



Restore Hetch Hetchy

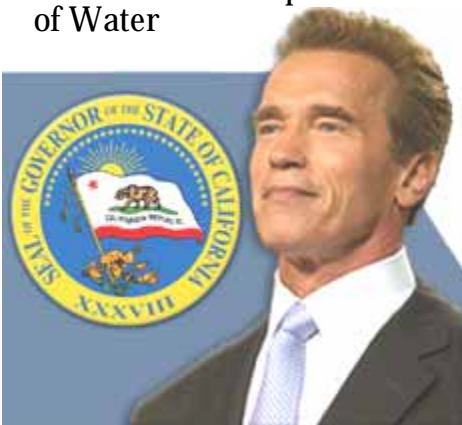
IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

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SCHWARZENEGGER ADMINISTRATION TO STUDY HETCH HETCHY'S RESTORATION

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has announced that his administration will study the restoration of Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley. In a November 8, 2004 letter, California Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman, writing "on behalf of the Governor," stated that the Department of Water



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Resources will: "review the growing body of studies and analyses [regarding Hetch Hetchy's restoration] that have been prepared

over the last twenty years. . . summarize the range of conclusions and considerations . . . and . . . consider the larger water supply impacts. . . Any plan to remove or modify existing water storage systems would need to be balanced by a viable alternative plan to at a minimum, replace the water supply now provided by the Hetch Hetchy reservoir."

Secretary Chrisman further stated that the Department of Parks and Recreation will "work with the National Park Service (NPS) to identify accepted economic approaches to estimate a parkland value for a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley."

With a reasonable note of caution, Secretary Chrisman concluded: "As the various interests discuss the prospect of

restoring Hetch Hetchy, we must balance our dreams and aspirations, our limited financial resources, and our need for water and power reliability."



Assemblywoman Lois Wolk

Assemblywoman Lois Wolk (D-Davis) responded positively to the Governor's announcement: "I am very encouraged by the administration's response to our request for a state sponsored study of restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley. . . No one should be afraid of a full, complete,

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and balanced study. I encourage everyone to come to the table in good faith to assist the state in preparing a thorough analysis of all the options."



*Resources Secretary
Mike Chrisman*

Ron Good, Executive Director of Restore Hetch Hetchy, stated: "This is an historic step. We are pleased that the Schwarzenegger administration continues to recognize the vision of John Muir. Recently, the Governor designated John Muir, Yosemite's Half Dome, and the California condor as the key symbols on the official California quarter. Just as the condor is a symbol of Nature being successfully restored, restoring Hetch Hetchy can become an even grander and more breathtaking example of the value Californians place on their environment."

Representatives of Restore Hetch Hetchy have already met with Schwarzenegger administration officials and have shared the latest draft of our own engineering

Feasibility Study, which will be released to the public in the very near future. ∞

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MEET OUR BOARD: Kay Tolladay Pitts, Chair of RHH Education Committee

Kay lives in Yosemite with her husband Don, the former U. S. Magistrate for Yosemite. They own and operate the *Yosemite Peregrine Bed and Breakfast* and other vacation rental properties. While the business keeps them busy, they do find the time to hike and ski Yosemite's many wilderness trails.

Before moving to Yosemite 24 years ago, Kay lived in Fresno where she was a middle school teacher and then became the administrator in charge of arts programs for Fresno Unified School District. She developed several programs using the arts to improve scores in reading, language and math. On moving to Yosemite, she helped establish Yosemite Renaissance, an annual competitive art exhibit and an artist-in-residence

program. She was the Executive director for some years and currently serves



Kay Tolladay Pitts

as President. When she is not running the business or hiking trails, she can be found in her studio working on paintings of Yosemite. She is also currently writing a bed and breakfast cookbook and two children's books, one about Yosemite animals and Icons, and the other about Hetch Hetchy.

She became interested in the plight of Hetch Hetchy Valley some years ago and was pleased to be asked to join the Board of Restore Hetch Hetchy and lend whatever help she could.

Kay says:

“I wanted to do something significant for Yosemite. While there are many ways one can help the Park, they pale next to the significance of creating a second Yosemite Valley. While the result will seem nothing short of miraculous, it is a very real possibility and I believe it can be done in my lifetime (I am 70). While I am a strong environmentalist, I do not believe this is an environmental issue but rather a moral one. It was never right and it will never be right to take land owned by the American public for use by a municipality. 🌊

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You can read our newsletters on-line. If you would prefer not to receive a “hard copy” please send an e-mail to: info@hetchhetchy.org

Other view: Restore Hetch Hetchy, but first plan for new energy sources

By Assemblyman Tim Leslie (R-Tahoe City), the longest-serving member of the California Legislature.

