



ABAG/CALFED TASK FORCE/BAY AREA WATER FORUM E-M E M O

Date : November 23, 2004

To : ABAG/CALFED Task Force/BAY AREA Water Forum Members and Interested Parties

From: Kathleen Van Velsor, Project Manager <http://calfed.abag.ca.gov/>

Re : Meeting Update/News and Information

Members and interested parties – The AGENDA for the November 29th Task Force/Water Forum meeting has been distributed. We will meet at ABAG offices and lunch is provided. **Please note** that we will meet in the Metro Building Auditorium, instead of Room 171. Look for signs that will direct you. **We encourage those who haven't responded to please send confirmation of your attendance, or your alternate's attendance, to Kim Dixon at KimD@abag.ca.gov.** A summary of the September facilitated meeting will be provided in short order. Speaker materials will be available at the meeting. Greg Bourne of the Center for Collaborative Policy/CSUS will continue on as our facilitator. The following items of news and information may be useful to you and your colleagues in the interim:

News Highlights (scroll down for news clips):

- ✚ DWR Schedules workshops for Proposition 50
- ✚ Drought High on List of Agency's Concerns
- ✚ Hetch Hetchy Dam Removal Study
- ✚ DWR Issues Urban Stream Grants Notice

- ✚ Henry Gardner is Named ABAG's New Executive Director – <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/11/20/BAEBDIGEST3.DTL&type=printable>

- ✚ Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program web site:
<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/index.html>
- ✚ Fact Sheet: State Water Resources Control Board Ground-Water Ambient Assessment and Monitoring Program http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/gama/docs/usgs_gama_fact_sheet_fs2004-3088.pdf
- ✚ Recent California Water Policy conference agenda:
<http://www.cawaterpolicy.org/agenda.htm>
- ✚ January 20th, 2005 California Water Plan Update Advisory Committee Meeting at Sterling Hotel 1300 H Street, Sacramento (916) 448-1300 8:30 - 4:30
http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/b160/committee/co_index.html
- ✚ California Bay Delta Authority Public Involvement Calendar:
<http://calwater.ca.gov/calendar/calendar.shtml>
- ✚ ABAG Service Matters Newsletter Nov/Dec. 2004
<http://www.abag.ca.gov/abag/overview/pub/newsletter/posts/SM-NovDec04.pdf>

Around the Bay Region:

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Capital Improvements Update

http://sfwater.org/detail.cfm/MC_ID/7/MSC_ID/6/MTO_ID/NULL/C_ID/1451

Bay Area Water Conservation and Water Supply Agency Information

<http://www.bawsca.org/>

Zone 7 Water Agency Information

<http://www.zone7water.com/current.html>

Solano County Water Agency Information

<http://www.scwa2.com/info.html>

Sonoma County Water Agency Information

<http://www.scwa.ca.gov/projects.html>

Contra Costa County Water District Information

http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/cd/water_agency.htm

Santa Clara Valley Water District Information

<http://www.heynoah.com/>

Contra Costa Water District Information

<http://www.ccwater.com/>

Marin Municipal Water District Information

<http://www.marinwater.org/whatsnew.html>

East Bay Municipal Water District Information

<http://www.ebmud.com/>

Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board

<http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb2/>

The Bay Institute

<http://www.bay.org/main.htm>

State Coastal Conservancy

<http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/index.htm>

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

<http://www.lwvba-ca.org/>

EFFICIENT USE / STATE FUNDING

DWR schedules workshops for Proposition 50

2004 Water Use Efficiency Proposal Solicitation Package

News release, California Department of Water Resources - 11/17/04

SACRAMENTO - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released its Proposition 50 Water Use Efficiency Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) and will hold three public workshops to discuss the PSP and application submittal, guidelines for review, selection, and award processes for this program.

This grant program implements Chapter 7(g) of Proposition 50, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002, which authorizes DWR to administer a \$120 million agricultural and urban water conservation program. The program provides grants for water use efficiency implementation projects as well as research and development, feasibility studies, pilot, and demonstration projects.

The PSP is posted on the DWR website:

<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/finance/>

<<http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/finance/>> . Completed proposals are due by January 11, 2005. Interested parties need not attend the workshops to submit proposals.

Persons representing cities and counties, joint power authorities, public water districts, tribes, nonprofit organizations, universities, colleges, State and federal agencies, and other entities involved in water management are encouraged to attend the workshops (schedule below).

