



*Construction of short trails, shown in bright red dashed lines, to the tops of Tueeulala and Wapama Falls (center), would be instantly popular for day hikers in Yosemite and would help build support for Hetch Hetchy's restoration. Longer trails, as promised in the Freeman Report, would allow backpackers to more easily explore the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne.*

## Keeping Promises update – *Increasing access and building support for restoration*

In 2021, Restore Hetch Hetchy released ***Keeping Promises: Providing Public Access to Hetch Hetchy Valley, Yosemite National Park***. The report explained how the public has been denied access to Hetch Hetchy in spite of the Congress' clear intentions to the contrary when it allowed San Francisco to build a dam a century ago. Since the report's release, Restore Hetch Hetchy staff and board members have engaged the National Park Service in an effort to improve long overdue visitor opportunities.

NPS staff praised ***Keeping Promises*** and did not dispute its findings. They raised questions, however, about the potential effect of two laws that have been passed since the Raker Act's adoption in 1913: (1) the 1964 Wilderness Act—and the designation of most of Yosemite as "wilderness" 20 years later and, (2) the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

The NPS acknowledges the obvious irony that most of the land surrounding Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is designated "wilderness". They agree the law does not affect entry through the Hetch Hetchy gate or even boating on the reservoir. Some personnel have opined, however, that in designated wilderness the NPS does not build trails "just because visitors want to get to a pretty place." Restore Hetch Hetchy rejects this interpretation and continues to pursue improved trail access within the canyon.

The NPS also indicated that security concerns may be a factor that limits when the Hetch Hetchy entrance gate is open (prior to 2001, the gate was open 24 hours a day and often not monitored). At Restore Hetch Hetchy's request, the Park Service has authorized a security assessment—to determine whether there are threats to the dam and reservoir that warrant limiting public access.

Restore Hetch Hetchy's view is that these concerns are largely unwarranted. If San Francisco's dam and reservoir are at risk, however, San Francisco should pay for necessary improvements to security rather than rely on the Park Service to limit gate hours and public access.

We look forward to the completion of the security assessment. We have been advised, however, that the document may not be made publicly available—something we are prepared to challenge if necessary. Restore Hetch Hetchy already has preemptively filed Public Records Act requests (under state law) to determine if there have been any threats to the O'Shaughnessy Dam or Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

***In 1912, San Francisco promised Congress that the Hetch Hetchy area would be used "for park purposes and for water supply purposes", that there would be "no reason to exclude campers and picnickers" and that it would be "absurd" to claim otherwise. We expect the National Park Service to do its job by enforcing that promise. And if security concerns truly indicate that public access is incompatible with reservoir safety, maybe there is one more reason to relocate the reservoir and return Hetch Hetchy Valley to the people.***

## Finding Hetch Hetchy Premier – available soon

**Timmy O'Neil** is a world famous rock climber who has spent three decades scaling the monoliths in Yosemite Valley—but he had never been to Hetch Hetchy. In **Finding Hetch Hetchy**, Lucho Rivera leads Timmy on an epic ascent of Hetch Hetchy Dome. When Hetch Hetchy is restored to its natural splendor, it will be another mecca for climbers—as well as for those who simply like to watch them from terra firma.

Lucho and Mecia Serafino traveled to Colorado for the premier of Finding Hetch Hetchy at the 5Point Film Festival in Carbondale, just downslope from Aspen. Director James Q Martin and Timmy joined them for a panel discussion and shared their experience with an enthusiastic audience, as they explained the opportunity for the valley's restoration.

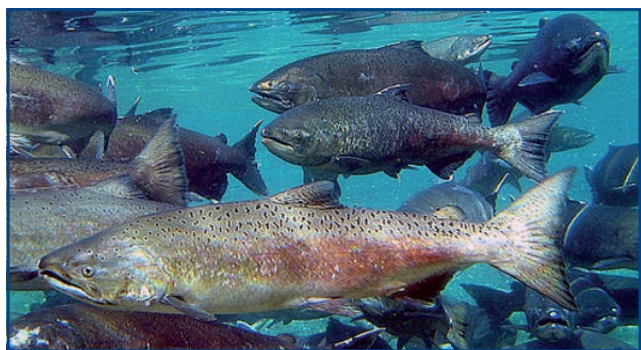
**Finding Hetch Hetchy** will be shown at the Mountain Film Festival (Telluride) in late May, then released broadly. It is a stunning film and best seen on a large screen—another good reason to come to our Annual Dinner on September 17.