REPRINTED FROM *THE SACRAMENTO BEE* JANUARY 23, 2005

As a conservative Republican who has represented portions of the Sierra Nevada in the Legislature for almost two decades, I desire to see Hetch Hetchy Valley restored. Those shouldn't be shocking words. The first major national figure to urge restoration of Hetch Hetchy was another conservative Republican - Donald Hodel, President Reagan's secretary of the interior. As Hodel knew, the labyrinth of issues to be navigated appears overwhelming. But it is possible. The process, however, would require a road map that has not yet been considered seriously. If Hetch Hetchy is to be restored, it only could be as part of a broad agreement containing substantial increases in water and electricity supply alongside historic environmental gains. Hetch Hetchy's granite walls, sweeping meadows and tumbling waterfalls once made it a twin to nearby Yosemite Valley. But in the early 1900s, San conservationist John Muir poured his soul into defending what he called "one of nature's rarest and most precious natural temples." But even the Sierra Club, at the urging of its San Francisco membership, turned a deaf ear to Muir's pleas. The valley was submerged. It is said Muir died of a broken heart.



Assemblyman Tim Leslie

The possibility of undoing the past and recapturing Yosemite's long lost twin now falls to us. However, no restoration proposal that results merely in "no net loss" of water and electricity would get us there. California faces looming shortfalls of these essential resources, not to mention schools, health care and transportation infrastructure. Given our state's massive needs, spending billions of dollars on Hetch Hetchy without any gain of water or energy simply would not pass muster with voters - nor should it. Any viable proposal would have to provide a double win: more water and electricity, and a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley.

A path such as this would require from California's leaders creativity, flexibility and willingness to give a little to get a lot. Given the wounds that still fester from past betrayals and broken promises, each step may be as

tenuous as a peace accord in the Middle East.

Conservatives can begin by affirming robustly that Hetch Hetchy is a grand treasure. Restoring it would be a priceless gift to future generations, not only for Californians but for all Americans. And while we must approach the issue with fiscal realism, we can acknowledge that restoration is more than worthy of a portion of the funds expended by the state and federal governments for environmental efforts.

Those from the political left have a more daunting task. With whatever cohesion they can muster, brave environmental leaders must embrace specific proposals for construction of new surface water storage that would significantly exceed the water and power currently provided by Hetch Hetchy. This necessary component must gain broad support in the environmental community before any progress can be made.

Once we reach this point, the details of a comprehensive package could take shape. Real costs and benefits could be laid out in black and white: net water and electricity gains; construction costs of new storage; expenses of higher filtering requirements; economic benefits of a reopened Hetch Hetchy; the price tag for

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ensuring current water users and other stakeholders are held harmless, and so on.

When we are finally speaking in specifics, an everyone-gives-a-little agreement could emerge, carried forward by an eclectic

combination of environmentalists and water supply advocates, businesses and consumer groups, farmers and labor interests.

Is it likely? Realists would say no, but stranger things have happened. What a triumph it would be, particularly for our

children. Finally, we would be stepping forward to provide for their long-neglected water and electricity needs while restoring a glorious natural treasure for them to enjoy forever. Any takers? 🌊



Congressman George Radanovich (R-Mariposa) receives an Albert Bierstadt poster of Hetch Hetchy Valley from constituent representatives of Restore Hetch Hetchy.

Left to right: Bob Hackamack, RHH Board member and Chair of the Technical/Engineering Committee; Ron Good, Executive Director; Rep. Radanovich; Jerry Cadagan, RHH Board member.



Congressman Sam Farr (D-Monterey) meets with representatives of Restore Hetch Hetchy.

Left to right: Ron Good, Executive Director; Martha Balogh, Dr. Barbara Mossberg, Rep. Sam Farr, Alayne Meeks, Gabrielle Stocker.



RHH volunteer John Drzal set up an information table and gathered petition signatures at the Chico Farmer's Market.

THANKS JOHN!

Restore Hetch Hetchy in Action

RESTORE HETCH HETCHY PARTICIPATES IN LETTER TO SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

On February 7, Restore Hetch Hetchy joined a coalition of over twenty environmental, public health, and environmental justice organizations in writing a letter to Richard Sklar, President of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SF PUC).

The letter gives several policy recommendations to the SF PUC as it makes critical decisions this year regarding the direction of its \$4.3 billion capital improvements program to seismically retrofit and expand its water supply infrastructure. The letter stated:

"We urge San Francisco to develop a program that will provide a reliable supply of high quality water to all of its customers while simultaneously supporting a healthy environment. This can be achieved by pursuing system repairs and earthquake safety retrofits, increasing reliability by diversifying water supply options and minimizing the need to import water, and providing freshwater flows for healthy river and wildlife ecosystems.

"San Francisco and the 28 Bay Area communities who purchase water from San Francisco play an important role in California's environment. The Hetch Hetchy system directly impacts the health of the entire Tuolumne River Watershed, as well as the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem . . . These watersheds contain numerous rare plant species and provide vital habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species including steelhead trout,



San Francisco City Hall

California red-legged frog, peregrine falcon, and Tule elk.

"We urge you to include the following:

"1) *Seismic Reliability*. Ensure seismic reliability repairs are completed in a safe, cost-efficient, and timely fashion. The projects that have been specifically identified as critical for seismic reliability should proceed as quickly as possible. Project elements that expand system capacity are highly controversial and have the potential to delay and increase costs of the sorely needed seismic upgrades.