Sacramento, Tuesday, November 30, 2004 - 10:00 am - Noon - Department of Water Resources Hearing Room, 1st Floor, Bonderson Building, 901 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814

Modesto, Thursday, December 2, 2004 - 10:00 am - Noon - Modesto Irrigation District Multipurpose Room, 1231 11th Street, Modesto, California 95354

Chino, Monday, December 6, 2004 - 10:00 am - Noon - Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Events Center, Building B, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Chino, California 91710 #

<http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/newsreleases/2004/11-17-04prop50.cfm>

<<http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/newsreleases/2004/11-17-04prop50.cfm>>

WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS

Drought high on water agency's list of concerns

Fairfield Daily Republic - 11/16/04

By Barry Eberling, staff writer

VACAVILLE - Finding ways to provide Solano County cities and farms with water during long droughts is of top importance, a proposed plan says.

But figuring out how global warming will effect the county's water supplies? Something to look at, but less pressing.

The Solano County Water Agency board is putting together a water priority plan. It will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. tonight at the Solano Irrigation District, 508 Elmira Road.

The proposed plan - called the Integrated Water Management Plan - calls for no dramatic changes in the agency's water policy.

"It basically says what we're doing is what we should be doing in the future," said David Okita, the agency's general manager.

But the plan puts the agency's potential tasks into three groups. There are 17 "high-priority" items, 14 "medium-priority" items and 11 "lower-priority" items.

Several of the tasks involve preparing for a drought.

Existing water supplies are more than enough for wet and normal rainfall years. But they won't be enough to meet all demands during dry ones, the proposed plan said.

Using more groundwater can help get the area through a drought, it said. So can buying extra water from elsewhere in the state. Both ideas are listed as high priorities.

Another, more visionary, idea is a low priority. That involves using desalinization - to turn salty water in the Carquinez Strait into fresh drinking water.

Rural flood control is a controversial topic addressed by the plan. Recent county grand juries criticized the SCWA for not doing more work in this area.

Devising policies for flood control is among the proposed plan's high priorities. But building specific projects isn't. That's because of financing uncertainties, the proposed plan said.

For example, the agency in December will discuss a \$500,000 flood control project for Sweeney Creek and a \$750,000 project for upper McCune Creek. Residents near these proposed projects could be asked to

grant easements and help pay for project costs and maintenance. They would have to vote on assessments.

How residents respond to the Sweeny and McCune flood control projects could influence how the agency board views future projects, Okita said.

A sampling of other projects in the proposed priority plan:

- Figuring out what would happen to the county's Delta water source if levees break is a medium priority.
- Improving security along the local water canals to prevent intentional or accidental contamination is a lower priority.
- Building a reservoir that could store more water from rainy years to save for drought years is a lower priority.
- Doing further studies on how much water cities, farms and the environment will need in coming years is a high priority.

People can view the proposed plan on the agency Web site at www.scwa2.com <outbind://26/www.scwa2.com> .

The agency is the water wholesaler for cities and agricultural water districts in the county. The major water sources are Lake Berryessa reservoir and the North Bay Aqueduct in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.#

http://www.dailyrepublic.com/articles/2004/11/16/local_news/news06.prt
<http://www.dailyrepublic.com/articles/2004/11/16/local_news/news06.prt>

Top Topic: Hetch Hetchy Dam Removal Study

In Brief

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK (AP) - The Hetch Hetchy Valley has been under water for eight decades, serving as a reservoir for San Francisco's drinking water. Now officials in the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Parks and Recreation have promised to study the possibility of restoring the area. The restoration project could cost up to \$1.6 billion.#

State officials to study effects of restoring Hetch Hetchy valley;
Challenge is to find resources to supplant water stored there - San Francisco Chronicle

Hetch Hetchy revival revisited; State agencies to investigate the submerged Yosemite National Park valley. - Fresno Bee

State to examine Hetch Hetchy restoration - Sacramento Bee

Removal of Yosemite Dam to Be Studied; A state agency will consider restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley. - Los Angeles Times

State officials to study effects of restoring Hetch Hetchy valley
Challenge is to find resources to supplant water stored there
San Francisco Chronicle - 11/12/04
By Charlie Goodyear, staff writer

SACRAMENTO - Just five weeks after environmentalists announced a study claiming to show the feasibility of draining the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park, state officials said they will consider the idea.

