



## **BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, August 10, 2005**

**1:00 – 3:30 pm**

**BAWSCA Offices, 155 Bovet Road San Mateo, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
*(Directions on page 3)*

### **AGENDA**

- |             |   |                   |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| <b>1:00</b> | <b>1. <u>Call To Order, and Roll Call</u></b>   | <b>(O'Mahony)</b> |
|             | Roster of Committee members ( <i>Attachment</i> )   |                   |
| <b>1:05</b> | <b>2. <u>Public Comment</u></b>   | <b>(O'Mahony)</b> |
|             | <i>Members of the public may address the committee on any issues not listed on the agenda that are within the purview of the committee. Comments on matters that are listed on the agenda may be made at the time the committee is considering each item. Each speaker is allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes.</i>   |                   |
| <b>1:10</b> | <b>3. <u>Comments by Committee Members</u></b>  | <b>(O'Mahony)</b> |
| <b>1:15</b> | <b>4. <u>Comments by General Manager</u></b>  | <b>(Jensen)</b>   |
|             | <b>5. <u>Action Calendar</u></b>  |                   |
| <b>1:20</b> | <b>A.</b> Approve Minutes of the June 15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting ( <i>Attachment</i> )  | <b>(O'Mahony)</b> |
| <b>1:25</b> | <b>B.</b> Recommend authority to negotiate and execute a contract to implement a Direct-Install High-Efficiency Toilet program to be funded by participating agencies ( <i>Attachment</i> )   | <b>(Jensen)</b>   |
| <b>1:40</b> | <b>C.</b> San Francisco's implementation of the Water System Improvement Program  | <b>(Jensen)</b>   |
|             | <u>Issue:</u> Is San Francisco making demonstrated progress implementing the WSIP?  |                   |
|             | <u>Information to Committee:</u> Brief reports on the following subjects. ( <i>Attachment</i> )   |                   |
|             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status reports for WSIP projects and the program as a whole</li><li>• Progress report due to the State on September 1, 2005</li><li>• Dr. Ibbs' participation in the review of project costs and schedules.</li><li>• Progress toward adoption of a revised WSIP in November 2005</li><li>• Mayor Newsom's review of WSIP progress</li><li>• Evaluation of impacts associated with drought shortages of 10% and 20%</li><li>• PEIR Scoping Phase Input</li><li>• Consideration of a conservation-focused water management alternative</li></ul> |                   |

The general manager will describe what actions BAWSCA has taken to assess and ensure progress, participate in the review of costs and schedules, and ensure sufficient drought reliability. Depending on progress during August, policy issues may be identified and brought to the board for consideration in September.

Committee Action Requested: That the Board Policy Committee respond to policy issues and recommendations offered at the meeting and provide comments on items addressed.

**2:05      D.      Chloramines      (Jensen)**

Issue: What prudent actions might BAWSCA take in response to ongoing public questions about potential health affects related to the SFPUC's use of chloramines?

Information to Committee: BAWSCA has no decision making, regulatory or other role in San Francisco's use of chloramines. BAWSCA has appropriately directed health-related questions to responsible health officials. On March 17, 2005, directors received a written opinion of the California Council of Local Health Officers supporting the use of chloramines. In July, directors received correspondence and testimony from Citizens Concerned about Chloramine (CCAC).

The proposed additional action responds to ongoing public interest and remains consistent with BAWSCA's approach.

At the August 10 meeting, committee members will receive a draft information sheet that can be available to the public at board meetings and sent to persons who inquire about chloramines. It can also be placed on BAWSCA's web site. The sheet summarizes San Francisco's role in chloramination; BAWSCA's relationship to the issue; sources for information about chloramines; and contact information for State and county health officials to whom health-related questions and reports of suspected health affects should be directed.

Committee Action Requested: Comments on the proposed actions for responding to health-related questions and concerns.

**2:25      E.      Proposal to Drain Hetch Hetchy      (Jensen)**

Issue: At the Board meeting, agencies were requested to send a letter of comment to DWR. The matter was discussed with the Technical Advisory committee at its meeting on August 4. A sample letter has been provided to each agency, and agencies have begun sending in their letters.

Information to Committee: Brief oral status report and recent articles (*Attachment*)

Committee Action Requested: Comment on the execution of strategy.

**2:50      F.      Expert Panel Objective      (Jensen)**

Issue: Should BAWSCA organize a panel of experts to perform a high level review of San Francisco's capital improvement program at this time?

