



March 2025

Restore Hetch Hetchy seeks Development Director

Restore Hetch Hetchy, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, seeks a part-time Development Director to identify, engage and inspire individuals and/or institutions to underwrite an environmental restoration project of historic and exceptional importance - **returning Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park to its original splendor.**

While we've piqued the interest of officials at the highest levels of government, we have been unable to create and sustain the broad-based community support needed to make restoration a reality. To this end, we are seeking a Development Director who can raise the funds necessary to grow our organization and build political support.

Qualified applicants must:

- have a proven track record raising funds from family foundations and high net worth individuals,
- have experience writing and obtaining grants;
- take primary initiative for locating new funding partners,
- work closely with Restore Hetch Hetchy's Executive Director and Development Committee, and
- be committed to Restore Hetch Hetchy's visionary campaign.

The Development Director will be expected to learn the history of our issue and our organization, to identify and approach likely and viable prospects, and to procure funds to help sustain our organization. If successful, the Development Director position will become a long-term position.

The primary initial objective for the Development Director is to submit proposals for and secure multi-year grants to support the hiring of outreach and communications staff for RHH in fulfilling the objectives outlined in our **strategic plan**, which includes seeking support from numerous constituent groups, including (1) the seven "traditionally associated tribes of Yosemite, (2) environmental groups, (3) fishing groups, (4) local businesses, (5) Central Valley communities, (6) Community and political support in San Francisco and its Bay Area customers (where resistance is high), (7) the State Legislature, and (8) Washington DC to pass amendments to the 1913 Raker, allowing the valley to be restored with no loss of water rights for San Francisco.

To apply:

Please send a cover letter and résumé to development@hetchhetchy.org. The cover letter must include an awareness of the unique nature and challenge of our campaign. The résumé must demonstrate relevant development experience. **Applications submitted through third party sites will not be considered.**

Background:

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Hetch Hetchy was once a resplendent glacier carved valley, with towering cliffs and waterfalls cascading onto a serene valley floor. Often compared to the world-famous Yosemite Valley – 15 miles to its south, Hetch Hetchy was one of Earth’s most beautiful places.

For millennia, Hetch Hetchy was home to Indigenous peoples, including Sierra Miwok, Yokuts, Washoe, Western Mono, and Paiute who used the valley both seasonally and year-round. The word Hetch Hetchy may refer to the name of a Miwok village in the valley and/or to “a kind of grass or plant with edible seeds abounding in the valley.”

European-Americans first arrived in the area in the mid-1800s. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation to protect the natural features of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove. In 1890, Yosemite National Park was created, greatly increasing the protected area to include Hetch Hetchy Valley, Tuolumne Meadows and the entire upper watersheds of the Tuolumne and Merced Rivers.

In 1913, for the only time in American history, the US government allowed significant destruction within one of our national parks. When President Woodrow Wilson signed the Raker Act, he permitted Yosemite National Park’s Hetch Hetchy Valley to be dammed and submerged beneath 300 feet of water for use as a reservoir by San Francisco.

The Raker Act was deeply controversial, and was condemned in more than 200 newspaper editorials nationwide. **That outcry is often cited as the birth of today’s conservation movement.** Three short years after the Act was signed, Congress made partial amends by passing the National Park Service Act, largely to protect our national parks from any similar disfigurement.

Yosemite’s Hetch Hetchy Valley, however, remains underwater and unavailable to the American people for whom it was originally meant to be preserved “in perpetuity.” That reservoir is the greatest blemish in America’s otherwise magnificent national park system.

Restore Hetch Hetchy is committed to removing the reservoir and returning Hetch Hetchy Valley to the American people, thereby making Yosemite National Park whole once again. Technical studies by government agencies, universities and conservation groups have shown the valley can be restored without San Francisco losing a drop of water, but City leaders have demonstrated no inclination to relinquish their special deal.

Since its founding 20 years ago, Restore Hetch Hetchy has engaged in major efforts to return the eponymous valley to the American people, including consideration by Governor Schwarzenegger’s Administration, a measure on the ballot in San Francisco and a challenge in California’s courts – only to be defeated, so far, by San Francisco’s powerful political machine.

Yosemite National Park is more popular than ever and Yosemite Valley itself is very overcrowded. Until Restore Hetch Hetchy’s principal goal to remove Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and restore the valley is realized, recreation and access in the Hetch Hetchy area of Yosemite National Park must be improved consistent with the promises San Francisco made when it pleaded with Congress for permission to build the dam and reservoir. Today, barely 1% of park visitors go to Hetch Hetchy, so Restore Hetch Hetchy is working with the National Park Service to expand limited gate hours, allow camping and to improve trails

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and other forms of access to the spectacular backcountry. (See **Keeping Promises: Providing Public Access to Hetch Hetchy Valley, Yosemite National Park.**)

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.

There's opportunity for Hetch Hetchy to be a *better* Yosemite, one that is designed to accommodate visitors from all walks of life without the traffic and congestion that all too often diminishes the visitor experience in Yosemite Valley. The campaign to restore Hetch Hetchy, however, will require substantial and sustained outreach, especially throughout California to achieve success.

For more information, see **www.hetchhetchy.org**.