

San Francisco adds groundwater to its supplies.

San Francisco is once again delivering water from wells on the west side of the city to its customers. The City believes it will be able to consistently pump 4 million gallons per day to blend with its other supplies. The City is also "banking" groundwater in aquifers just south of its borders.

The **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission** deserves credit for modernizing its system—increasing reliability by developing additional sources. Ironically, however, Commission staff have found they are paying the price for having overhyped the quality of their "Hetch Hetchy" water over the past century.

Some customers worry the quality will suffer. One local bagel maker even suggested he might need to ship water in from New York City. **Kim Sturdavant**, brewmaster of Social Kitchen & Brewery, offered a mixed review "It's beneficial to have soft water for pilsner, hard water works really well for hoppiier beer." **Christopher Hendon**, a chemist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and co-author of the textbook "Water for Coffee" seems unworried, saying "Everyone likes to think their water is special. San Francisco's water is not particularly special."

It's worth pointing out that San Francisco has never delivered pure "Hetch Hetchy" or even pure "Tuolumne River" water. About 15 percent of all water system supplies have always come from Bay Area watersheds. And earlier this year, pipelines in the Sierra were shut down for six weeks and customers were entirely supplied from local watersheds—without a noticeable increase in complaints about quality.

Restore Hetch Hetchy is not always the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission' biggest fan, but we applaud them for making this investment.

**Additional system improvements are necessary, however, so San Francisco can continue to divert Tuolumne River supplies without storing the water in Yosemite, and Hetch Hetchy Valley can be restored and returned to the American people and visitors from around the world.**

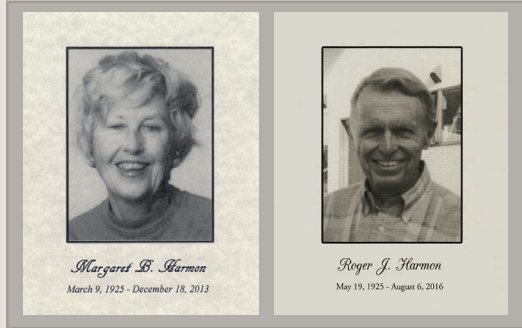
**"It's time to return this treasure to the American people."** - Harrison Ford



**Please Contribute Today!** Use the attached envelop or go to [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org). We also accept contributions of appreciated stocks and other securities, and are grateful to any supporters who include us in their estate plans. Please contact our office if you have any questions.

Photo: Matt Ashby Wolfskill, Library of Congress

In memoriam:  
Margaret and Roger Harmon



Restore Hetch Hetchy regrets the recent passing of **Margaret and Roger Harmon**, long-term supporters who loved the Sierra Nevada, and we offer our condolences to their family and friends. We are grateful that Roger and Margaret included us in their will as we do everything we can to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley to its natural beauty.



Restore Hetch Hetchy Office Manager Julene Freitas (right) and volunteer Erika Ghose joined Yosemite Climbing Association's "Yosemite Facelift", an annual park-wide cleanup in September.

Restore Hetch Hetchy

3286 Adeline Street, Suite 7  
Berkeley, CA 94703

Please Join the Restore Hetch Hetchy Board and Staff  
Restore Hetch Hetchy 2018 Annual Dinner

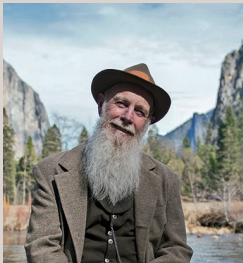


Saturday, March 17 at 6 PM • BERKELEY CITY CLUB

Tickets – \$200 Table of 8 – \$1600

For more information, call 510-893-3400 or visit [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org).

Image by Garrett Burke



Restore Hetch Hetchy is thrilled to welcome **Lee Stetson** as our special guest. Lee keeps the spirit of John Muir alive, performing in Yosemite and around the world, and played the legendary naturalist in Ken Burns' critically acclaimed series

**The National Parks—America's Best Idea.**

Don't miss this special opportunity. Lee has plenty to say about Hetch Hetchy.

Patience is a virtue. Or so they say.

Our attorneys explain that six months is not such a long time for the courts to respond to our appeal. The judges do, after all, have quite a bit of reading to do. They must consider our appeal, San Francisco's response, our reply and some six amicus briefs filed by various parties. We are optimistic that they will agree with the **California State Water Board** and **Attorney General**, whose brief clearly articulates that the courts should schedule a trial "to determine the reasonableness of San Francisco's water diversion at Hetch Hetchy."