Information to Committee: Clear objectives need to be defined and the most efficient means of achieving them identified. The results produced by other such panels should be reviewed, as well as the resources needed to support them.

An oral report will summarize actions taken to date and recommend the matter be addressed after the revised WSIP is adopted in November.

Committee Action Requested: Comment on the proposed schedule for formation of an expert panel.

### 3:10 5. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

- A. Objectives for the General Manager's performance during FY 05-06 (Jensen)  
Issue: Establish criteria and objectives to be used to measure the general manager's performance during FY 05-06.  
Information to Committee: Draft objectives for the general manager (Under separate cover)  
Committee Action Requested: Committee concurrence with, or suggested modifications to, the proposed criteria and objectives for evaluating the general manager's performance during FY 2005-06.

### 3:30 6. Adjourn to next meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2005, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at BAWSCA

*Upon request, the Board Policy Committee of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency will provide for written agenda materials in appropriate alternative formats, or disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in public meetings. Please send a written request, including your name, mailing address, phone number and brief description of the requested materials and the preferred alternative format or auxiliary aid or service at least two (2) days before the meeting. Requests should be sent to: **Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency, 155 Bovet Road, Suite 302, San Mateo, CA 94402** or by e-mail at [bawsca@bawsca.org](mailto:bawsca@bawsca.org)*

#### Directions to BAWSCA

From 101: Take Hwy.92 Westbound towards Half Moon Bay. Exit at El Camino Northbound (move into the far left Lane) Left at the 1<sup>st</sup> stop light which is Bovet Road (Washington Mutual Building will be at the corner of Bovet and El Camino). Proceed West on Bovet Road past Albertson's to two tall buildings to your left. Turn left into the driveway between the two buildings and left again at the end of the driveway to the "Visitor" parking spaces in front of the parking structure.

From 92: Exit at El Camino Northbound and follow the same directions shown above.



**BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY**

**BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Committee Roster:**

Rosalie O'Mahony, Burlingame (Chair)

Bern Beecham, Palo Alto (BAWSCA Chair)

Roberta Cooper, Hayward

Mike Kasperzak, Mountain View

Chris Reynolds, Skyline County Water District

Rick Wykoff, Estero Municipal Improvement District

**BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY  
BOARD POLICY COMMITTEE**

**June 15, 2005 – 1 p.m.  
155 Bovet Road, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**

<b>MINUTES</b>
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**1. Call to Order: 1:10 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by committee Chair, Rosalie O'Mahony at 1:10pm. Five members of the committee were present, constituting a quorum. A list of directors present (5) and absent (2) is attached.

**2. Public Comment:** None.

**3. Reports:**

**A. Comments by Committee Members:** Committee members commented that while public statements on issues such as Chloramine at BAWSCA Board meetings are valuable, the statements should also be directed to the SFPUC.

**B. Comments by the General Manager:** Arthur Jensen requested that Agenda Item #5, Objectives for the General Manager be moved to the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the committee.

**C. Annual Review of BAWSCA Investment Policy Statement:** John Ummel reported that the general manager is required to submit the Statement of Investment Policy to the Board for review and consideration at a public meeting once a year. The last review of the policy took place on February 19, 2004. The policy currently requires no changes and will be presented to the board at its meeting on July 21, 2005.

**4. Action Items:**

**A. Approval of Minutes:**

**M/S/C (Beecham/Kasperzak; Unanimous) that the minutes of the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as corrected .**

**B. Results Achieved in FY 04-05:** Mr. Jensen reviewed the work completed on the objectives for FY 04-05, and provided a status report on ongoing efforts. Mr. Jensen reported on a study of SFPUC overhead costs and costs allocation that is nearing completion, the progress of the ad hoc committee in preparing for negotiations of a new master contract, collaborative efforts with San Francisco on the WSIP, and an update of current and future conservation activities.

- C. Results to be Achieved for FY 05-06:** The milestones to be achieved for each of the 9 goals for FY 05-06 were presented by Mr. Jensen and discussed by the committee. Mr. Jensen stated that negotiation of a new contract, getting the regional water system rebuilt, and maintaining BAWSCA's relationship with its allies is critical.

Collaborative efforts with San Francisco on the progress of the WSIP continues with greater access to information and involvement in several key activities.

