



# Restore Hetch Hetchy

IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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## SCHWARZENEGGER ADMINISTRATION CONDUCTS PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON HETCH HETCHY

**O**n July 14<sup>th</sup>, officials from the Schwarzenegger Administration conducted a public workshop in Sacramento regarding their study of Hetch Hetchy restoration options. California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman,



*Mike Chrisman & Ruth Coleman*

Parks & Recreation Director Ruth Coleman, and Gary Bardini from the Department of Water Resources conducted the workshop. Secretary Chrisman said the purpose of the workshop was to foster an “informed public dialogue.” Director Coleman discussed the state’s recreational needs and opportunities, and Gary Bardini stressed the

need for an “objective conversation” about Hetch Hetchy’s future.

The Administration will announce the results of its study later this fall. Heartfelt and informative testimony was offered by Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (D-Davis) and by representatives from Restore Hetch Hetchy, Environmental Defense, Sierra Club, Planning & Conservation League, and Native Americans from the Tuolumne and Mariposa Tribal Councils. Representatives of Bay Area water users and business organizations also made statements. After thanking the Schwarzenegger Administration for conducting its study and the workshop,

Assemblywoman Wolk stated (in part):



*Lois Wolk*

“Today is an important milestone for Hetch Hetchy and for all those over the decades who have dreamt of the possibilities that this remarkable valley might one day be restored to its natural grandeur. Today is also a milestone for the state as a whole, signaling a willingness to consider new thinking about how we manage our natural resources in a more sustainable manner. In my view, all parties—San Francisco and the surrounding bay area community, the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts—need to be kept whole. There can be no losers in this effort. There *can* be many winners. Let me close by repeating my mantra asking that

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Restore Hetch Hetchy is:

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everyone ... 'keep an open mind,' set aside old assumptions and consider



Harold Wood

new ones. And once our minds are open, let's go a step further and fully utilize our

collective genius to set an example the rest of the country, if not the world, might seek to follow." RHH was well-represented by Board members Harold Wood (Chair), Felicia Woytak (Vice-Chair), Bob Hackamack (Chair of the Technical/Engineering Committee), Jerry Meral (primary author of the RHH Feasibility Study), and Mark Cederborg (Chair of the Restoration Committee), by Executive Director Ron Good, and by several member-activists.



George Miller

a National Park where it is

currently stopped. Glenn closed by saying: "With Hetch Hetchy, we have the opportunity to create an incredible legacy for ourselves and for future generations." RHH member and supporter, George Miller



Mark Cederborg



Glen Ovitt



Felicia Woytak

from San Francisco, stated: "Over a four-year period, I reviewed and organized some 350 cartons of records in the UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library from the Spring Valley Water Company as well as Michael O'Shaughnessy's personal correspondence. By the time I finished, it seemed clear to me that 'the chief' [O'Shaughnessy] had very serious misgivings as to whether Hetch Hetchy was the best solution to San Francisco's water needs." RHH activist, native San Franciscan, and author of *The Curse of Chief Tenaya*, Craig Carrozzi questioned the state officials about their restoration cost estimates. RHH activist Dennis Pottenger stated: "This doesn't have to be a war between those who want to



Dennis Pottenger



Jerry Meral



Bob Hackamack

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restore Hetch Hetchy and those who don't. The four major studies conducted since 1987 are quite clear: a 'win-win' outcome for both



Larry Fahn

water and power users in the San Francisco Bay Area and Hetch Hetchy Valley is possible." Larry Fahn, immediate past president of the Sierra Club,

applauded Governor Schwarzenegger and Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman for having the foresight to explore possible restoration options, and said that a full analysis of the costs and benefits of

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## MEET OUR BOARD – PETE VAN KURAN

### Treasurer of Restore Hetch Hetchy

**P**ete Van Kuran and his wife Virginia have been living in Palo Alto, on the San Francisco Peninsula, for over 30 years. Pete has been an avid climber and backpacker since his first trip to Tuolumne Meadows in 1958. Since then, he has made more than 30 trips into the Yosemite backcountry including a trip this summer up the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River, where he was able to observe first-hand the effect that the damming of the Hetch Hetchy has brought.

Pete says, "The Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River and the Hetch Hetchy Valley are places of extraordinary beauty that are almost inaccessible due to the desire to protect the purity of the watershed for a restricted number of consumers, of which I am one. Only a small 4-mile section of the reservoir is accessible; and even then, access to the water is prohibited. Getting into and out of the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River behind Hetch Hetchy



Pete Van Kuran

requires an extraordinarily difficult hike which can only be made by experienced backpackers. It doesn't seem like a valid tradeoff for a National Park."

Pete is a late-comer to the environmental movement, having been attracted to Restore Hetch Hetchy by its singular focus on the restoration of John Muir's cathedral in the wilderness. He has spent his active career in business, working for a variety of Silicon Valley icons including Hewlett Packard, Tandem Computers, and Wind River Systems. Most of his business activities

have been customer focused either in sales or marketing and business operations, and he brings this background to help RHH move to the next stage.

