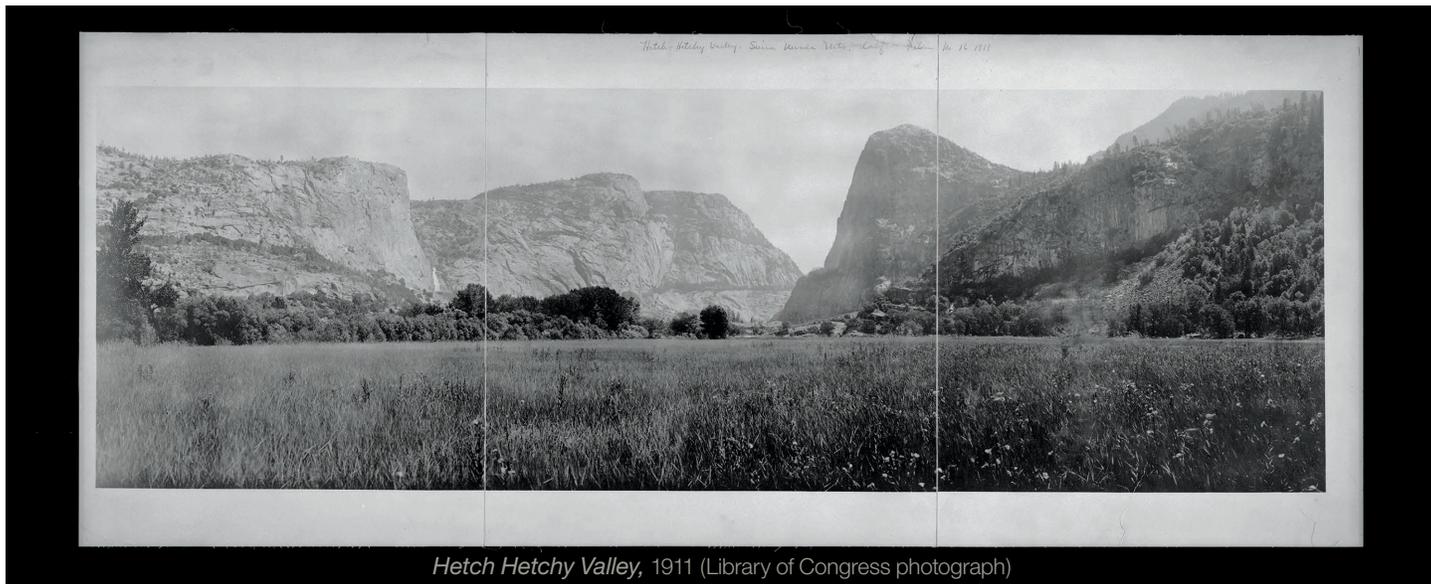


Restore Hetch Hetchy *in* Yosemite National Park

Contact: PO Box 71502, Oakland, CA 94612 • 510-893-3400 • admin@hetchhetchy.org • www.hetchhetchy.org



Hetch Hetchy Valley, 1911 (Library of Congress photograph)

Restore Hetch Hetchy Wins “VENUE” Motion *Trial will stay in Tuolumne County—San Francisco’s motion to move case is denied*

The Tuolumne County Superior Court has ruled against San Francisco’s motion to move our lawsuit away from Tuolumne County, where we filed and where Hetch Hetchy Valley is located. We are grateful to Michael Lozeau and Meredith Wilensky of Lozeau Drury LLP for their work in refuting arguments that the case should be moved to San Francisco.

We are pleased with this initial ruling. San Francisco, however, has indicated they intend to file additional motions to avoid or at least delay discussion of the merits of restoration. The city has also indicated that they will oppose our request to have evidence heard by the State Water Board, which customarily makes recommendations to the court in cases involving water system disputes.

San Francisco’s reticence to engage in substance comes as no surprise. Restore Hetch Hetchy’s immediate goal is to address and resolve the legal preliminaries as quickly as possible, and move into a hearing where we can present evidence that Hetch Hetchy is more valuable as a valley than as a reservoir.



The historic *Tuolumne County Courthouse* in downtown Sonoma



Restore Hetch Hetchy board members at October 2015 retreat in Yosemite

Restore Hetch Hetchy’s \$120,000 Board Challenge

The Restore Hetch Hetchy Board has pledged to match—dollar for dollar—up to \$60,000 for all contributions made between November 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016.

Your contribution during this time will count double and help fund our legal challenge to the ongoing occupation of Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Hans Florine's record ascent of El Capitan

*"For climbers,
Hetch Hetchy is like a ghost"*



Florine's 100th ascent of El Capitan's Nose was the first for fellow climbers Jayme Moye and Fiona Thornewell. Once Hetch Hetchy is restored, the view from its surrounding cliffs will be available to climbers and hikers alike.

FOR MANY OF US, restoring Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley conjures images of John Muir's experience: *"Imagine yourself in Hetch Hetchy on a sunny day in June, standing waist-deep in grass and flowers as I have oftentimes stood, while the great pines sway."*

Hans Florine, however, is one who tends to think vertically rather than horizontally. He shares the world record for the fastest climb of the "Nose" of El Capitan in Yosemite Valley, arguably the earth's most famous piece of granite. And, as of September 12, he became the first to make that climb 100 times.

"Hetch Hetchy is like a ghost", Florine explains. "Here we are in Yosemite Valley – the most famous rock climbing spot anywhere. People come from Switzerland, China, all around the world. For climbers, Yosemite Valley is the Mecca, the center of our universe. Hetch Hetchy is similar and only 15 miles away, but access to its walls is limited so climbers rarely go there. We are missing out on the sister of the greatest climbing area in the world."

Restore Hetch Hetchy Board Retreat

IN EARLY OCTOBER, the Restore Hetch Hetchy board and staff, along with a few friends, held a retreat in Yosemite. In Yosemite Valley, we learned about the rare ecology of alpine meadows, before having a board meeting and strategy session. At Hetch Hetchy, we hiked around the reservoir to a bone dry Wapama Falls before picnicking near San Francisco's Chalet.

Like many non-profit boards, ours is composed of committed individuals from a variety of backgrounds. What we have in common is a love of Yosemite and a vision that we don't have to live with mistakes of the past.

Most of our board meetings are very busy with the affairs of running an organization. It was great to be able to spend a bit of extra time enjoying Yosemite as a group.

Roger Williams, Board Chair



Overlooking the once and future Hetch Hetchy Valley, with the bust of the dam's Chief Engineer, Michael O'Shaughnessy (center).

2016 ANNUAL DINNER April 9, 2016 at the Berkeley City Club



Our 2015 Event

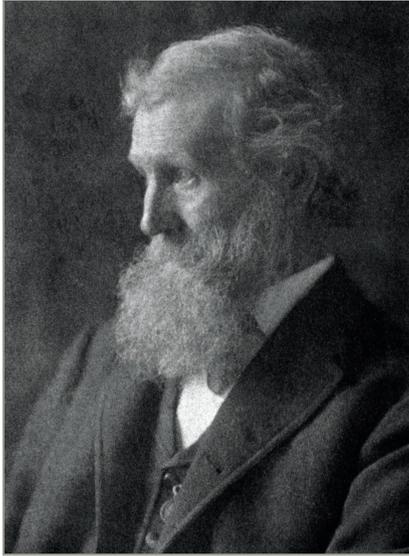
SAVE THE DATE, or better yet buy tickets or reserve a table. We'll be back at the **Berkeley City Club**—a spectacular venue designed by architect Julia Morgan.

Call 510-893-3400 or email: Julene@hetchhetchy.org for details.



2016 ANNUAL DINNER
SPECIAL MUSIC GUEST,
Brian Judd

A CENTENNIAL FOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



In 1916, less than three years after the Raker Act, Congress passed the “Organic” Act, which created the National Park Service and has ensured by statute that our parks are managed for national, not local benefit. As a result, proposals to build dams in Yellowstone in the 1920’s and Grand Canyon in the 1950’s were defeated. America’s model for national parks has been copied across the globe and now includes places like Ecuador’s Galapagos Islands and Tanzania’s Serengeti.