Mr. Jensen announced that on July 14<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold a public workshop on the proposal to drain Hetch Hetchy. BAWSCA will attend the workshop. To date, BAWSCA has met with DWR staff and provided DWR with a list of issues that should be considered and a copy of the report completed by economist, William Wade. The committee revisited BAWSCA's position to the Hetch Hetchy proposal. Mr. Jensen stated that he will review the situation following the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, and identify opportunities to improve the approach and re-assess how and when BAWSCA members might be directly involved.

Intermediate milestones will be reported to the board.

- D. Funding to complete Professional Services by Hilton, Farnkopf and Hobson (HFH):** Mr. Jensen reported that a study on SFPUC's overhead costs by HFH will be completed in FY 05-06, instead of FY 04-05 as originally scheduled due to delays in access to information. Because funds cannot be carried over from one fiscal year to the next, it is recommended that the estimated \$20,000 required to complete the current assignment be taken from the \$40,000 budgeted for HFH in FY 05-06. Should the partial use of these funds limit the work of HFH in FY 05-06, the board may be asked to amend the 05-06 budget at mid-year, using unspent funds transferred to the general reserve as a result from the delay of completing this assignment in FY 04-05. Key tasks for this assignment involves interviews with SFPUC staff, in which were requested to be delayed in the Fall of 2004, and again in the Spring 05. The reason for the requests to delay was that key staff were involved in the recasting of the SFPUC's WSIP. Interviews are scheduled to begin in mid-June 2005.

**M/S/C (Beecham/Kasperzak; Unanimous) to recommend board approval of using a portion of the FY 2005-06 budget for Hilton Farnkopf and Hobson to complete tasks assigned in FY 2004-05.**

- E. Professional Services Contract for Technical Engineering Services:** Mr. Jensen recommended consideration of hiring a group of four individuals with the experience and expertise that can best serve BAWSCA. The committee was presented background information on Tanya Yurovsky, Dale Newkirk, Jean Gardner and Rudy Metzner, and the significance of the SFPUC-related work each has done. Art stated that if the committee concurs with this approach, the board will be asked to authorize the general manager to hire the identified individuals rather than conduct a solicitation for professional services. Art said that the contract for system modeling

expertise may be addressed separately. Legal counsel Ray McDevitt stated the proposed process conformed with all legal requirements.

**M/S/C (Reynolds/Wykoff; Unanimous) to recommend that the board authorize the general manager to execute contracts with specified individuals for specified technical engineering services.**

5. **Comments:** Director O'Mahony announced that she will be out of the country and will not be able to attend the BAWSCA Board meeting on July 21, 2005.
6. **The closed session for the objectives for the general manager's performance** is rescheduled to the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board Policy Committee: Mr. Jensen commented .
7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:40. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, at 1pm in the first floor conference room of the BAWSCA office building, 155 Bovet Road, San Mateo.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur R. Jensen, General Manager and Secretary

ARJ/le

Attachments: 1) Attendance Roster

**BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY**  
**Board Policy Committee**  
**February 9, 2005**

**Attendance Roster**

**Committee Members Present:**

Rosalie O'Mahony	City of Burlingame (Chair)
Bern Beecham	City of Palo Alto (Vice-Chair)
Mike Kasperzak	City of Mountain View
Chris Reynolds	Skyline County Water District
Rick Wykoff	Estero Municipal Improvement District

**Committee Members Absent:**

Roberta Cooper	City of Hayward
Pete Nelson	California Water Service Company

**BAWSCA Staff Members Present:**

Arthur Jensen	General Manager
Nicole Sandkulla	Senior Water Resources Planner
John Ummel	Senior Administrative Analyst
Ray McDevitt	Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus et al.
Bud Wendell	Management Communications

**Guests:**

Girish Balachandran	City of Palo Alto
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**BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY**  
**Board Policy Committee**

**Agenda Title:**        **Authorize Negotiation and Execution of a Professional Services Contract with San Jose Water Conservation Corporation to Implement the Direct-Install High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program**

**Summary:**

This item requests authorization for the General Manager to negotiate and execute a scope of work and contract with San Jose Water Conservation Corporation. to implement the Direct-Install High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program for FY 2005/2006. This program was identified for implementation in the approved FY 2005/2006 budget.

Participation in this water conservation assistance program is voluntary. The opportunity to participate will be extended to all BAWSCA agencies. Participating agencies will pay the entire cost for the program.

The BAWSCA Water Resources Committee, comprising staff from interested BAWSCA agencies, supports the implementation of this program.

