



# Restore Hetch Hetchy

IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

Vol 2, No. 2

Winter 2003

## Restore Hetch Hetchy Produces New Documentary Film

**R**estore Hetch Hetchy is proud to announce the completion of its new 20-minute documentary film, "Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite's Lost Valley." Narrated by Shari Belafonte, the film features brilliant footage and photographs of the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River by Emmy-award winner Sterling Johnson who lives near Yosemite and by the late Galen Rowell, formerly of Bishop. Of course, Hetch Hetchy's great granite walls and booming waterfalls, Tueeulala and Wapama, are also included. The film will be used to promote Restore Hetch Hetchy's mission for a "win-win" restoration of Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley, and is now available on both VHS and DVD formats. **(To place an order, see page 7.)**

The film features informative interviews with members of our Board of Directors including Harold Wood, Chair; Jerry Meral, former Executive Director of the Planning & Conservation League; Bob Hackamack, Chair of the RHH Technical/Engineering Committee; Spreck Rosekrans, Senior Water Policy Analyst with Environmental Defense and Mark Cederborg, a habitat restoration specialist and member of the RHH Restoration Committee. Also featured are interviews with Ron Good, the RHH Executive Director and RHH Advisory Committee member Dr. Roderick Nash, Professor Emeritus of History at UC Santa Barbara,



Corel Professional Photos

*"Hetch Hetchy's restoration is like the restoration of the Statue of Liberty."*

—Don Hodel, former Secretary of the Interior

author of *Wilderness and the American Mind*.

We're especially pleased that the film includes excerpts from our interview with former Interior Secretary Don Hodel at his home in Colorado. In 1988, Secretary Hodel proposed Hetch Hetchy's restoration and commissioned a preliminary study by the Bureau of Reclamation to explore "win-win" restoration options. In his interview, Secretary Hodel advocates an update of that preliminary study, and states: "If the question is, 'Where do you go from here?' It seems to me it's still necessary to have a study. You need to know what the

*continued on page 4*



Restore Hetch Hetchy is:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ron Good

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harold Wood, Chair  
Spreck Rosekrans, Vice-Chair  
Laura Lockwood, Treasurer  
Mark Palley, Secretary  
David Brower (Deceased)  
Robert Brower  
Mark Cederborg  
Donald Fuhrer  
Robert Hackamack  
Geoff McQuilken  
Dr. Jerry Meral  
Marsh Pitman  
Kay Pitts  
William Resneck  
Richard Rypinski  
Barbara Williams  
Felicia Woytak

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Ronald Alessio Allison  
Dr. Peter Andersen  
James Bush  
Yvon Chouinard  
Paul Davis  
Tom Dosh  
Jeffrey Holt  
Huey Johnson  
Robert Kallman  
Deborah Landowne  
Christine White Loberg  
Mike McCloskey  
Tim Molinare  
Dr. Barbara Mossberg  
Dr. Roderick Frazier Nash  
Jeff Nixon  
Kathryn Petersen  
Mark Ross  
Galen Rowell (Deceased)  
Lee Stetson  
Dr. Ed Wayburn  
Richard Wiebe

# Update on Lawsuit Against San Francisco

In July, Restore Hetch Hetchy filed a lawsuit in San Francisco Superior Court against the City of San Francisco and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. The lawsuit focused on our concerns about San Francisco's failure to follow the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it prepared to modify the O'Shaughnessy Dam in Hetch Hetchy Valley to address perceived turbidity (soil and debris) problems affecting water quality at the base of the dam. RHH claimed that, under CEQA, this dam modification project has to be evaluated in connection with San Francisco's

overall \$3.6 billion capital improvements program that will seismically update and expand the water delivery system. Our attorney, Bill Yeates, an expert in CEQA lawsuits, has done a great job in preparing the legal briefs and negotiating a possible settlement with the San Francisco City Attorney's office. While we have had some fruitful interactions with the City Attorney's office, the court hearing is scheduled for December 19th if no settlement is reached. Please refer to the Summer 2003 newsletter (on the website, [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org)) for more details 



Ron Good took both photos

*San Francisco City Hall and O'Shaughnessy Dam in Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley.*