**RHH board members Lucho Rivera and Mecia Serafino are among the very few climbers who have fully explored Hetch Hetchy's canyon walls.**

## The Bay-Delta Plan and how it differs from restoring Hetch Hetchy

Spirited public debate continues, as it should, over a host of environmental issues. In California and the semi-arid west, water is an especially sensitive subject because providing water for environmental use often means having less available for our cities and farms. **That is NOT the case with restoring Hetch Hetchy.**



**Chinook salmon once thrived in California's Central Valley. Their numbers have decreased markedly as a result of reduced river flows, habitat loss, pollution, invasive species and warming temperatures.**

In March, the **Newsom Administration**, after years of hearings followed by negotiations, announced a landmark agreement to update the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan—arguably California's most important effort to balance the water needs of cities and farms with those of the fish and wildlife (especially salmon) that rely on the Bay-Delta estuary and the rivers that feed it.

Dozens of officials, including Governor Newsom, gathered to celebrate the occasion—the largest such event since Governor Pete Wilson signed the Bay Delta Accord in 1994. But there are equally many stakeholders, including San Francisco, who are not part of the agreement, leaving its future in doubt along with the proposal's need for state and federal funds.

The reason for the dispute is water. Many environmental and fishing groups believe the plan does not provide the amount of flow that fish need from Central Valley rivers, into the Bay-Delta and out to sea. Participating water agencies believe that more modest additional flows, combined with habitat restoration, will provide environmental benefits with less hardship to California's homes and farms.

## Restoring Hetch Hetchy is different. Nobody need lose a drop of water.

Restore Hetch Hetchy has always insisted that San Francisco be kept whole with respect to its water supply. We urge San Francisco to pursue system improvements so Hetch Hetchy Reservoir can be relocated without any loss of water supply or electric power production. Other California water agencies have made significant investments to reduce the harm they've caused to rivers and wetlands. It's San Francisco's turn to undo the damage caused to Yosemite National Park.

### Irretrievable Dry Year Water Deductions

ESA court ruling (salmon)	572,000
Trinity River Restoration Plan	155,000
Bay-Delta Accord (smelt etc.)	430,000
Mono Lake	30,000
Central Valley wildlife refuges	200,000

These restoration plans provide valuable environmental benefits, but at a cost of 1,387,000 acre-feet to California's cities and farms in dry years. (An acre-foot is enough for two families for a year.)

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir provides 60,000 acre-feet of water in a dry year, which will be fully recovered when the reservoir is relocated.

**Hetch Hetchy, Yosemite Valley's lost twin, can then be returned to its natural splendor; a majestic glacier-carved valley with towering cliffs and waterfalls where river and wildlife run free. Hetch Hetchy can be a new kind of national park, with limited development, an improved visitor experience, shared stewardship with native peoples, and permanent protection of its natural and cultural heritage for future generations.**



## Advocating for Accurate and Inclusive Signage in Yosemite

Kudos to the National Park Service and Yosemite Hospitality for removing this sign containing inaccurate and offensive language. The sign, located near the entrance to the Village Store, was removed in short order after **Mike Gaffney**, Restore Hetch Hetchy's Community Outreach Liaison, brought it to the park's attention.

Improved signage is consistent with Park Service Director Chuck Sams' priorities: to *"advance equity, inclusion, and access in carrying out the NPS mission"* and to *"respect and strengthen Indigenous connections."* Restore Hetch Hetchy supports these priorities and ongoing efforts by Yosemite NPS and park partners to develop signage, printed materials, and park projects with the meaningful consultation and active participation of the Traditionally Associated Tribes of Yosemite.