**Fiscal Impact:**

For FY 2005/2006, only those agencies that elect to participate in this program will pay the cost of the outside service provider as well as directly associated budgeted BAWSCA staff time.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Board Policy Committee recommend authorizing the general manager to negotiate a scope of work and execute a contract with San Jose Water Conservation Corp. to implement the Direct-Install High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program.**

**Discussion:**

One result to be achieved in FY 2005/2006 is to save water and save money for customers by implementing cost-effective water conservation programs funded by the agencies that participate. One program identified in a technical analysis last fiscal year was a Direct-Install High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program. BAWSCA can take advantage of a significant amount of work that the City of Redwood City has done to begin such a program, and make it available to other BAWSCA agencies.

At this time, BAWSCA would like to approach San Jose Water Conservation Corp. to secure a comparable scope of work and cost for other BAWSCA agencies to implement this program. The BAWSCA Water Resources Committee has reviewed this program and supports its implementation through BAWSCA.

*What Is A “Direct-Install High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program”?*

In a direct-install program, the participating water agency would offer residents and businesses free high-efficiency toilets and free installations by a professional licensed plumbing contractor. The proposed program would target multi-family and commercial accounts. Individual agencies could choose to promote single-family accounts as well. The program budget will include cost of toilet fixtures and materials, installation and a one year installation guarantee by the contractor.

*Why Should BAWSCA follow Redwood City’s program model?*

The City of Redwood City has expended significant effort over the past 2 years to investigate the best methods for achieving savings through toilet replacements. For example, in January 2004, Redwood City retained an independent professional engineering firm specializing in toilet replacement program design and implementation to guide a program design team of City staff in the formation of the City’s program. The City’s final Toilet Replacement Program Plan, which includes this particular program model, was approved by the program design team in June 2004.

*Why should BAWSCA approach San Jose Water Conservation Corp. for this contract?*

As part of its program design, Redwood City initiated a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to identify the best company to perform a direct-install program in Redwood City. In February 2005, 20 interested companies received RFPs, and three submitted detailed proposals. A selection team of City staff, and two City-retained, independent consultants reviewed and rated proposals. It was determined that two of the companies with substantial toilet replacement experience were highly qualified and could perform the project. The Redwood City selection team interviewed the two companies on April 21, 2005. San Jose Water Conservation Corporation, whose total cost was \$2.5 million less than the total cost of Southwest Environmental, was ranked number 1.

**Alternatives:**

BAWSCA could:

- A. Not offer the program
- B. Offer the program, but consider either the first or second – ranked team in Redwood City.
- C. Implement the proposed program.

Alternative A would be inconsistent with current board direction. Alternative C would delay implementation at low incremental dollar savings. Alternative B is recommended.

**Conclusion:**

BAWSCA can take advantage of a significant amount of work that has been performed by one of its member agencies to develop and implement a Direct-Install High-Efficiency Toilet Replacement Program. Implementation of this program in a cost-effective manner is consistent with the adopted FY 2005/2006 budget.

**BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY**  
**Board Policy Committee**

**Agenda Title:**        **San Francisco's Implementation of the Water System Improvement Program**

**Summary:**

The paragraphs below describe what actions BAWSCA has taken to assess and ensure progress, participate in the review of costs and schedules, and ensure sufficient drought reliability.

Depending on progress during the month of August, some matters may be brought before the board in September with a recommendation for board action.

**Recommendation:**

**That the Board Policy Committee respond to policy issues and recommendations offered at the meeting and provide comments on items addressed.**

**Discussion:**

The current work for pursuing progress and transparency is working well. The SFPUC's adoption of a revised WSIP in November will be a significant milestone, and will establish a schedule of further milestones as well as initiate public progress reviews.

**Status reports for WSIP projects and the program as a whole.**

In our meetings with the SFPUC project managers, progress is compared to the draft budgets and schedules from Water System Improvement Program released in February. While progress of planning tasks for some of the major projects has slipped, the project managers state that none of the delays will affect the completion dates for those projects.

Mr. Irons promised to deliver current status reports for each project. Those reports were expected on August 1 and have not been received as of August 5. It is unclear whether the reports will show expenditures and progress against a budget and schedule.

**Progress report due to the State on September 1, 2005.**

By September 1, the SFPUC is required to submit a report on progress made during FY 2004-05 to the State Legislative Audit Committee, the Seismic Safety Commission and the Department of Health Services. The status of this report has been requested.

