

Ballot Simplification Committee
FINAL Approved Digest: Packard, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen, Unruh - 11:39 a.m.
on Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Requests for Reconsideration were due Friday, August 3, by 12:00 p.m.

Water and Environment Plan *(working title only, subject to change)*

The Way It Is Now:

San Francisco owns the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System (Water System), which provides water to about 2.5 million people in San Francisco and neighboring areas. Water System reservoirs 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. The reservoir was created in 1923 by damming the Tuolumne River. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir delivers 85% of the System's water. The water that flows from the reservoir also generates hydroelectric power for City services.

In 2002, the voters of San Francisco authorized the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to implement a \$4.6 billion project to improve the Water System, including \$334 million to develop additional groundwater, conservation, and recycled water supplies. The project is nearing completion.

The Proposal:

Proposition ___ would require the City to prepare a two-phase plan to evaluate how to drain the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and identify replacement water and power sources. The implementation of this plan would require voter approval.

The first phase would identify:

- new water supply and storage options;
- additional water conservation opportunities;
- expanded water filtration facilities; and
- additional renewable energy sources to replace the reductions in hydroelectric power resulting from draining the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

The second phase would evaluate how to:

- drain the Hetch Hetchy Valley and stop using it as a reservoir so that it can be restored by the National Park Service;
- increase flows on the lower Tuolumne River; and

- decrease storm water discharge into the bay and the ocean.

Proposition __ would allocate \$8 million to pay for the plan and create a five-member task force to develop it.

Proposition __ would require the task force to complete the plan by November 1, 2015, and require the Board of Supervisors to consider placing on the ballot a Charter Amendment to approve the plan.

A "YES" Vote Means: If you vote "yes," you want to require the City to prepare a two-phase plan that evaluates how to drain the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and identifies replacement water and power sources.

A "NO" Vote Means: If you vote "no," you do not want the City to prepare this plan.

word count: 349 [suggested word limit: 300]