



Mr. Mike Marshall  
Executive Director  
Restore Hetch Hetchy

November 17, 2011

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I have received your request asking the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to hold a special public hearing on draining Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. As recently as September 2011, then Commission President Francesca Vietor responded at length to a similar request from you. I have reviewed that correspondence and have reached the same conclusion that the SFPUC will not hold a hearing on the matter.

By San Francisco City Charter mandate, the SFPUC is required and charged by the voters of San Francisco under Section 8B.120 to protect and maintain the Hetch Hetchy Water and Power System. The preamble states that: *The Public Utilities Commission operates the Water, Clean Water, and Power Utilities of the City and County of San Francisco. Hetch Hetchy Water and Power System is an irreplaceable asset of the people of the City and County of San Francisco. The system is fundamental to the economic vitality of San Francisco and the Bay Area. The voters of the City and County of San Francisco are committed to preserving and protecting the system as well as safeguarding the extraordinary quality of the water from Yosemite and local watersheds. The voters find that the protection, maintenance, and repair of the system are among their highest priorities.*

This is not meant to discourage you or others in engaging in a discussion of demolishing O'Shaughnessy Dam. However, the voters have stated very clearly through our City Charter that it is the responsibility of the SFPUC to protect this system that provides water to 2.5 million residents and businesses in the Bay Area.

Public agencies or commissions do not always engage in policy questions that might be headed to the ballot, even if they are antithetical to the agency's charter mandate. The school district didn't hold hearings on the ballot measure to foist "neighborhood schools" on its admissions policy; the Health Department didn't hold hearings on the move to ban circumcision; and the Recreation and Parks Department didn't hold

**Edwin M. Lee**  
Mayor

**Anson Moran**  
President

**Art Torres**  
Vice President

**Ann Moller Caen**  
Commissioner

**Francesca Vietor**  
Commissioner

**Vince Courtney**  
Commissioner

**Ed Harrington**  
General Manager



hearings on the attempt to ban all fee-based uses of its facilities. Gathering enough signatures to place measures on the ballot is a citizen's prerogative, but Commissions do not necessarily engage in these matters.

The SFPUC has a strong environmental track record that is inclusive of community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care. We have a responsibility to balance each of our decisions against the long-term impacts on our ratepayers and the environment. The diverse backgrounds and experience of our commission members allows for this balanced discussion ranging on topics like our \$4.6 billion investment in seismic and system reliability upgrades to the Hetch Hetchy Water System, to improving in-stream flows in Alameda Creek to support the steelhead trout population. These discussions, however, only take place through the clear City Charter framework approved by San Francisco voters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anson B. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and "B".

Anson B. Moran,  
President, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission