

**Ballot Simplification Committee - DRAFT for Consideration on Thursday, August 2, 2012**

**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. San Francisco created the reservoir by damming the Tuolumne River in 1923. The Hetch Hetchy Reservoir supplies approximately 85% of Water System water and also generates hydroelectric power for City purposes. Reservoirs in Alameda County and the Peninsula provide additional water. San Francisco does not filter Hetch Hetchy water but treats and tests it over 100,000 times annually.

San Francisco is currently undertaking a \$4.6 billion project to improve the Water System and develop additional groundwater, conservation, and reclaimed water supplies.

**The Proposal:**

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

The first phase would identify:

- additional local water supply options, including increased groundwater use, water recycling, storm water harvesting, gray water systems, and conservation;
- expanded water treatment systems to filter all drinking water supplies;
- additional regional water supply options, including storage, purchase, and conservation; and
- alternative renewable energy sources.

The second phase would evaluate how to:

- increase flows on the lower Tuolumne River;
- decrease storm water discharge into the Bay and the Ocean; and
- stop using Hetch Hetchy Valley as a reservoir so it could be restored as part of Yosemite National Park.

The plan would include timelines to implement the first phase by 2025 and the second phase by 2035.

Proposition \_\_\_ would create a five-member task force to develop the plan. The members would be the PUC General Manager, the General Manager of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, and three experts appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Proposition \_\_\_ would require the task force to complete the plan by November 1, 2015, and require the Board of Supervisors to consider proposing a Charter Amendment to implement the plan.

The Board of Supervisors could amend Proposition \_\_\_, without further voter approval, to advance the purpose and intent of the measure.

**A "YES" Vote Means:** If you vote "yes," you want the City to prepare a two-phase plan that would (1) identify additional water and renewable energy sources, and (2) propose environmental restoration projects, including how to stop using the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

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

word count: 406 [suggested word limit: 300]