



October 4, 2004

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

We are writing to urge you to join with us in rejecting any proposal to drain the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite Valley. At a time when state and federal leaders are looking for options to expand water and power options for California's growing population, a proposal to eliminate an existing source of clean water and clean power for 2.4 million Californians is both ill-conceived and ill-advised.

There are several critical issues that any proposal to drain Hetch Hetchy and replace its storage, supply, and clean power, must address. These include:

- **Federal Power Generation Mandate:** San Francisco has an obligation under the federal Raker Act to provide clean public power, which is generated by Hetch Hetchy and supports the entire annual power consumption of San Francisco City Government, including our Muni public transit system and City streetlights.
- **Clean Air:** Draining Hetch Hetchy Reservoir will place additional burdens on California's overloaded power grid, and harm air quality due to increased power generation from traditional fossil-fuel burning plants that would be required to replace lost Hetch Hetchy power.
- **Clean Water:** Hetch Hetchy water is some of the highest quality water in the nation. Destroying Hetch Hetchy Reservoir would degrade water quality and force San Francisco to build new filtration and treatment plants, which would create new financial, environmental, and energy costs.
- **State Mandate:** San Francisco is mandated under three state laws passed in 2002 to rebuild Hetch Hetchy and guarantee safe, reliable, high quality drinking water for the region.
- **Water Rights:** San Francisco status as a "junior" water rights holder creates an obligation to deliver irrigation water through Hetch Hetchy to "senior" water rights holders of the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts – a complex legal agreement that is highly ill-suited to removal of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

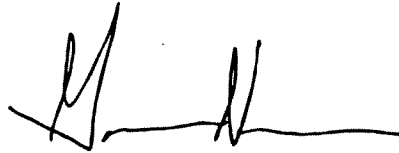
While we recognize the well-intentioned environmental goals of proposals to drain the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, these proposals fail to consider the enormous costs of building new treatment plants, constructing new pumping and filtration stations, buying additional electricity, tearing down the dam, buying water through New Don Pedro or the California

Water Project, and other costs. They fail to consider the detrimental environmental and health impacts of increased fossil-fuel power generation and degraded water quality.

We urge you to join us in supporting expansion of renewable water and power technologies, including desalination and solar power. We will also pledge to work with you to ensure a successful Cal-Fed process to achieve a balanced approach to the environmental, agricultural, and urban water needs of our state.

As public servants, we are first and foremost accountable and responsible for protecting the safety, public health, natural resources, and economic vitality of the 2.4 million Californians who depend on the Hetch Hetchy system for safe, reliable, high quality drinking water and power. Thank you for your help in protecting this precious resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senator

Gavin Newsom
Mayor