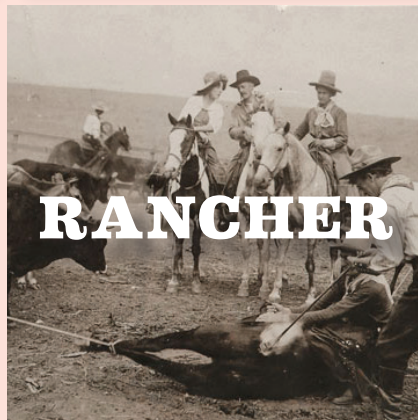


Hetch Hetchy Stakeholders

Perspectives from people whose lives will be impacted
by Congress's decision.

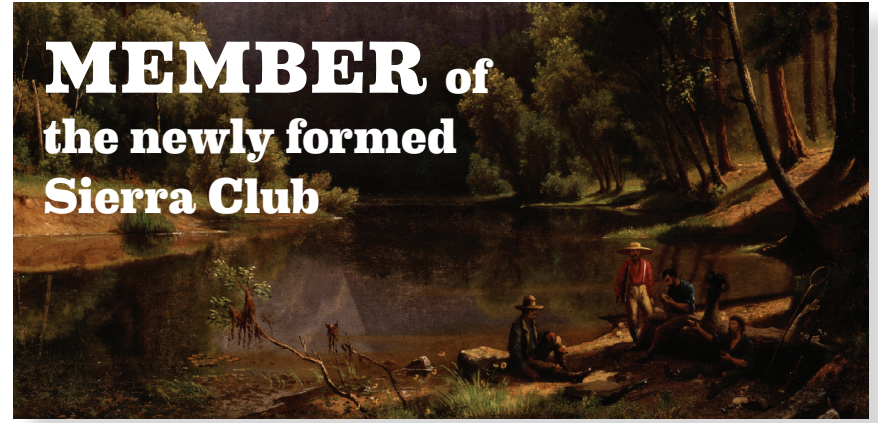


WIDOW from the 1906 earthquake



“On April 16, 1906, San Francisco experienced a devastating earthquake that left the city in ruins and many of its inhabitants homeless or dead. On April 17, 1906, my husband of twenty years and father of our four children, was killed in a raging fire that consumed our entire block, and ultimately destroyed a large portion of the city. I do not know how I will support myself and my children now that my husband is dead. While we cannot prevent earthquakes, we can and should better equip ourselves to deal with the aftermath. An abundant and reliable source of water would prepare our city to fight fires in a way that would preserve cities, and more importantly, save lives.”

MEMBER of the newly formed Sierra Club



“I have spent many hours soaking in the natural beauty of the Hetch Hetchy Valley, breathing in clean air and listening to the spray of the waterfall as it cascades down steep granite cliffs. This valley, as a part of Yosemite National Park, belongs to the entire nation—not the citizens of one distant city. Communion with nature nourishes the body and soul. To drown a natural treasure for the benefit of a few renders birds and animals homeless and destroys trees and plants. We should preserve the wilderness for our posterity.”

POLITICIAN

from San Francisco

San Francisco is a fast-growing city that continues to expand its economic and civic potential. In order to meet the needs of this continuous growth, we need a safe and reliable source of water for current and future residents. This water used for drinking, sanitation, and power will serve 800,000 men, women, and children along the shores of the bay. It will allow San Francisco to continue to provide the United States with a productive West Coast port. What better use is there for water then to sustain life and progress? Just think of what San Francisco can become if it has access to fresh water!

PAIUTE WOMAN

who uses the valley to hunt and gather food

The valley is our home and heritage. We have buried our ancestors here, and we want our grandchildren to be born here. Our fathers have relied on this land to hunt game and gather plants for food and medicine as we continue to do today. Destruction of our beloved valley means destruction of a way of life, not just ours, but that of all the animals and plants that live in and rely on the valley. Deer can no longer eat the tall grasses, the oak trees cannot grow and produce acorns, and fish cannot swim the length of the river. Our traditions and survival are bound to this land. As the valley's original caretakers, our commitment is to the land and its well-being.



RANCHER from the Hetch Hetchy Valley

“

For years my family has relied on the meadows and water of Hetch Hetchy to maintain our flock. Our sheep grow fat on the grasses and drink their fill in the waters. This is our life and our livelihood. When deciding to dam the river to flood the valley, ask the people whose lives depend on that land, not people from a distant city. Everyone must make a living—is our way worth less than city dwellers that it deserves to be drowned out?

”



United States SENATOR from the East Coast

“

Yosemite National Park belongs to the American people and Hetch-Hetchy Valley is one of the grandest and most important features of the park.

This valley is threatened with destruction by those seeking to use it as a water supply, thereby restricting public access to the park. Damming Hetch Hetchy would set a dangerous precedent by allowing outside interests to exploit national parks. Water can be found elsewhere. Hetch Hetchy should be preserved for the enjoyment of all Americans.

”



“Farmers feed the people of this land, and water feeds the farm. Maintaining a farm without water in a semi-arid environment like the San Joaquin Valley is nearly impossible without a consistent supply of water. Diverting water elsewhere by damning the Tuolumne River at Hetch Hetchy takes away the livelihood of every farmer that uses the watershed to our valley, which in turn affects the life of every community within our valley. The land we farm is ours —we own it and we have the titles to prove it! This right gives us the power to decide how our water is used, not the city of San Francisco.”