The Raker Act was a profound loss for Yosemite. In prescient words, however, John Muir seemed to predict that Congress would reverse course and pass the Organic Act:

“The conscience of the whole country has been aroused from sleep; and from outrageous evil compensating good in some form must surely come.”



Making personalized “Tear down the wall” T-shirts at the Patagonia Store in San Francisco.

From the left, T shirt designers Grant Poznick and Madeleine Ledford, Office Manager Julene Freitas, and Instagram Impresario Fern Johnson

Board Profile: Pete Van Kuran



Pete Van Kuran and grandson Lyell atop Sentinel Dome, with (not coincidentally) Mt. Lyell in the background. Pete is committed to restoring Hetch Hetchy for Lyell and his cousins.

Pete Van Kuran’s childhood memories of Yosemite date back to 1956 when he piled into a neighbor’s station wagon in Pasadena and traveled up the east side of the Sierra and into Yosemite along the old Tioga Road. In those days, sections of the road were one way and downhill traffic was often required to back up to make way for visitors coming into the park.

When he was old enough, Pete started coming to the park on his own. He worked in the Village Store and hung out with the climbing crowd until he realized he preferred to keep the granite under his feet. Pete and Virginia married in 1969. After a stint in the army, they settled in Palo Alto where they raised their children and often vacationed in Yosemite National Park.

After his children were grown, Pete started volunteering for the Yosemite Association—which later merged with the Yosemite Fund to become the Yosemite Conservancy. In 2003, he learned the story of Hetch Hetchy during a performance by John Muir impersonator Lee Stetson. Lee told Pete about Restore Hetch Hetchy, Pete found us, joined our board and has been our Treasurer ever since.

Pete acknowledges some of his neighbors in Palo Alto, a city which purchases water from San Francisco, are not thrilled about his activism on Yosemite’s behalf. “We don’t talk about it much anymore”, he concedes.

“For over one hundred years the Hetch Hetchy Valley of Yosemite National Park has known neither summer nor winter, nor the breath of spring nor autumn’s sigh. A wall stands between the valley and its seasons, and a greater wall stands between our good intentions and our willingness to change mistakes of the past”.

-Grant Poznick

Restore Hetch Hetchy

PO Box 71502
Oakland, CA 94612



Provocative and Responsible

Restore Hetch Hetchy is provocative. While dam removals are taking place across the United States, none have involved a reservoir as large as Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Restore Hetch Hetchy is also responsible. Not only have a series of reports demonstrated that Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley can be restored without losing a drop of water, we have recommended to the California courts that San Francisco be given adequate time to make necessary system improvements.

Water officials throughout California understand that Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is not a source of water. It is a storage tank—one of nine reservoirs where San Francisco stores water and it can be replaced. Many water agencies have needed to make substantial adjustments to their operations to accommodate the needs of wetlands or fisheries—in far greater magnitude than we are asking of San Francisco and without the soft landing we have asked the courts to provide.

Yet some San Francisco leaders consider us controversial, have called our restoration proposal “insane” and declared its reservoir in Hetch Hetchy Valley to be the city’s “birthright”. They seem to have a “we stole it fair and square” attitude. (A reference to former Senator S. I. Hayakawa who coined the phrase with respect to the Panama Canal—we gave it back in 1999.)

We know we are in for a fight—against a formidable opponent. But we have the merits on our side—the value of restoration and the legacy of America’s national parks up against the special deal that San Francisco cut in 1913. There are challenges ahead, no doubt, but we are in it to win. Thanks for sharing this historic opportunity with us.

“It’s important for Bay Area residents to understand that their water is safe. They have the rights to this water. What is at issue is where the water is stored”

-Senator Lois Wolk



Executive Director
Spreck Rosekrans



www.hetchhetchy.org
510-893-3400