



## SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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### Protecting Hetch Hetchy Valley

#### Who we are:

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) owns and operates the Hetch Hetchy system. The SFPUC delivers 260 million gallons of water per day (mgd) to retail customers in San Francisco, and to 29 wholesale buyers – cities, water districts, and public utilities – that supply communities in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda Counties. In all, SFPUC delivers water to some 2.4 million people in the region.

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#### Proposals are inconsistent with the goals of CALFED:

The Bay Delta program, CALFED, is intended to *solve* the state water supply reliability and water quality challenges. CALFED's 2004 workplan states that the state and federal water systems alone (not counting local systems) need to develop between 1.2 and 1.5 million acre ft of additional water storage at a cost of at least \$15 billion. Funding for this work has not yet been identified.

Proposals to restore Hetch Hetchy would *remove* from service a fully paid for storage facility that produces the state's highest quality water and 1.8 million megawatt hours of clean dispatchable power that serves San Francisco and the central valley irrigation districts.

#### We aren't just San Francisco, we are the whole Bay Area Region:

Of the water delivered by the SFPUC, 85% comes from Hetch Hetchy and 15% from local sources. San Francisco uses about one-third – 84 mgd – of this water. The other two-thirds – 175 mgd – is delivered to the wholesale customers outside the city. Of the 29 wholesale customers, 18 are wholly dependent on Hetch Hetchy water, and another three are at least 75% dependent.

#### Legislation requires the speedy implementation of the SFPUC Capital Improvement Program:

In AB 1823 the Legislature declared, "The reliability of the [Hetch Hetchy] water system is of vital importance to the health, welfare, safety, and economy of the region that it supplies... a state audit has reported that the system is at risk of catastrophic failure in the event of a major earthquake..." The Legislature considers the SFPUC's \$3.6 Billion Capital Improvement Program to be so critical that they have a mandated schedule for the projects. It is the largest water infrastructure investment in progress in California.

#### Legal constraints yet to be considered by any of the proposals advocating restoration:

San Francisco has the right to divert flows from the Tuolumne River. The Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts diversion rights on the Tuolumne are senior to San Francisco's. Under an agreement with the irrigation districts, San Francisco can "prepay" diversion obligations into a water bank at New Don Pedro. This ability provides *operational flexibility* but is *NOT A STORAGE RIGHT* in New Don Pedro – an inaccuracy perpetuated by the Sacramento Bee and Environmental Defense. All the space in Don Pedro is used for the District's storage or for critical flood control, paid for by the US Army Corp of Engineers.

#### Many of the state's critical businesses would be affected:

Businesses requiring large amounts of water in their processes prefer Hetch Hetchy water because it needs less pre-treatment and post-treatment. Over time, costly treatment means higher water bills and, in cases where the additional water is discharged in the Bay, increased pollution, higher sewer charges, and discharge taxes. Many businesses are located here in the Bay Area and Silicon Valley for this specific reason.

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- San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy water system, completed in 1934, is a 167-mile, gravity-driven network of dams, reservoirs, tunnels, pump stations, aqueducts and pipelines that collects Tuolumne River runoff on federal land near the Yosemite Valley and transports it to the San Francisco Bay Area.
- In 1913, Congress passed the Raker Act which granted San Francisco the necessary rights of way and other authorities to operate O'Shaughnessy Dam for drinking water purposes for the Bay Area and to operate hydroelectric facilities at lakes Cherry and Eleanor for hydropower to benefit San Francisco and the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts.
- San Francisco water rights allow it to divert flows from the Tuolumne River. The Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts diversion rights on the Tuolumne are senior to San Francisco's. Under an agreement with the irrigation districts, San Francisco can prepay diversion obligations into a water bank at New Don Pedro. This ability provides for operational flexibility but is **NOT** a storage right in New Don Pedro – an inaccuracy perpetuated by the Sacramento Bee and Environmental Defense.
- The Hetch Hetchy system delivers nearly 260 million gallons of water per day (mgd) to retail customers in San Francisco, and to 29 wholesale buyers – cities, water districts, public utilities and other institutions – that supply communities in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda Counties. In all, SFPUC delivers water to a customer base of some 2.4 million people in the region.
- Of that total amount, 85% is Hetch Hetchy water and 15% is from local sources. San Francisco uses about one-third – 84 mgd – of the water collected by the SFPUC. The other two-thirds - 175 mgd – is delivered to wholesale customers outside the city. Of the 29 wholesale customers, 18 are wholly dependent on Hetch Hetchy water, and another three are at least 75% dependent.
- Business and institutional users account for 30% of water demand in the City of San Francisco (26 mgd) and 25% of demand in the rest of the service territory (65 mgd). Key business and institutional users of SFPUC water include the computer, semiconductor, biotechnology, automotive, aerospace, electric utility, telecommunications, tourism and other sectors, plus schools and hospitals, and smaller businesses such as restaurants, glass and metal fabricators, beverage plants and food processors.