

## Process Paper

We've always been interested in the environment. When this year's NHD theme, rights and responsibilities was announced, we wanted to learn how the demand of rights for human benefits conflicts with environmental responsibilities. My brother and I researched possible topics and learned about animal habitat loss due to humans. Throughout our research, we learned how dams cause habitat loss for humans, local flora, and fauna, and how they are no longer considered “clean energy” by many scientists.

While watching documentaries about the history, benefits, and consequences of dams, we discovered the Hetch Hetchy (O'Shaughnessy) Dam controversy. We chose this topic because of our personal connection to California's water challenges, having lived in both San Francisco and Southern California. We wanted to explore California's water history and understand why our state built so many dams.

Since this has been a controversial topic for over a century, we were able to find quality primary and secondary sources from the Library of Congress, National Archives, and San Francisco Public Library. Our best secondary source is a video titled "Hetch Hetchy: To Restore or Not," which shows different perspectives about Hetch Hetchy Dam. Our favorite primary source is a touching article titled "John Muir is Dead," discussing John Muir's life and dedication to National Parks, including Yosemite. We read many long and challenging reports and legal documents, forcing tough choices about which sources to include. Through our research, we learned how Pinchot's conservationism promoted utilizing the environment responsibly for

humanity, and how preservationists like Muir fought to protect natural spaces from development. Both influenced the Hetch Hetchy Controversy.

We designed our website to reflect this year's theme: Rights and Responsibilities. We used blue colors and custom code to create water-filling navigation buttons highlighting San Francisco's water rights. We used jumping fish animations to represent the environment and programmed each header to transition between green and white, symbolizing a heart beat and revitalization of nature through collective effort. We used a Tuolumne River map in our headers to show the Hetch Hetchy water system and implemented custom code to make engaging image sliders to make the website feel less cluttered.

Water is an essential element for all life on Earth, including humans. San Francisco's demand for water rights is completely reasonable, though it comes at the cost of not only limiting public access to Yosemite National Park but also harming the ecosystem and raising concerns about environmental responsibilities. Our argument is about how we can balance these rights and responsibilities. The Hetch Hetchy Dam controversy is still ongoing, even nearly a century after the dam's completion. Many are demanding the undamming of Hetch Hetchy for human enjoyment, despite potential environmental consequences.

Our topic is significant in history because the Hetch Hetchy Dam controversy led to the creation of the National Park Service (NPS), which helps balance human rights and environmental responsibilities using the scientific method. We hope the NPS, governmental, and nonprofit organizations continue working together towards a sustainable environment for future generations.