Furthermore, Restore Hetch Hetchy is currently engaging with Yosemite's Traditionally Associated Tribes regarding their ancestral and cultural ties to Hetch Hetchy Valley and is committed to a process in which tribes will have meaningful and active participation in discussions and decisions surrounding the potential for future restoration, stewardship, and management of Yosemite's twin, the Hetch Hetchy Valley. More information about planned "Hetch Hetchy Listening Sessions" in tribal communities will be forthcoming.



### Tiffany Rosso – Director of Development

Tiffany Rosso has joined Restore Hetch Hetchy as our Director of Development. Tiffany has over 20 years of experience in nonprofit executive leadership, fundraising, and program management. She will be helping us expand our capacity, as well as to build and strengthen our political alliances. We are excited that Tiffany has elected to join Restore Hetch Hetchy.

Tiffany holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies and a master's degree in Nonprofit Administration. She has worked with numerous organizations including Fossil Free California, Alchemist CDC, California Musical Theatre, March of Dimes, and Off the Mat, Into the World. When she isn't working, you can find Tiffany painting, paddle boarding, enjoying her family, and exploring new places and spaces.

**Please support  
Restore Hetch Hetchy.**

*Help us create a new  
kind of national park.*

**Use the attached  
envelope or  
contribute  
online.**



Ways to give  
include contributing  
appreciated stock and including  
Restore Hetch Hetchy in your estate  
planning—see [hetchhetchy.org](http://hetchhetchy.org)

*The vision of Restore Hetch Hetchy is to return to the people Yosemite Valley's lost twin, Hetch Hetchy – a majestic glacier-carved valley with towering cliffs and waterfalls, an untamed place where river and wildlife run free, a new kind of national park.*

**Save the Date  
September 17, 2022**



**Restore Hetch Hetchy  
Annual Dinner**  
**San Mateo County History Museum**

## Restore Hetch Hetchy

3286 Adeline Street, Suite 7  
Berkeley, CA 94703



Recent outreach has included fishermen, tribes and rock climbers. **L to R**, Mike Weir displays a prize trout caught in the Tuolumne River just upstream of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir; the Southern Sierra Miwok Nation marches as part of its campaign for federal recognition (an effort Restore Hetch Hetchy supports); and climbers Timmy O'Neil and board member Lucho Rivera ponder the top half of the route up Hetch Hetchy Dome from a portaledge. Photos: CalTrout, Spreck Rosekrans and James Q Martin

## Building support for a new national park

### Visiting Hetch Hetchy is a good thing – even now with the dam in place.

Visitation to Hetch Hetchy increased by 28% in 2021 (compared to the 10-year pre-Covid average). Coincidentally, the entirety of Yosemite National Park saw a decline of 20%, or more than 800,000 people, due to the park's reservation system. Look for a continuing trend in 2022 as the NPS will again implement a reservation system commencing May 20.

**This is a good thing.** Even with the dam in place, there is much to see and do at Hetch Hetchy. The NPS needs to welcome visitors as they do elsewhere in the park by expanding gate hours (or leaving them open all day), allowing camping and building trails. Since the reservoir has cut off access to the backcountry, we continue to support an electric tour boat. Because parking is limited, it may be necessary to provide shuttle service to Hetch Hetchy as it becomes more popular.

The question of how to manage our overcrowded national parks is challenging. When the reservoir is relocated and the valley restored, it will reduce some of the pressure on Yosemite Valley. Restore Hetch Hetchy is committed, however, to providing an improved experience at Hetch Hetchy and to accommodate park visitors without the congestion that too often diminishes the experience elsewhere.

**So, get thee to Hetch Hetchy.** Bring your friends and family. Tell the Park Service that it belongs to you and that you want to be able to explore all of it. Remind them of the promises San Francisco made when it begged for permission to build the dam. And help Hetch Hetchy campaign for relocation of the reservoir so the valley can be returned to its natural splendor.



**Spreck Rosekrans**  
Executive Director

*"In the case of Hetch Hetchy, it isn't that San Francisco's water supply now stored at the O'Shaughnessy Dam will be lost. Rather, it would be stored at existing dams downstream and perhaps off stream or in groundwater basins.*

Carl Boronkay – former General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California