It’s time to return this treasure to the American people.” – Harrison Ford

We recognize that many dams provide important benefits. We believe, however, that the value of restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley far outweighs the cost of replacing the hydropower and incremental water supply benefits made possible by O'Shaughnessy Dam.

We are looking forward to such a day in court, where we can present evidence that Hetch Hetchy is more valuable as a valley than as a reservoir, and that restoration can occur without reasonableness of San Francisco’s water diversion at Hetch Hetchy.”

As we wait for the court to respond, think about coming to our Annual Dinner in 2018.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s biggest fan, but we applaud them for Restore Hetch Hetchy is not anti-dam.

We are also contributing of appreciated stocks and other securities, and are grateful to any supporters who loved the Sierra Nevada, and we offer our condolences to their family and friends.

About 15 percent of all water system supplies have always come from Bay Area watersheds. And earlier this year, pipelines in the Sierra were shut down for six weeks and customers were completely supplied from local watersheds—without a noticeable increase in complaints about quality.

The O'Shaughnessy Dam should be next on the list. If we don't remove it, let's store its water downstream of Yosemite and you and your fellow citizens can add it to your portfolio.

The Elwha River has been restored, and the salmon have returned to spawn in the upper reaches of the Elwha River.

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San Francisco adds groundwater to its supplies.

San Francisco is once again delivering water from wells on the west side of the city to its customers. The city believes it will be able to consistently pump 1 million gallons per day to blend with its other supplies. The city is also “banking” groundwater in aquifers just south of its borders.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission reserves credit for modernizing its system—increasing reliability by developing additional sources, ironically, however, Commission staff have found the price for having overestimated the quality of their “Hetch Hetchy” water over the past century.

Some customers worry the quality will suffer. One local bagel maker even suggested for eight weeks to blow up water in New York City. Kim Sturdivant, brewmaster of Social Kitchen & Brewery, offered a mixed review “It's beneficial to have soft water for lager, but harder water works really well for hoppiest beer.”

Christopher Hendon, a chemist at the University of California, Berkeley and co-author of the textbook “Water for Coffee” seamlessly integrated, saying “Everyone has their own preferences. So special. San Francisco’s water is not particularly special.”

It’s worth pointing out that San Francisco has never delivered pure “Hetch Hetchy” or even pure “Tuolmne River” water. About 15 percent of all water system supplies have always come from Bay Area watersheds. And earlier this year, pipelines in the Sierra were shut down for six weeks and customers were completely supplied from local watersheds—without a noticeable increase in complaints about quality.

Restore Hetch Hetchy is not anti-dam. We are looking forward to such a day in court, where we can present evidence that Hetch Hetchy is more valuable as a valley than as a reservoir, and that restoration can occur without reasonableness of San Francisco’s water diversion at Hetch Hetchy.”

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As we wait for the court to respond, think about coming to our Annual Dinner in 2018. What could be a greater way to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day?
Imagine yourself in HETCH HETCHY on a sunny day in June, standing waist-deep in grass and flowers as I have often times stood, while the great pines sway dreamily with scarce perceptible motion.”
— John Muir

JOHN MUIR described TUEEULALA FALLS (left) as “descending like thistledown” and WAPAMA FALLS as “roaring and plundering.” Both will be accessible after sauntering across the meadow, rather than hiking along the often-hot and rocky trail beneath the cliffs on Hetch Hetchy’s north side.

Photo: Spreck Rosekrans

TUEEULALA FALLS
WAPAMA FALLS
HETCH HETCHY DOME
RANCHERIA FALLS
RANCHERIA MOUNTAIN
KOLANA ROCK
SMITH PEAK

Active or Passive Restoration?

Meadows will come back quickly but forests will take some time to mature. Should trees be planted or should we wait for birds and the wind to scatter seeds? Should volunteers strive to keep invasive plants from gaining a foothold?

Restoration projections developed by Mark Cederborg, Restore Hetch Hetchy board member and Principal at Hanford ARC.

Background: Hetch Hetchy Trail Map (Tom Harrison Maps)

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WAPAMA FALLS
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