

**STATEMENT OF RON P. GOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESTORE  
HETCH HETCHY, BEFORE THE INTERIOR & ENVIRONMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S \$7 MILLION FISCAL  
YEAR 2008 BUDGET REQUEST TO STUDY THE RESTORATION OF  
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK'S HETCH HETCHY VALLEY.**

**APRIL 19, 2007**

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Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today regarding our support for the President's \$7 million Fiscal Year 2008 budget request for the Department of the Interior and National Park Service to study the restoration of Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley.

John Muir, the Father of our National Parks, called Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley "a grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples." Unfortunately, after a decade of nationwide debate, in 1913 Congress authorized building a dam and reservoir on the Tuolumne River in Hetch Hetchy Valley to generate power and to supply water to the San Francisco Bay Area. Today, that reservoir water is conveyed to San Francisco and to parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties.

Since 1913, many other dams, aqueducts, powerplants, and other water facilities have been built in the Tuolumne River outside Yosemite. A 1988 report by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (initiated by President Reagan's Interior Secretary Don Hodel), and recent reports by the University of California-Davis (2003), Environmental Defense (2004), and Restore Hetch Hetchy (2005) demonstrate that by modifying and making better use of existing facilities, and by building modest additional water and power supply improvements, the reservoir in Hetch Hetchy Valley could be removed and the Valley restored to the American people without a loss of water or power supplies.

In July 2006, the Schwarzenegger Administration reviewed all of these studies and found that restoration is "technically feasible" with "no fatal flaws" in the concept. The Governor's report recommended that an additional \$7 million be spent, in cooperation with the federal government, to fill in existing data gaps concerning Hetch Hetchy's restoration. Therefore, the President's \$7 million budget request is in response to the study completed by the Schwarzenegger Administration.

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Several organizations have signed a letter of support for the President's budget request, including: Sierra Club, Environmental Defense, Restore Hetch Hetchy, National Wildlife Federation, Earth Justice, Friends of the Earth, Mono Lake Committee, Sierra Nevada Alliance, Tuolumne River Trust, Planning & Conservation League, South Yuba River Citizens League, and the Northern California Federation of Fly Fishers, Clean Water Action, The Bay Institute, and the Natural Heritage Institute.

Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley, with its great granite walls and booming waterfalls, is a virtual twin of Yosemite Valley, 20 miles to the south. Hetch Hetchy's restoration would provide many spiritual and recreational benefits to the American people (camping, hiking, rafting, kayaking, canoeing, rock climbing, and viewing wildlife and wildflowers). In addition, Hetch Hetchy's restoration would provide a tremendous boost to the travel and tourism economies for the gateway communities of Tuolumne and Mariposa counties and the State of California.

Yosemite National Park represents the very best we have in America. We can make the best even better, with the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Imagine the opportunity we Americans have to allow Nature to re-create another place like Yosemite Valley. There is no other opportunity like this anywhere else on Earth.

Hetch Hetchy Valley truly is America's "buried treasure."

I urge your support for the President's \$7 million Fiscal Year 2008 budget proposal for the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to study the restoration of Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my testimony. I would be pleased to answer any questions you and other members of the Subcommittee may have.