

# ***FLASH: CLAUSEN VOTE KILLS STANISLAUS BILL***

On September 17, Congressman Don Clausen cast the deciding vote in the House Interior Committee that doomed legislation to protect California's Stanislaus River Canyon. Clausen was a leader of the effort to pass an amendment removing the Stanislaus from a package of rivers to be protected as National Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Stanislaus was removed by a vote of 20 to 19.

The Secretary of the Interior had already announced that he would order the reservoir behind New Melones Dam to be massively enlarged - flooding the remaining nine miles of canyon upstream - if Congress did not protect the area.

Clausen's vote - cast in the face of a large and overwhelmingly pro-river expression of concern from constituents - greatly increases the possibility that much of the area will be destroyed by this spring. This is the nation's second most popular whitewater river.

Clausen's district contains most of the remaining free-flowing rivers in the state of California.