**Progress toward adoption of a revised WSIP in November 2005.**

President Sklar is reportedly conducting a personal review of all projects, including the alternatives analyses performed to date. These reviews and Parsons' review of project scopes, costs and schedules must be completed, and any modifications incorporated into the WSIP, before the revised WSIP is released to the public in October.

**Dr. Ibbs' participation in the review of project costs and schedules.**

How BAWSCA's consultant, Dr. Ibbs, will participate in the review of costs and schedules will be coordinated with Mr. Irons and Mr. Yoder of Parsons Engineering, on Friday August 5<sup>th</sup>. Parsons' staff is already working at the SFPUC, though as of the date of this memo, no formal notice to proceed for the Parsons' contract has been issued.

**Mayor Newsom's review of WSIP progress.**

In a personal communication, Mayor Newsom stated he would review the status of the WSIP progress in August. As of the date of this memo, no date had been set. We remain in touch with his staff person in charge of these meetings.

**Evaluation of impacts associated with drought shortages of 10% and 20%.**

BAWSCA has pursued its recommendation that the SFPUC consider both avoided and additional impacts of achieving greater drought reliability. On Tuesday, July 26, the Commission directed Mr. Irons to return to the next SFPUC meeting with a draft letter from the SFPUC to City Planning. The draft letter is to instruct those conducting the PEIR to evaluate environmental impacts associated with achieving drought shortages less than 20 percent. BAWSCA has requested the opportunity to review a draft of the letter so that we will be in agreement when it is presented to the SFPUC.

**PEIR Scoping Phase Input.**

BAWSCA is preparing input to the PEIR scoping process and is working with its member agencies to coordinate input of a general nature.

**Consideration of a conservation-focused water management alternative.**

The environmental representatives that work closely with the SFPUC have asked that an alternative be considered that would address all additional future water needs through the year 2030 using conservation, recycling and alternative sources. Whether such a program could be achieved and at what cost is unknown. I have committed to include SFPUC staff in BAWSCA's work to identify additional cost-effective programs for water customers to use less water and save money. Greater independence from the SFPUC system could have positive economic significance. As consumption drops, drought reliability will become increasingly important.

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**PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE****The Hetch Hetchy pipe dream**- [Ken Garcia](#)

Friday, August 5, 2005

I HATE TO throw a wet blanket on the hopes of all those who want to restore Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley by tearing down the dam that stores water for 2.4 million Bay Area residents, but reality suggests I must.

The state's top water experts are currently going through stacks of research and previous studies to determine the potential cost and feasibility of such a venture -- an idea fanned by the staid Sacramento Bee and then carried in an ongoing crusade by a number of well-meaning environmental groups. But after talking to a number of state and local officials, the preliminary results are in -- it's a pipe dream.

There will never be enough evidence to convince the members of the movement to dismantle O'Shaughnessy Dam and drain the reservoir from which San Francisco and more than 1 million Peninsula residents get their Sierra Nevada water that the project is undoable. But that romantic notion isn't held by enough people in Sacramento and Washington to move mountains or, in this case, to make lost valleys reappear.

For starters, the lofty proposal, which has been floating around for years, would be ridiculously expensive, a veritable Mount Everest of capital projects. A Department of Energy study estimated in 1987 that the project would cost at least \$6 billion -- and that was nearly two decades ago. As we know from the Bay Bridge retrofit plan, the cost of which has more than tripled during nearly the same period, massive construction projects don't get cheaper over time.

"There's lots of uncertainty in every estimate," said Gary Bardini, the state's chief hydrologist, who is working on the study, which is expected to be completed in the fall.

Bardini said there isn't enough information available to state water experts to make a realistic estimation of the potential impact on California's water supply. That would require more studies, the cost of which would almost certainly be in the tens of millions of dollars.

And even if there is a desire to do those studies, San Francisco's Public Utilities Commission will likely be deep into the \$4.3 billion seismic retrofit of the Hetch Hetchy water and power system.

Does it make sense to spend billions to upgrade the system and then untold billions more to reconfigure it? Only to those who get immense pleasure from watching officials squirm in sanctimonious San Francisco.

"The more and more information we have to provide the state on this proposal, the more the idea just seems far-fetched," said San Francisco PUC chief Susan Leal.

"So we're just trying to remain focused on the work we have to do."

