



Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer, Today Urged the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to Tell Residents, Businesses and Communities in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties How It Will Protect their Future Water Supply from the Tuolumne River and Involve BAWSCA Directly in this Effort Just as it Has Been in Rebuilding the SFPUC's 165-mile Water-Delivery System.

May 24, 2022

Good afternoon President Moran and Members of the Commissioner. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

As you perhaps recall, I have asked the Commission twice recently and I am asking you once more for the plan that you and General Manager Herrera are pursuing to protect the current water supply from the Tuolumne River for BAWSCA's 1.8 million residents, over 40,000 businesses, and hundreds of communities in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties who depend on your present reliable source. Therefore, it is reasonable, I suggest, to ask about it.

I assure you that my request is not idle curiosity. It is very important for BAWSCA's constituents to maintain the present water source until, or if, another reliable source is identified and approved by California's State Water Resources Control Board. Therefore, it is reasonable and responsible for BAWSCA to ask for your plan.

As your largest customer, BAWSCA's constituents are paying you about \$300 million for the water supply that you provide from the Tuolumne River and local watersheds, which represents their share of the operational costs for the System and the \$5 billion program to rebuild your 165-mile regional water-delivery system. BAWSCA constituents' future health, safety, and economic well-being depends on your continuing water supply from the Tuolumne River, so please tell us now how you plan to protect this supply, the endangered fish population, and the environment. As the water provider for BAWSCA's constituents, this environmental requirement is the Commission's responsibility.

Your water customers require this information so they can protect their future health, safety, and economic well-being with a high-quality, reliable water supply at a fair price. And they must know how their communities can provide increased, affordable housing units that require an assured water supply to be approved and built.

BAWSCA's constituents will also pay their fair share of the cost of their future water-supply, so they also must be part of the underlying discussions and decisions to provide it, as BAWSCA has been in the expensive rebuilding program for your Regional Hetch Hetchy Water System.

BAWSCA however is concerned that the Commission may not yet have a strategy, a plan and the urgency for a solution that will protect BAWSCA's water customers in the three counties with an adequate and reliable water supply at a fair price. While BAWSCA certainly understands that this is a complicated issue that requires time to resolve and negotiate an effective solution, it is also clear that too much time has already passed on this effort without achieving necessary critical results, so the negotiations need to be expedited to assure success. And, it is important that BAWSCA knows what the SFPUC is doing so it can reassure its constituents

BAWSCA suggests that your Commission needs to intensify its efforts with the State Board and the Governor's staff, and BAWSCA wants to be involved just as it has been in rebuilding your Regional Hetch Hetchy Water System.

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