In a letter sent this week to two state legislators who back the plan, California's secretary of resources, Mike Chrisman, said he has asked the Department of Water Resources to examine the possibility of removing the San Francisco-owned dam that has flooded the spectacular Hetch Hetchy valley for the last 80 years.

"California, its governor and its citizens are committed to economically feasible restoration of ecosystems and preservation of open space," Chrisman wrote in his letter.

But, he added, "one of the foremost challenges posed by the proposal stems from the fact that California, faced with significant water demands, needs a net increase in water storage capacity, not a decrease."

Any plan to move the reservoir would need to ensure, at a minimum, replacing what Hetch Hetchy now supplies, Chrisman said.

The positive response from the state comes as San Francisco is planning a \$3.6 billion upgrade of the dilapidated Hetch Hetchy system. In September, Mayor Gavin Newsom said he needed to study the proposal to dismantle O'Shaughnessy Dam, on the Tuolumne River, more fully before making a decision.

The dam was built in 1923, and the water stored up behind it now serves 2.4 million people in the Bay Area as well as agribusiness in the Central Valley. It also produces hydroelectric power.

In September, a conservation group called Environmental Defense said its research showed water storage could be moved out of the valley and alternative power developed so that "Hetch Hetchy could be restored to

its former glory." The proposal could cost anywhere from \$500 million to \$1.6 billion.

Tom Graff, the California regional director for Environmental Defense, applauded Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration for responding to the proposal.

"Secretary Chrisman's letter is a significant step forward, but now comes the difficult task of getting everyone to work together on a study that will win broad public acceptance," Graff said.

Environmental Defense conducted its study using water models provided by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Graff said any decision on the reservoir should involve all communities and interests affected by it.

"I'm still hopeful that city officials, the PUC, the mayor and others will see this as a chance to look carefully at what could be an extraordinary opportunity," he said. #

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/11/12/BAGUT9Q9Q81.D>
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<<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2004/11/12/BAGUT9Q9Q81.D>
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Hetch Hetchy revival revisited
State agencies to investigate the submerged Yosemite National Park valley.
Fresno Bee - 11/12/04
By Mark Grossi, staff writer

Two state agencies will investigate the long-debated revival of a Yosemite National Park valley that has been submerged under San Francisco's reservoir of drinking water for eight decades.

Environmentalists, who have waged tenacious protest against the reservoir at Hetch Hetchy Valley in Central California, celebrated Thursday over the announcement from Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman.

"Secretary Chrisman's letter is a significant step forward," said Tom Graff, regional director of Environmental Defense, which this year issued a study on restoring the valley. "Now comes the difficult task of getting everyone to work together on a study that will win broad public acceptance."

Chrisman's letter was a response to two Assembly Democrats, Joe Canciamilla of Pittsburg and Lois Wolk of Davis, who asked the

Schwarzenegger administration in September to study restoration.

Lawmakers have said any new arrangement would have to satisfy the Bay Area, which has resisted the restoration, and downstream farmers, cities and industries. In his letter, Chrisman said the investigation would need to ensure water and hydroelectricity from Hetch Hetchy would be replaced.

"We are a rapidly growing state and we are struggling with the challenges of improving water-supply reliability and providing reliable power," Chrisman wrote.

It is not clear what role the state would play in a possible restoration. But Chrisman said the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Parks and Recreation would study the issue from all sides.

The mountain reservoir is not large - about two-thirds the size of Millerton Lake near Fresno. Environmentalists believe San Francisco's share of the Tuolumne River can be captured farther downstream from Hetch Hetchy in Don Pedro Reservoir, which is several times larger than Millerton.

But San Francisco's downstream water rights and storage are entwined with Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts in Stanislaus County. Other issues include replacement of hydroelectric power created by powerhouses in the Hetch Hetchy system.

The cost of draining Hetch Hetchy, accommodating the Bay Area's needs and satisfying all the surrounding interests would range from \$500 million to \$1.6 billion, the Environmental Defense study concluded.

For the price, the public would gain a geologic sister of spectacular Yosemite Valley, where millions view Half Dome, El Capitan and Yosemite Falls each year.

Hetch Hetchy was filled with water in 1923 when O'Shaughnessy Dam was completed on the Tuolumne, a tributary of the San Joaquin River.