Now I agree that it may have been hasty and more than a little bit selfish when leaders in San Francisco somehow convinced state and federal officials in the early 1900s to build the dam in Yosemite National Park and divert the water from the Sierra to the rapidly growing San Francisco Bay Area. And it must be irksome to some conservationists that residents 200 miles from Yosemite quench their thirst with some of the best water in the land.

But the magnificent engineering feat that allowed that water delivery to happen is going to take a similar trick to change it, and there's no political consensus to make that happen.

Remarkably, the Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration dream gained steam largely because the few politicians who pushed the idea have little or no stake in the outcome. Consider Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who directed state water officials to study the possibility.

It makes no difference to Schwarzenegger what the findings are -- he looks like a friend to the environment while he gets to have a little fun with the 80 percent of Bay Area voters who didn't support recalling his predecessor.

Ditto for perennial candidate John Garamendi, who is shoring up his green votes in his run for lieutenant governor next year by opining that the time to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley is now. Not unless he can point to a workable plan rather than Environment Defense's wish list. He notes that replacing water supply in California is never easy -- which is why state water officials won't even be able to offer a recommendation to green light the plan until they do many more years of technical studies.

Of course, if environmental restoration is the goal, then it is hard to argue that breaching a dam in the middle of a valley and then carting away the concrete on large trucks over a period of years is an eco-friendly idea. Still, it is nice to dream.

*Ken Garcia is a Chronicle editorial writer. You can e-mail him at [kgarcia@sfchronicle.com](mailto:kgarcia@sfchronicle.com).*

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## **What to Do About Hetch Hetchy** **More conservation, not capacity**

- Jenna Olsen

Friday, August 5, 2005

This summer, waterfalls that normally trickle instead roar, rivers surge through their channels at higher flows than usual, and the fishing is outstanding. Vacationers are soaking in the glories of rivers like the spectacular Tuolumne, which flows through Yosemite National Park, the Stanislaus National Forest and the Central Valley.

Only in years such as this, with exceptionally abundant snowpack and water, do we see California's rivers and bays approximating the health and splendor they displayed before they were dammed and diverted to provide water for families, farms and businesses. While the Golden State's highly engineered water system has brought benefits, it has also come at a great cost.

Today, we know that removing water from rivers has many negative consequences, including polluted water, extinct fish species and devastated natural areas. Hurting our rivers hurts us.

For a balanced water future, conservation is the cheapest, easiest and least destructive way to meet future water needs. In fact, the state's recent water plan promotes water efficiency as a fundamental action for a sustainable water supply. Water agencies need to build more conservation into our systems, not more capacity.

Given the Bay Area's culture of technological innovation and concern with environmental sustainability, you would think that the region would be a leader in efficient water use. Not so. In fact, San Francisco lags far behind Los Angeles in implementing water-saving measures such as low-flow toilets and fixtures.

Instead, San Francisco is planning a \$500 million pipeline that would allow it to withdraw 70 percent more water from the Tuolumne than it takes today. This project placed the Tuolumne on a list of the 10 most endangered rivers of 2005 by American Rivers, a national conservation organization.

Taking more water from the Tuolumne would destroy important habitat for trout, bald eagles, salmon and bears. Less water in the Tuolumne means less freshwater flowing into the Delta and San Francisco Bay, and less ability to dilute pollution there.

The pipeline project is part of a \$4.3 billion program to upgrade San Francisco's water system, paid for by water rate increases in San Francisco and surrounding communities. Sold to voters as a seismic-safety program, the plan has become burdened with projects such as the pipeline to expand the ability to withdraw Tuolumne water.

San Francisco does not have to degrade the Tuolumne to meet its water needs. San Francisco's own preliminary reports identify conservation and recycling potential equaling half of its current Tuolumne imports.

Conservation means eliminating water waste and using less water to accomplish the same goals. Efficient household fixtures, such as washing machines, play an important role. Modernizing industrial uses, improving processes in restaurants and hotels, and installing smarter landscape irrigation systems are other examples.

Other agencies have avoided environmental harm through conservation:

-- Seattle, with a water system comparable to San Francisco's, has kept water use constant despite population growth of 30 percent since 1975.

-- Bostonians reduced water use 30 percent over the past 15 years and eliminated the need for a new dam.

-- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California decreased water use by 16 percent from 1990 to 2003 despite a 14 percent increase in population.

Increased capacity does not protect San Francisco from droughts. Building a new pipeline would make San Francisco more reliant on the Tuolumne River, which is unreliable during droughts. Climate change could make the Tuolumne system even less dependable in the future.