We are looking forward to such a day in court, where we can present evidence that Hetch Hetchy is more valuable as a valley than as a reservoir, and that restoration can occur without San Francisco losing a drop of water supply.

As we wait for the court to respond, think about coming to our **Annual Dinner in 2018**. What could be a greener way to celebrate **St. Patrick's Day**?



Executive Director  
Spreck Rosekrans

3286 Adeline Street, Suite 7, Berkeley, CA 94703 • 510-893-3400 • [admin@hetchhetchy.org](mailto:admin@hetchhetchy.org) • [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org)



NEWSLETTER

Restore Hetch Hetchy in Yosemite National Park

Dams, and **Your** National Parks

**When you are born in the United States**, you receive a rather substantial real estate portfolio\*— about 2.27 billion acres – 28% of all land within the United States. These lands belong to you and all your fellow American citizens.

The most spectacular of these landscapes have been protected within our national park system, with the purpose of conserving "the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein, and ... leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Only once in our nation's history have we substantially failed to protect our national parks. In 1913, Congress passed the Raker Act, allowing the City of San Francisco to build a dam in **Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley**.

Due in part to the outcry over the Raker Act, attempts to build dams in **Yellowstone** and **Grand Canyon** were thwarted. A few other national parks do have dams. Jackson Lake Dam in **Grand Teton** is the largest, but it had already been built when the park was established. Notably, Glines Canyon Dam in **Olympic National Park**, along with the Elwha Dam just downstream, were removed to allow salmon to spawn in the upper reaches of the Elwha River.

The O'Shaughnessy Dam should be next on the list. If we don't remove it, let's empty the reservoir and uncover **Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy**. San Francisco can store its water downstream of Yosemite and you and your fellow citizens can add that splendid valley back to your portfolio.

(\*) **The characterization of national parks as a collective real estate portfolio is borrowed from Yosemite Ranger and author Shelton Johnson.**

*"NATIONAL PARKS are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst."*

— Wallace Stegner



*When OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK was created, Glines Canyon and Elwha Dams were already built. They were demolished in 2014 and salmon are already spawning in upstream reaches of the river.*

Photo: Jeff Taylor

*"The trip of a lifetime", as many describe a float trip through the Grand Canyon, wouldn't be possible if the Bureau of Reclamation had dammed the canyon as proposed. Determined not to let another "Hetch Hetchy" happen, in 1966 the Sierra Club got the nation's attention with full page newspaper ads, asking "Should We Also Flood the Sistine Chapel So Tourists Can Get Nearer the Ceiling?"*

Photo: Barry Keane

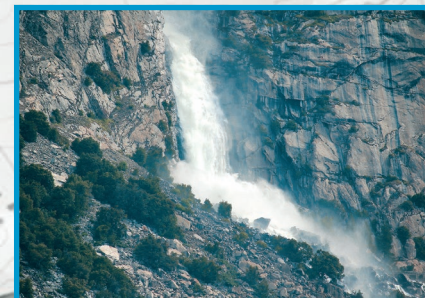
**Restore Hetch Hetchy is not anti-dam.** We recognize that many dams provide important benefits. We believe, however, that the value of restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley far outweighs the cost of replacing the hydropower and incremental water supply benefits made possible by O'Shaughnessy Dam.



**“Imagine yourself in HETCH HETCHY on a sunny day in June, standing waist-deep in grass and flowers as I have often times stood, while the great pines sway dreamily with scarce perceptible motion.” — John Muir**



JOHN MUIR described TUEEULALA FALLS (left) as “descending like thistledown” and WAPAMA FALLS as “roaring and plundering”. Both will be accessible after sauntering across the meadow, rather than hiking along the often hot and rocky trail beneath the cliffs on Hetch Hetchy’s north side.



Photos: Spreck Rosekrans



Photo: Gurmeet Manku

**Chaparral: 265 ACRES RESTORED.** Birds, lizards, snakes and small mammals will announce the restoration of the lower talus slopes, which will provide upland refugia for countless species during spring floods, and basking habitat for native cold blooded species.