# Meet Our Board: Laura Lockwood

*By Laura Lockwood, Treasurer of Restore Hetch Hetchy*

In June, 1999, Laura Lockwood remembers being talked into attending a meeting in Marsh Pittman's Merced home about restoring the Hetch Hetchy Valley by investment banker and Advisory Committee member, Jeff Holt. Laura had worked closely with him during her tenure as San Francisco's Director of Public Finance in the 1990s. Indeed, her office wall in San Francisco City Hall was graced with a framed copy of an original City bond that funded the construction of the Cherry Creek Reservoir, signed by City Engineer O'Shaughnessy himself. Jeff had stumbled upon the Sierra Club's Restore Hetch Hetchy website, gotten excited about the prospects of restoring the valley, and convinced Laura to attend this initial meeting with him because she used to joke about coming up with a way to bail out the City from one of its periodic fiscal crises by having environmentalists buy the dam (in order to tear it down) through the sale of municipal bonds.

While she had been heavily involved in the efforts to stop the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in the early 1980s, Laura had not been actively involved in environmental causes since that time. Nevertheless, that bond on the wall got her curious about the history of Hetch Hetchy, which eventually led her to read John

Muir's writings on the subject. Outraged by the City's actions of some eighty years ago, she never dreamed that she could actually do something about restoring the Hetch Hetchy Valley until that fateful day in Marsh Pittman's living room.

Impressed by the assemblage of environmental activists at this first gathering, she wrote a check to fund a website for the new non-profit group that emerged at that meeting. Indeed, she has served as the Treasurer of Restore Hetch Hetchy since its inception; in that capacity, she has helped the organization develop and prudently manage its annual budget. In addition, she provides valuable insight into various financing vehicles that may be used in crafting the "win-win" solution for which the organization is striving.

Laura has held progressively responsible government finance positions in Florida, Virginia, and California since 1985. A graduate of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, she is currently the Director of Capital Facilities and Debt Management for Contra Costa County. Laura is particularly proud of her role in convincing Contra Costa County to install its first large array of solar photovoltaic cells on a county building overlooking the Muir House in Martinez (she's pretty sure John Muir would have approved of this



*Laura Lockwood, Treasurer of Restore Hetch Hetchy.*

type of innovative energy-producing technology.) An avid bicyclist, gardener, animal and nature lover, Laura lives in Walnut Creek with her fiancé, Randy, an energy conservation engineer, two dogs, and three cats.

"Each time I think about the size of the challenge ahead, I am reminded of the magnificence of our vision, and am inspired to press forward toward the realization of our goal - correcting one of the greatest environmental blunders of the 20th century. Our preliminary studies show that it is indeed possible to reengineer the current system in such a fashion that San Francisco and the Peninsula can maintain their existing water supplies, while restoring this beautiful, sacred valley back into the place John Muir loved and wrote about."



## Restore Hetch Hetchy Produces New Documentary Film

*continued from page 1*

predictions are as to what will happen. You've got to be able to show San Francisco it won't lose its water, it can get its power replaced. I believe that's what a study will show. . . I think that you could fund the removal of Hetch Hetchy dam with a public campaign that wouldn't require any federal money. . . It's like the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. That was done with public funds, not with taxpayer's money. And, it was a great project."

The film is a tribute to the dedication and professional experience of many volunteers, including Deborah Landowne, the film's producer and member of the RHH

Advisory Committee and Melissa Berman, who wrote an inspiring script in the voice of the Tuolumne River. It is the culmination of a 3 year effort by Restore Hetch Hetchy and members of the Bay Area, New York and Los Angeles film industries. Most of the companies and individuals involved donated their services and equipment, including: Bugi'd Productions, Lux Editorial, and Polarity Post Production, of San Francisco; Todd A-O and the William Morris Agency of Los Angeles and Bruce Aronson of New York, who wrote the original score. The project would not have been completed so successfully without the generosity of everyone involved.