Iconic conservationist John Muir fought the project, turning it into a national issue that has simmered for decades. On Thursday, Assembly Member Wolk said a restoration would be watched closely across the country.

"How can you not be excited by the notion of another Yosemite Valley?" she asked. "It needs the attention of this governor and his administration, and I'm pleased that it does." #

<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/9417156p-10325878c.html>
<<http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/9417156p-10325878c.html>>

State to examine Hetch Hetchy restoration
Sacramento Bee - 11/12/04
By Herbert A. Sample, staff writer

OAKLAND - The Schwarzenegger administration has decided to assess studies of restoring the submerged Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park, an idea that has been fiercely criticized by San Francisco business and government interests.

The governor's intentions came to light Thursday in a letter sent on his behalf by Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman to two Assembly Democrats who have pushed for a state examination of re-establishing the valley.

Chrisman wrote that the Department of Parks and Recreation would "review the growing body" of studies on Hetch Hetchy, including analyses by Environmental Defense, a conservation group, and the University of California, Davis.

The department also will work with the National Park Service to estimate the parkland value of a restored valley.

Further, the state Department of Water Resources will "consider" the impact on water supply for 2.4 million residents on the San Francisco Peninsula, parts of Santa Clara County and the East Bay who get their water from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, which sits behind the 80-year-old O'Shaughnessy Dam.

"As the various interests discuss the prospect of restoring Hetch Hetchy, we must balance our dreams and aspirations, our limited financial resources, and our need for water and power reliability," Chrisman wrote in the Nov. 8 letter.

Lester Snow, Water Resources director, stressed in an interview that the state will not conduct an exhaustive analysis of restoring Hetch Hetchy, much less take a position on removing the dam.

Rather, he said the two agencies will collect data from studies dating back at least to the 1980s, gather comment and write an assessment within a year.

"Hopefully, we can provide an objective forum where both sides or the many parties that have views on this can provide information and get it treated fairly in our assessment," Snow said.

Restoration advocates hailed the letter as a leap forward for the politically sensitive concept.

"No one has wanted to study the issue. It's been a hot potato," Assemblywoman Lois Wolk, D-Davis, said in an interview. "But this

administration is willing to take a look at it."

Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, D-Pittsburg, said in a statement that he was "very pleased this administration is ready to give this proposal the serious consideration it is due."

Assemblyman Tim Leslie, R-Tahoe City, said the state's first priority must remain water and electricity supplies. "But a prospect as compelling as a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley merits a deep and thorough investigation of all the facts," he added in a statement.

Tom Graff, Environmental Defense's regional director, called the letter "a significant step forward."

In September, the group unveiled a study contending that the water and power provided by the reservoir and dam are replaceable for \$500 million to \$1.65 billion.

Critics of dismantling the dam have vowed to fight restoration, saying it would wreak havoc on Bay Area water and power supplies. San Francisco city government and the Turlock and Modesto irrigation districts use electricity generated at O'Shaughnessy Dam.

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who has long opposed Hetch Hetchy restoration, said in a statement: "I have no problem with a study and will be happy to look at the results. But I can't see a scenario where I would support tearing down" the dam.#

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/11396223p-12310575c.html>
<<http://www.sacbee.com/content/politics/story/11396223p-12310575c.html>>

Removal of Yosemite Dam to Be Studied

A state agency will consider restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley.
Los Angeles Times - 11/12/04
By Lee Romney, staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO - Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's resources secretary has directed his agency to study possible restoration of the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park, giving an unexpected official boost to the controversial idea of dismantling the dam that has been integral to the Bay Area's water supply for more than 80 years.

Mike Chrisman's decision came at the request of Assembly members Lois Wolk (D-Davis) and Joe Canciamilla (D-Pittsburg), and less than two months after the nonprofit group Environmental Defense released a study detailing possible alternatives to the Bay Area's sources of drinking water and hydroelectric power.

In a written response this week to the two legislators, Chrisman said he

has asked the Department of Water Resources to review 20 years' worth of restoration proposals.

He added, "California, its governor and its citizens are committed to economically feasible restoration of ecosystems and preservation of open space. This commitment translates into an interest in reasonable proposals for expanding our trust resources."

