

Ballot Simplification Committee (DRAFT for Consideration on Thursday, August 2, 2012)

Water and Environment Plan [working title]

The Way It Is Now:

San Francisco owns the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System (Water System) which provides water to 2.6 million people in San Francisco and neighboring areas. Reservoirs in the water system collect water from the Tuolumne river and Bay Area watersheds.

The Water System's largest reservoir is in Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley. San Francisco created the reservoir by damming the Tuolumne River in 1923. 85% of the water delivered by the Water System comes from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir. The water that flows from the reservoir also generates hydroelectric power for City services.

In 2002, the voters of San Francisco authorized a \$4.6 billion project to improve the Water System and to develop additional groundwater, water recycling and storage for the System.

The Proposal:

Proposition ___ would require the City to prepare a two-phase plan.

The first phase would identify:

- Replacement water supply options
- Expanded water filtration facilities for drinking water
- Additional renewable energy sources to replace the reduction in hydroelectric power resulting from draining the Hetch Hetchy reservoir

The second phase would establish a plan to:

- Stop using Hetch Hetchy Reservoir
- Increase flows on the Tuolumne River
- Decrease stormwater discharge into the Bay and Ocean

Proposition ___ would require a task force to complete the plan by November 2015 and require the Board of Supervisors to consider proposing a Charter Amendment to implement the plan.

The Proposition would appropriate up to \$8 million to pay for the plan.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want the City to prepare a plan to drain Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and identify replacement water and renewable energy sources.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you want the City to retain its current water supply at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.