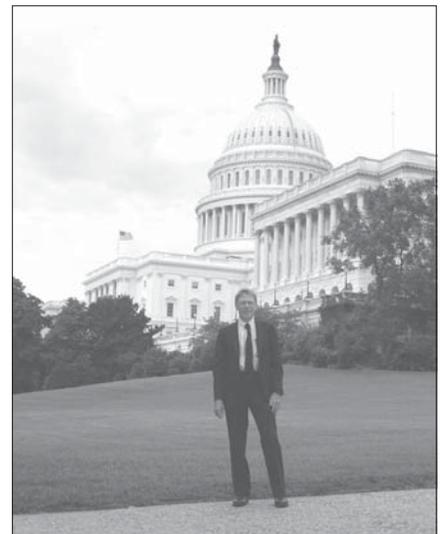
The Commonwealth Club of San Francisco recently hosted the film's Bay Area premier, when RHH Executive Director Ron Good

made a noontime luncheon presentation. Other presentations have been made to civic organizations in Yosemite and Sonora. Our film will be shown at the Wild & Scenic Environmental Film Festival sponsored by the South Yuba River Citizens League, January 9 & 10, 2004 in Nevada City. See [www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org](http://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org) <<http://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org> or call Kathy Dotson at (530) 265-5961 x 202 for more details. We're hoping that YOU will host a get-together in your home and show the new documentary film to your friends and neighbors, and will make arrangements to show it to local civic organizations such as the Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs, or the local Chamber of Commerce and environmental groups. 

## Yosemite Today Now Includes Hetch Hetchy Features

The "Yosemite Today" newsletter that is handed out to every visitor to Yosemite National Park now includes a map referring specifically to Hetch Hetchy Valley and geologic features in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River. These features include Tueeulala Fall, Wapama Fall, Rancheria Fall, Kolana Rock, Pate Valley, Waterwheel Fall, and Glen Aulin.

The old map focused on the geologic features in and around Yosemite Valley and the Merced River, without even mentioning Hetch Hetchy Valley and the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River. Thanks to Yosemite National Park Superintendent Michael Tollefson and Chief of Interpretation Chris Stein for responding to Restore Hetch Hetchy's request that these features be included! 



*Restore Hetch Hetchy Executive Director Ron Good recently was in Washington, D.C. where he met with officials from the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, and with several House and Senate offices on Capitol Hill.*

# Hetch Hetchy Valley After the Reservoir

by Mark Cederborg, Chair of Restore Hetch Hetchy's Restoration Committee

**H**etch Hetchy Valley has been inundated for 80 years. Although this is not a long time in the great scheme, I'm certain a majority of us didn't get to stroll the valley floor before it was flooded. Therefore we must rely on our imagination and impression from historical photos to formulate an image of the valley before flooding. This image may be translated to a vision of successful restoration, but what happens between the reservoir draining and the restored valley? How will we deal with 2,000 acres of denuded landscape?

The many firsts which make this project great also present great challenges for those of us in the planning process. The fact that restoration specialists have not had a lot of practice restoring previously inundated valleys on this scale would suggest that the actual design and construction may be an insurmountable challenge. It isn't. The challenge lies in communicating the process of restoration. And the challenge lies in convincing the public that, in fact, restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley is a matter of applying a comprehensive mix of existing, tested, and proven restoration practices.

First, I must stress *restoration is a process* and not a task to be completed and abandoned. Similar to our substantial negative impacts on the planet, we are monkeying with natural, fluid systems. Resto-

ration projects require attention and long-term care to ensure success. This care may range from simply monitoring the natural processes to ongoing maintenance and repairs. The more natural the surrounding ecosystem, the more hope for creating a stable, self-sustaining project. This is the primary reason for a high level of confidence in the successful restoration of Hetch Hetchy - it is surrounded by thousands of acres of wilderness.

Second, *restoration is not new*. Every habitat type on the valley floor and talus slopes has been successfully restored in other locales. Restoration of chaparral, deciduous woodland, coniferous forest, wetland, and riparian (river corridor) habitats is now commonplace in California and across the country, and most likely there is a restoration project in your backyard. The field of environmental restoration has grown tremendously over the past two decades, building on ancient techniques and ideas that work with natural processes rather than against them. For example, many projects now include 'soil bioengineering' techniques which use native plant material and natural

fabrics actually engineered into the project. In these cases, plants may be necessary as much for their physical properties as their habitat value.

