



"Dam Hetch Hetchy! As well dam for water-tanks the people's cathedrals and churches, for no holier temple has ever been consecrated by the heart of man." -- John Muir

Mention Hetch Hetchy Valley to visitors to Yosemite National Park and their response is immediate: a heartfelt feeling of deep sadness for what has been lost, and a fervent hope that what has been lost can somehow be regained -- for Park visitors, for the people of the United States, for the people of the world, for the plants and animals, and for the glorious granite walls and booming waterfalls of Hetch Hetchy Valley.

Probably no issue symbolizes the environmental movement's historical role in protecting the Earth's natural wonders like its efforts to preserve and restore Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park.

Following a fierce nationwide debate led by John Muir, Congress passed the Raker Act in 1913 allowing the City of San Francisco to construct a dam and reservoir on the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley. The O'Shaughnessy Dam was completed in 1923 and, after the necessary pipelines and power houses were completed, San Francisco began using water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir for its water supply and electrical power generation.

John Muir, often called the Father of our National Parks, called Hetch Hetchy Valley **"a grand landscape garden, one of Nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples."** Muir said it was a "wonderfully exact counterpart of Yosemite Valley."

Hetch Hetchy Valley, in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River, should be restored to its natural condition in order to allow "one of nature's rarest and most precious mountain temples" to be available for public enjoyment, to be reintegrated into its natural ecological and biological systems, to provide for scientific exploration, and to provide Native Americans an opportunity to provide cultural experiences for Park visitors.

In addition, Hetch Hetchy Valley should be restored in order to preserve the integrity and inviolate status of our National Parks. As a 1988 report prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation for the National Park Service states: "Such restoration would renew the national commitment to maintaining the integrity of the national park system and keep in perpetual conservation an irreplaceable and unique natural area."

The goal of RESTORE HETCH HETCHY is to accomplish a "win-win" outcome for Hetch Hetchy Valley, for the cities of the Bay Area and the Turlock and Modesto irrigation districts that currently use Hetch Hetchy water and power, and other stakeholders.

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Already, wonderfully talented people have been assembled to accomplish the goals of RESTORE HETCH HETCHY -- naturalists, restoration ecologists, investment bankers, attorneys, engineers, economists, stock brokers, public policy and public finance experts, teachers, university professors, river enthusiasts, musicians, actors, artists, and photographers.

RESTORE HETCH HETCHY:

- * has produced a new documentary film, "Hetch Hetchy: Yosemite's Lost Valley";
- * has completed its engineering Feasibility Study discussing how Hetch Hetchy Valley can be restored with a "win-win" outcome for the City of San Francisco, the Turlock & Modesto irrigation districts, and Bay Area water and power users;
- * is implementing a public education and outreach campaign that includes coalition building with like-minded organizations, and a petition drive targeted at the Secretary of the Interior;
- * obtained a lawsuit settlement agreement whereby San Francisco must remain "neutral" on our request for state & federal funding for an independent study of ways to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley and to address other stakeholders' concerns;
- * is conducting educational outings to Hetch Hetchy; and,
- * is planning for a new book: Hetch Hetchy Valley -- A Grand Landscape Garden with John Muir's exuberant writing, beautiful paintings by Albert Bierstadt, and photography by award-winning photographers.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

RESTORE HETCH HETCHY is spearheading the effort to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley. Your involvement is welcomed! We invite you to:

- 1) visit the RESTORE HETCH HETCHY website, which includes early and modern-day photographs and paintings of Hetch Hetchy Valley, at www.hetchhetchy.org;
- 2) encourage organizations to which you belong to pass a RESOLUTION of support for restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley;
- 3) circulate a PETITION encouraging the Secretary of the Interior to support restoration of Hetch Hetchy Valley;
- 4) go on an outing to Hetch Hetchy, take photographs, and write articles about your experiences for newspapers and for newsletters of organizations to which you belong;
- 5) contact RESTORE HETCH HETCHY, P.O. Box 3538, Sonoma, CA 95370; (209) 533 - 4481; e-mail: info@hetchhetchy.org; and,
- 6) volunteer your expertise (volunteer organizing and outreach, outings enthusiast, engineering, economics, geology, law, photography, painting).

Thanks for your help!

Together, we can, as John Muir said, "do something to make the mountains glad."