Valley.

May 22, 2021

Date

U.S. Congressman Josh Harder