



November 7, 2014

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Yosemite Gateway Partners
By Email

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Dear Boardmembers:

We have recently become aware of your upcoming “Yosemite Sustainability Conference”. We hope it is a successful event, and that your organizations thrive as they serve visitors traveling to and from Yosemite National Park.

We were disappointed, however, to read the following text as part of the program schedule:

And, we will conclude the morning learning about the Hetch Hetchy water system that supplies fresh water for millions of northern Californians and the essential value of natural sustainable ecosystems to all water supplies, and/or our continued collaboration with Yosemite National Park to protect the watershed lands that we all depend upon.

We understand that Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is presently part of Yosemite National Park and that it serves an important purpose as part of San Francisco’s Regional Water System.

But in our view, Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is by far the greatest blemish in any of America’s national parks. It was authorized by Congress and century ago in spite of the opposition from more than 200 newspapers nationwide. Three short years later, Congress reversed course and passed the National Park Service Act – in large part to ensure that America’s national parks would be managed for national, not local, benefit.

San Francisco has declined to even consider the system modification that would maintain reliable deliveries of high quality Tuolumne River supplies without storing water in Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and would then allow the once iconic Hetch Hetchy Valley to be returned to Yosemite and all people. Other water agencies in California have done far more to improve the environmental performance of their systems.

So we are disappointed that you have chosen to honor the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in this way at a “sustainability” conference. If you are interested in including another point of view on the reservoir and the potential for restoration, we would be happy to provide it.

Sincerely,

Spreck Rosekrans
Executive Director

Cc: Don Neubacher