Pete has an intense interest in helping RHH move to the next stage in its development. Whether it is creating a strategic plan, fund raising, reviewing the budget or hiring staff, he brings the experience to help the board and executive staff deal with these challenges. In addition, at the end of the day, the decision about Restoring the Valley will be influenced by economics; and Pete will be able help the Board deal with those complexities. With the restoration movement catching momentum, Pete believes that "RHH can move forward with its goal of dismantling the dam on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Muir's passing. In business terms, Restore Hetch Hetchy is poised to move out of the incubator and into the mainstream. Now is the time to make it happen." 🌀

# TIME magazine article on Hetch Hetchy

The July 18<sup>th</sup> edition of TIME magazine published a three-page article about our movement to restore Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley. The article contained stunning photos and an image by the famous, 19<sup>th</sup>-century landscape artist, Albert Bierstadt.



day be dismantled and that drowned landscape conjured back into being? That is the provocative question posed by an activist group called Restore Hetch Hetchy, which five years ago launched a spirited but seemingly quixotic campaign to convince the public that the time

The TIME article states: "Might the O'Shaughnessy Dam one

President Clinton's Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt with sledge hammer at the ceremony for the McPherrin Dam removal on Butte Creek in southern California, July 14, 1998.

Credit: Mark Volkoff, US Bureau of Reclamation

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A Patagonia advertisement featuring a scenic view of a snowy mountain range under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a car is driving on a road. The text "clothing and gear for your next adventure" is written in a light, sans-serif font across the top. The Patagonia logo and tagline "committed to the core" are prominently displayed in the lower right. Contact information and a commitment statement are also included.

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Patagonia pledges at least 1% of sales, \$20 million in grants and in-kind donations to date, to the preservation and restoration of the natural environment.  
Photo: Barbara Rowell  
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MEMBER  
PLANET

has come to get rid of the unnatural bone lodged in the valley's throat. 'This was done by people, and it can be undone by people,' says Restore Hetch Hetchy's executive director Ron Good.

"Buoyed by a series of Pulitzer-prizewinning editorials in the Sacramento Bee [by Tom Philp – see the Summer 2005 RHH newsletter], two new books [Dr. Robert Righter: *The Battle Over Hetch Hetchy, America's Most*

*Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism*, and Professor John Simpson: *DAM! Water, Power, Politics, and Preservation in Hetch Hetchy and Yosemite National Park*], and technical studies commissioned by the Oakland Calif., office of Environmental Defense [*Paradise Regained, Solutions for Restoring Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley*], the Restore Hetch Hetchy campaign is stirring up more interest than anyone

expected. "Undoing dams that have outlived their usefulness -- or whose social and economic utility is overshadowed by the environmental harm they do – is an idea that is catching on. Over the past six years, some 175 dams have been dismantled across the country, and more than 600 over the past century." [See photos of U.S. Senator John Warner (R-VA) and President Clinton's Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt] ↪

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U.S. Senator John Warner (R-VA) (with hat) holds a sledge hammer at the ceremony for the Embrey Dam removal on the Rappahonock River May 2004.

Credit: Friends of Rappahonock

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*See page 6 for details*

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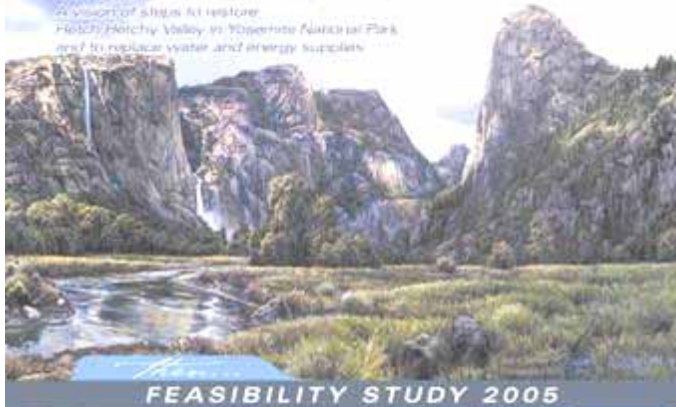
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# Restore Hetch Hetchy

Finding the Way  
Back to Hetch Hetchy Valley

A report of steps to restore  
Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park  
and to replace water and energy supplies



**R**estore Hetch Hetchy's engineering Feasibility Study will soon be released! It discusses detailed ways to remove the O'Shaughnessy Dam in an economically sound and environmentally responsible manner, restore native habitats on the Hetch Hetchy Valley floor, and replace water storage and hydropower. In cooperation with Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (D-Davis), RHH will hold a press conference at the State Capitol in Sacramento on September 13th to announce the release of the Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study, along with an Executive Summary, will be available on our website, on CD ROM, and in "hard-copy." 

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**Wildresswithin.com** was created in 1998 by environmentalist



web designer Robert Brower in partnership with his father, conservationist David Brower. The website promotes the principles of conservation, preservation, and restoration of the Earth's natural resources. It is also a tribute to the late David and Robert Brower. Both David Brower and Robert Brower were avid supporters of the Restore Hetch Hetchy movement and were members of

the Board of Directors.



## New Hetch Hetchy Song!

We commissioned singer/  
songwriter Bill Oliver from Austin,

Texas to write and record a new song:

"Hooray for Hetch Hetchy!"

To order a CD, please see page 7.

A dip from the song and the lyrics will be on our website.

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**info@hetchhetchy.org**

or by calling **(209) 533-4481** for more information.

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Continued from page 3

restoring the grandeur of Hetch Hetchy was long overdue. Larry finished by saying: "There is enough ingenuity, vision, and environmental determination in this room, let alone the State of California, to be able to find a



*Spreck Rosekrans*

way to return to the planet one of its most special places--for our children, grandchildren and all future generations." Spreck Rosekrans, a Senior Water Policy Analyst with Environmental Defense and an RHH Board member, summed up the workshop by saying: "It was clear from the comments given by the State of California that key decision makers are taking

the possibility of restoration very seriously.



*Craig Carrozzi*

It was great to see the groundswell of support from Restore Hetch Hetchy members and others and a good opportunity to talk to skeptics as well."



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