San Francisco has so far proposed modest efforts to increase the use of conservation and recycled water, with more aggressive efforts in the planning stage. The city needs the cooperation of the 28 agencies that purchase Tuolumne water from them. These agencies (located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties) share the risks of not making appropriate investment in conservation. According to a recent report from the Public Policy Institute of California, "greater regional collaboration" among such agencies would enable them to "join forces and build a broader portfolio of water supply options."

The message to San Francisco is clear: Invest in water conservation, not more capacity. Conservation is less expensive, faster and more secure. San Francisco and its water consumers should be a model of conscientious and environmentally friendly water use, not practitioners of outdated engineering feats that harm our rivers and bays.

*Jenna Olsen is executive director of Tuolumne River Trust ([www.tuolumne.org](http://www.tuolumne.org)).*

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## **What to Do About Hetch Hetchy** **Restore the valley**

- John Garamendi  
Friday, August 5, 2005

As Californians, we now have the opportunity to do something truly great for our state, our children and for generations to come. We can, and should, restore the magnificence of the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park. Today, there is great momentum to support this effort. It is a window of opportunity that may not come again. Therefore, we must act now.

With its great waterfalls thundering from towering granite cliffs onto a serene valley floor, Hetch Hetchy was described by John Muir as Yosemite Valley's "wonderfully exact counterpart." Like its better-known twin, Hetch Hetchy Valley was born of uplifted granite scoured by glacial forces, leaving a monument of breathtaking beauty.

Sadly, while one valley was preserved for future generations, the other was flooded. In the early 20th century, despite a nationwide outcry led by Muir and including more than 100 newspapers from coast to coast, Congress permitted Hetch Hetchy Valley to be submerged under 300 feet of water. No similar development has been allowed in our national parks since Hetch Hetchy was dammed.

The beauty of Yosemite was made famous the world over by early 20th-century artists and writers such as Albert Bierstadt and Muir. Later, photographers such as Ansel Adams and Galen Rowell captured Yosemite's special values. In 2005, Californians honored our commitment to preserving our natural heritage by emblazoning Yosemite's Half Dome and Muir's image on the state's commemorative quarter.

Now, we have a unique opportunity to bring back the beauty of Hetch Hetchy and make our treasured national park whole again. As a reservoir, Hetch Hetchy is part of a system that provides water to 2.4 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area. Reservoir releases also generate hydropower that San Francisco uses for its own municipal services or sells to Turlock, Modesto and other municipalities and irrigation districts. This is very important, but recent studies by UC Davis and Environmental Defense have clearly identified how downstream diversions and other reservoirs can replace the water storage and most of the power now provided by Hetch Hetchy. Yes, it is possible for our children and their children to walk the Hetch Hetchy Valley floor just as Muir did.

With bipartisan legislative support, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration is reviewing these studies and assessing what the value of a restored valley would mean to California and the nation.

Replacing water supply in California is never easy -- all the communities that rely on the Tuolumne River will need to have their needs met before restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley can begin. A restoration plan must be identified that provides an undiminished supply of high-quality water to San Francisco and other Bay Area cities. Equally important, any restoration plan must also protect Modesto and Turlock, whose interests on the Tuolumne River are intertwined with San Francisco's.

Yet, despite these obstacles, it is clear that the real work will not be resolving the technical issues, but overcoming the political hurdles. The possibility of experiencing the majesty of a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley is inspiring enough that it should be examined above the political fray. Developing a viable restoration plan will require all parties coming to the table. Creative approaches will need to be pursued to meet the future water and power needs of California's cities and farms. To replace water supply, serious consideration should be given to connecting the Don Pedro Reservoir in Tuolumne County to San Francisco's water-delivery system, or to rebuilding the Calaveras Reservoir. Much of the power loss could likely be addressed by modifying the Canyon Tunnel so that the Kirkwood powerhouse could retain its generating power.

My experience leads me to believe that it is possible to restore Hetch Hetchy. Before being elected to my current post, I served for 16 years in the California Legislature representing the Hetch Hetchy Valley area, and three years as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior in Washington. I still own and operate a working ranch in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. At the Department of the Interior, I worked with farmers, loggers, cities and environmentalists to develop holistic plans that would provide both economic growth and environmental protection.

As we encourage economic growth in California, we should also make a commitment to cherish and sustain our spectacular natural heritage. I can think of no better way than restoring Hetch Hetchy Valley for our children and grandchildren.

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