"2) *Water Supply Reliability and Water Quality*. Do not expand the capacity of the system. Ensure reliability of the system by prioritizing local water supply options over river diversions.

"Consider expanding the system's ability to filter all water in order to maintain and improve water quality. This prudent step will increase your water supply options and allow you to anticipate future regulatory requirements.

"3) *Environmental Stewardship*. Build on your adopted stewardship policy by directing staff to develop specific stewardship objectives and timelines in the next six months. . . Funding for this program should be at a level commensurate with the level of damage sustained by the affected ecosystems.

"We support an alternative in the Program Environmental Impact Report that analyzes options for operating the water system without Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, thereby allowing for the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park. (emphasis added)

"4) *Environmental Justice*.

Include an explicit policy directive for environmental justice:

- Incorporate employment and job training for disadvantaged communities
- Do not re-direct impacts from one community to another
- Ensure water quality and conservation improvements benefit all users
- Create a rate structure that is just and includes lifelines for customers who are economically disadvantaged."

The coalition of organizations signing the letter included: Alameda Creek Alliance, Alliance for a Clean Waterfront, The Bay Institute, California League of Conservation Voters, Clean Water Action, Environmental Defense, Friends of the River, Friends of Trinity River, Literacy for Environmental Justice, Mono Lake Committee, Natural Heritage Institute, Natural Resources Defense Council, Planning & Conservation League, Restore Hetch Hetchy, San Francisco League of Conservation Voters, Save The Bay, Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, San Francisco Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Tuolumne River Trust, and Urban Watershed Project.

Please Use Our Website Catalog To View the Items Described Below at www.hetchhetchy.org.

- Please send ___ copies of Restore Hetch Hetchy's new 20-minute documentary video in ___VHS format or ___DVD format. I am enclosing \$16 for each video (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ copies of landscape artist Albert Bierstadt's poster/painting of Hetch Hetchy Valley. I am enclosing \$20 for each poster (postage included), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ Restore Hetch Hetchy t-shirt(s). Size ___S ___M ___L ___X-L I am enclosing a check for \$20 (plus \$3.50 for priority mail postage) for each shirt, or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ Restore Hetch Hetchy bumper stickers. I am enclosing \$1 for each bumper sticker (postage included), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ buttons (1.5 inch, blue, with white lettering with the message Restore Hetch Hetchy) One button for \$1 or seven buttons for \$5 (price includes postage). I have included a check or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ Restore Hetch Hetchy license plate holders. I am enclosing \$10 for each license plate holder (plus \$2 postage for each license plate holder), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ greeting cards at \$2 each or ___ sets of 6 for \$10 (price includes postage). I have included a check or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ copies of David Brower's 1955 video, Two Yosemite. I am enclosing \$10 (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send ___ copies of Craig Carrozzi's book, The Curse of Chief Tenaya. I am enclosing \$24 (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please enroll me as a new member of Restore Hetch Hetchy.**
- Please renew my membership in Restore Hetch Hetchy. *The expiration date of your membership is located near your name and address on page 8.***

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RECEPTION and SILENT AUCTION at EVERGREEN LODGE, and HETCH HETCHY DAY-HIKE, MAY 21 & 22, 2005

The Board of Directors and Advisory Committee of Restore Hetch Hetchy cordially invite our members and friends to attend a weekend full of informative and fun events on May 21 & 22, 2005.

Beginning at 6pm Saturday, May 21, we will host a RECEPTION at the Evergreen Lodge, which will feature: wine, cheese, and good

munchies; our award-winning documentary film, "Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite's Lost Valley;" and, a presentation regarding our restoration Feasibility Study by our technical/engineering team. We'll also have a silent auction of art and photography with beautiful wildlife and outdoor images (including photos by Ansel Adams and Galen Rowell), and other exciting items. On Sunday morning, May 22, we'll have a Yosemite National Park

Evergreen Lodge is giving a discounted rate to people attending the event, so be sure to tell the reservation clerks that you are with Restore Hetch Hetchy.

The Evergreen Lodge is on Evergreen Road (one mile before the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite on Route 120) on the way to Hetch Hetchy. It's about a half mile from Camp Mather. See their website for additional information. Here's

their contact info:



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TO
RESTORE
HETCH
HETCHY!**

The expiration date of your membership is located near your name and address at the bottom of this page.

Use the form on page 7 to renew.

Interpretive Ranger-led day trip to Hetch Hetchy to learn about the natural history of the area, and to enjoy the spectacular waterfalls (Tueeulala and Wapama), great granite walls, and wildflowers. So, be sure to mark your calendars, and to make your reservations at the Evergreen Lodge. The

EVERGREEN LODGE, Toll-free number (800) 935-6343; FAX: (209) 379-2606; e-mail: info@evergreenlodge.com; website: www.evergreenlodge.com

We're looking forward to seeing you on May 21 & 22, 2005!

**Planning and Conservation League
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