Photo: Erica Ruch

**Meadows: 364 ACRES RESTORED.** Native bunchgrass and flowering forbes will fill the meadows within 2 years of restoration, providing critical habitat for mammals, birds and insects. Raptors will hunt the edges, large mammals will graze during daylight and hide at dusk when predators roam.



Photo: Erica Ruch

**Beyond the Valley Floor—** RESTORATION OF HETCH HETCHY will provide visitors much improved access to wonders of Yosemite currently seen by very few including Tiltill Valley, Pate Valley, Rancheria Falls, Hetch Hetchy Dome, LeConte Point and Kolana Rock. Many visitors will want to explore the upstream reaches of the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, currently accessible only as a multi-day backpack around Rancheria Mountain.

#### HABITAT KEY

**Meadows**  
**Wetlands/Riparian**  
**Tuolumne River**  
**Black Oak Woodlands**  
**Coniferous Forest**  
**Chaparral**

1 mile

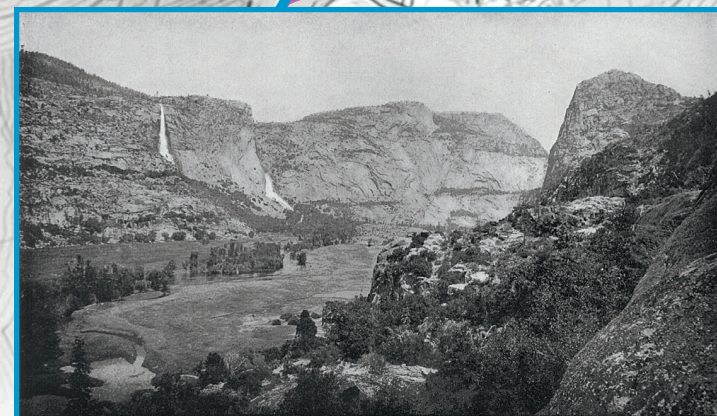


Photo: Isaiah West Taber

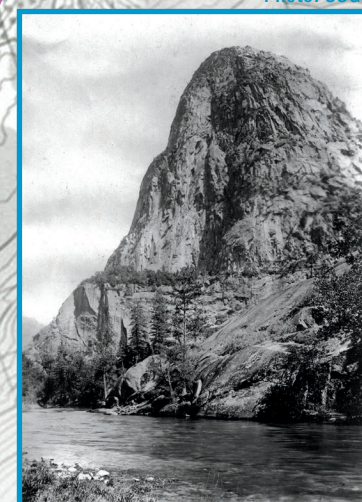


Photo: USGS

**Tuolumne River and Tributaries: 10 MILES RESTORED.** These streams will immediately tumble through their ancient channels and meander across expansive meadows. The mighty Tuolumne will flow at the base of Kolana Rock as it quenches Hetch Hetchy Valley.



Photo: Erica Ruch

**Wetlands and Riparian Habitat: 339 ACRES RESTORED.** Declining amphibians and other critically threatened species will thrive in the extensive marsh, and use the Tuolumne’s riparian corridor as a wildlife highway from the foothills to the high country for the first time in over 100 years. (Inset: the endangered California red-legged frog) Photo: Julia Butler Hanson



Photo: Zdesktopwallpapers.com

**Black Oak Woodlands: 67 ACRES RESTORED.** Besides the beautiful fall colors, black oaks will provide critical edge habitat along meadows. Birds and mammals will frequent these areas while foraging and hunting.



Photo: Donald LaMarr

**Coniferous Forest: 281 ACRES RESTORED.** Although abundant in the Sierra, the deep, rich soils of Hetch Hetchy Valley will allow conifers to grow quickly and rise to heights faster than in surrounding ranges, creating a forest of massive pines and cedar for our grandchildren to wander.

#### Active or Passive Restoration?

Meadows will come back quickly but forests will take some time to mature. Should trees be planted or should we wait for birds and the wind to scatter seeds? Should volunteers strive to keep invasive plants from gaining a foothold?

Restore Hetch Hetchy looks forward to robust and thoughtful input from the public to find the answers to these challenging questions. The opportunity to watch Hetch Hetchy regain its original splendor will inspire all of us.

Restoration projections developed by Mark Cederborg, Restore Hetch Hetchy board member and Principal at Hanford ARC.

Background: Hetch Hetchy Trail Map (Tom Harrison Maps)