The Hetch Hetchy system supplies water to 2.4 million Bay Area customers. Key to that system is the O'Shaughnessy Dam, which submerged the Hetch Hetchy Valley, which many consider Yosemite Valley's once equally beautiful twin, under 300 feet of water in 1923.

Previous proposals to tear down the dam and restore the valley have gone nowhere, and the latest one, by Environmental Defense, was criticized as irresponsible by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), a former mayor of San Francisco, whose support in changing federal law would be critical.

"In a state that has faced repeated droughts and is desperate for water sources, I believe this would be a terrible mistake," she said.

Agencies that own and operate the water system and represent Bay Area consumers also expressed skepticism, stressing that a safe and reliable water source is the region's top priority. The director of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Assn., which represents numerous water agencies in the region, said the group would not support the idea until alternate facilities were operating.

Any solution also would have to involve the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts, which own the Don Pedro Reservoir downstream on the Tuolumne River.

Still, Tom Graff, Environmental Defense's California regional director, said support from the Schwarzenegger administration for further study is a start.

"This is but one step on a long road, but I think it's a significant step," he said. "The state administration has basically said this is worthy of study. We applaud them for agreeing to that and for trying to now herd the other stakeholders and people involved."

In his letter to the two legislators, Chrisman said he also asked the Department of Water Resources to work with the National Park Service to place an economic value on a restored Hetchy Hetchy Valley, which could relieve pressures of heavy visitation on Yosemite Valley.

But the letter struck a cautious note, stressing the state's need for a net increase in water storage. "Any plan to remove or modify existing water storage systems would need to be balanced by a viable plan to, at a minimum, replace the water supply now provided by the Hetch Hetchy

Reservoir," Chrisman wrote. And he warned that the state's study would be of "limited value" unless affected local agencies and federal officials participated.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which runs the Hetch Hetchy system, is beginning a \$3.6-billion overhaul. Restoration backers want environmental studies that must precede the overhaul to examine the possibility of razing the dam.

In its study, Environmental Defense concluded that San Francisco could continue to receive most of its drinking water and hydropower from the Tuolumne River by using the Eleanor, Cherry and Don Pedro reservoirs, also located on the Tuolumne. A pipe connecting Don Pedro to the city's water delivery system would be required.

A recent engineering study by researchers at UC Davis also concluded that Hetch Hetchy was no longer critical to the state's water storage, and that downstream reservoirs, including Don Pedro, could store the same amount of water.

Wolk and Canciamilla, chairman of the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, asked Schwarzenegger in September to pursue a state-sponsored study.

"We urged him ... that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and could be a true legacy," Wolk said, and "that the magnitude of it really required that the state and the governor take the leadership role and do a study to see if this really did make sense."

Wolk said plans for a state-sponsored study, also supported by Assemblyman Tim Leslie (R-Tahoe City), were encouraging.

"No one should be afraid of a full, complete and balanced study," she said. "I encourage everyone to come to the table in good faith to assist the state in preparing a thorough analysis of all the options."#

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STATE PROGRAMS / FUNDING

DWR Offers Prop 40 Urban Stream Restoration Grants

News release, California Department of Water Resources - 11/18/04

SACRAMENTO - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) announces the availability of approximately \$4.6 million in Proposition 40 grant money for Urban Stream Restoration Projects. The deadline for submitting applications for funding is 4 p.m. on January 25, 2005.

Through the Urban Streams Restoration Program (USRP), DWR provides grants to local communities for multi-objective projects that reduce flooding and bank erosion, improve the environmental values of streams

and promote community stewardship.

USRP requires co-sponsorship on all projects by a local agency and local community group. Types of projects funded in past years include: creek cleanups, invasive vegetation control, revegetation and bioengineering bank stabilization projects. Others are reconfiguration of channels to improve geomorphic function, daylighting of culverted streams, acquisitions of floodplain land, and removal of flood prone structures. The grant cap is currently \$1 million per project, with the average grant size totaling \$350,000.

Grants for such restoration projects have been offered since the mid 1980's, when funds were first made available. Since the passage of Proposition 13 in 2000, USRP has provided approximately \$21 million in grants for 63 projects statewide. The current application cycle is a one time offering of Proposition 40 funding. No additional grant funds have been identified for USRP at this time.

For more information see

www.watershedrestoration.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/

<outbind://10/www.watershedrestoration.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/> or call Sara Denzler at (916) 651-9625. #