And third, *restoration is comprehensive*. Soil bioengineering, revegetation, landform grading, stream recontouring, slope and streambank stabilization, and large

woody debris installation (fish habitat), are among the many components to restoration, and are among the techniques which could be applied to the newly exposed Hetch Hetchy Valley floor.

As one of many professionals in the field of restoration, I can tell you that these projects work. I would like to suggest, in your travels, to take time to view several projects which contain elements which I believe are directly applicable to the restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley. These projects demonstrate both the process and comprehensive nature of restoration. My experience on these projects is not as the designer, but as the contractor that implemented part of the design. And the location of each will definitely make the trip worthwhile!

**Trout Creek Restoration, South Lake Tahoe, CA** Trout Creek flows through a meadow at



Mark Cederborg out in the feild.

*continued on page 6*

## Hetch Hetchy Valley After the Reservoir

*continued from page 5*

very low slope. Historically, the stream was relocated to allow for a railroad bed, grazed and impacted by development. During construction of the railroad, the stream was straightened, shortening the channel length in the valley, and increasing the channel slope relative to the valley slope. The channel incised, causing the stream to abandon historic floodplain areas and resulting in a drop in groundwater elevation. This further impacted the meadow habitat, drying wetlands and changing vegetation composition. With the railroad now gone, the opportunity existed to return Trout Creek and the surrounding meadow to historic conditions, and improve the habitat value of the local environment.

A new, meandering channel was constructed through the middle of the valley along approximately one mile of meadow. The channel bed, including gravel bars, riffles and pools was constructed several feet higher than the existing creek. Rootwads were placed at the outside bends of the meanders for habitat and stabilization. Revegetation included harvesting and replacing of meadow sod and the planting of live willow cuttings.

The project was constructed in three phases between 2000 and 2002. The third phase released the stream into the new channel and left the old channel partially filled with the remaining depressions used as backwater channel habitat. Within one year of the completion

of this project, evidence of heavy equipment work and significant disturbance was nearly gone. The new channel is functioning as though the meadow was untouched.

The restored section of Trout Creek is located in the City of South Lake Tahoe. The project is bordered by Pioneer Trail to the south and Martin Avenue to the north.

**Napa River Flood Protection Project, Napa, CA** This project must be mentioned because the scope of restoration is certainly on the scale of Hetch Hetchy Valley, and parallels may be drawn about the impetus for the project as well. This project is funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. 14 serious floods occurred in Napa between 1942 and 1997, with the 1986 flood causing \$100 million in damages. The initial proposals for 'solving' this problem included channelizing the river with levees and reinforced banks of concrete and riprap. The community, however, recognized the importance of the Napa River as a valuable natural resource and fought for a more comprehensive plan, with floodplain and habitat restoration being major components.

The project design includes improvements to 6.9 miles of the Napa River and one mile of Napa Creek, removal of 53 mobile homes, 16 residences, and 28 commercial structures, removal of 9 bridges with the reconstruction of 5 (designed to reduce restriction to flood flow), and creation of more than 400 acres of emergent marsh

and 150 acres of seasonal wetland. Specifically, I estimate the acreage of wetland creation to be similar to that in Hetch Hetchy Valley. This project was begun in 2000 and is ongoing, with the largest areas of floodplain restoration to be completed this fall. Restoration measures in the floodplain have consisted of removing old levees, recontouring marshlands, planting targeted areas with wetland plantings, and seeding approximately 120 acres of native grassland. The project includes ongoing maintenance for all restoration areas.

Much of the Napa River Flood Protection Project is accessible to the public and/or easily viewed from public areas. The project is bounded by Highway 29 on the south, and extends through downtown Napa. If you have a boat or kayak, I recommend putting in at the Kennedy Park boat ramp and traveling upstream. The large floodplain on your left was restored two years ago, and the floodplain on the right was restored this fall.

**Redwood Creek Restoration, Muir Beach, CA** Located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on the Marin Coast, this salmonid habitat restoration project was completed this October. Designed to enhance habitat on a stream which is likely the Southern-most reach of Coho Salmon as well as stabilize a severely eroding bank, the work consisted of installation of a series of log structures and restoration of the historic floodplain. Levees were removed to allow the stream to flow freely on this floodplain.

*continued on page 8*

Please Use Our Website Catalog To View the  
Items Described Below at [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org).

- Please send \_\_\_\_ copies of Restore Hetch Hetchy's new 20-minute documentary video in \_\_\_\_ VHS format or \_\_\_\_ DVD format. I am enclosing \$16 for each video (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send \_\_\_\_ Restore Hetch Hetchy t-shirt(s). Size \_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ X-L  
I am enclosing a check for \$20 (plus \$3.50 for priority mail postage) for each shirt, or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send \_\_\_\_ Restore Hetch Hetchy bumper stickers. I am enclosing \$1 for each bumper sticker (postage included), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send \_\_\_\_ Restore Hetch Hetchy license plate holders. I am enclosing \$10 for each license plate holder (plus \$2 postage for each license plate holder), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send \_\_\_\_ greeting cards at \$2 each or \_\_\_\_ sets of 6 for \$10 (price includes postage). I have included a check or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of David Brower's 1955 video, Two Yosemite's. I am enclosing \$10 (price includes postage), or have entered my credit card information below.
- Please enroll me as a new member or renew my Restore Hetch Hetchy membership.

.....fold here.....

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my tax-deductible **Restore Hetch Hetchy membership donation** of:

\$25 \_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_ other

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month (minimum \$5 per month) beginning immediately for Restore Hetch Hetchy.

Please make check payable to **RESTORE HETCH HETCHY**  
or include credit card information and insert in an envelope  
and mail to Restore Hetch Hetchy.

Please charge my credit card: \_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_ VISA

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

## Hetch Hetchy Valley After the Reservoir

*continued from page 6*

Approximately 39 large (2-3' diameter by 20-30 foot-long) eucalyptus logs were placed in the active stream channel while the flow was diverted. Logs were installed in several different complexes and a series of weirs, with each structure serving to provide cover and create scour pools for salmonids to over-summer and to rest during migration. Parallels to restoration in Hetch Hetchy Valley include floodplain restoration, riparian habitat restoration, and work in a National Park setting.

Although the project is on Park Service property, the previous property owner has reserved the right to continue to live on the land. Portions of the project may be viewed from Muir Woods Road, north of Highway 1. Please contact the Park Service regarding opportunities for a closer look at the project.

I hope that this discussion of the process of restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley will assist with your vision of how we get from the reservoir to the valley as described by John Muir in his book, *The Yosemite*:

“Hetch Hetchy Valley is a grand landscape garden, one of Nature’s rarest and most precious mountain temples. The floor is about three and a half miles long, and from a fourth to half a mile wide. The lower portion is mostly a level meadow with the trees restricted to the sides and the river banks, and partially separated from the main, upper, forested portion by a low bar of glacier-polished granite across which the river breaks in rapids.

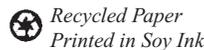
“The principal trees are the yellow and sugar pines, digger pine, incense cedar, Douglas spruce, silver fir, the California and golden-cup oaks, balsam cottonwood, Nuttall’s flowering dogwood, alder, maple, laurel, tumion, etc. The most abundant and influential are the great yellow or silver pines like those of Yosemite, the tallest over

two hundred feet in height, and the oaks assembled in magnificent groves with massive rugged trunks four to six feet in diameter, and broad, shady, wide-spreading heads. The shrubs forming conspicuous flowery clumps and tangles are manzanita, azalea, spiræa, brier-rose, several species of ceanothus, calycanthus, philadelphus, wild cherry, etc.; with abundance of showy and fragrant herbaceous plants growing about them or out in the open in beds by themselves...”

*Mark Cederborg is a project manager with a construction firm specializing in ecological restoration, located in Sonoma, California. He has a Bachelor’s degree in environmental science and has worked in the environmental field for ten years. He has spent the past six years building stream and wetland restoration projects.*

Planning and Conservation League Foundation  
**Restore Hetch Hetchy Membership Office**

926 J Street, Suite 612  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 444-8726



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #2066  
Sacramento, CA

*Don't forget to visit our website at*  
[www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org)

