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HETCH HETCHY WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WSIP FACTS:

- The WSIP is one of the largest water capital programs in the country.
- A US Geological Survey predicts a 63 percent chance of a major earthquake in the Bay Area within the next 30 years.
- Parts of the Hetch Hetchy water system are more than 100 years old.
- Construction of the program's largest projects will take place between 2009 and 2014.
- On average, each project will undergo extensive project-specific environmental reviews and will require four to five permits from regulatory environmental agencies before moving forward.
- Within our Alameda Watershed, SFPUC hosts one of three nesting pairs of bald eagles within the region and constructed three special nesting platforms for our resident pair to minimize impacts during upcoming construction.
- WSIP projects are projected to create nearly 28,000 jobs and nearly 11,000,000 craft hours.



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Rebuilding
today for a
better
tomorrow.

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AN AGING SYSTEM CROSSING THREE MAJOR EARTHQUAKE FAULTS

Built in the early to mid-1900s, many parts of the Hetch Hetchy water system are nearing the end of their working life, with critical portions crossing over or near three major earthquake faults - Calaveras, Hayward and San Andreas.

A significant earthquake on any of these faults could cause a catastrophic system failure, with no water service to some areas for up to 30 days, if not more.

"Nothing less than the public health and safety of 2.5 million people and the economic viability of the Bay Area depend on the successful completion of the Water System Improvement Program."

- Ed Harrington, SFPUC General Manager

People, places and the economy of the San Francisco Bay Area depend on a reliable water system. That is why the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is rapidly moving forward with the **Water System Improvement Program (WSIP)**.

Launched in 2002 by the SFPUC - in partnership with our 27 wholesale customers throughout the Bay Area - this program will repair, replace and seismically upgrade the aging water system to ensure that water continues to flow to our 2.5 million customers in the counties of San Francisco, Alameda, Santa Clara and San Mateo.

The program is made up of 85 separate construction projects - 50 of which are located in the region extending from San Francisco to Tuolumne County. The remaining 35 are within the City of San Francisco.

"Although the Hetch Hetchy water system is truly an engineering marvel, some critical elements are seismically vulnerable. It is not a matter of if, but when a major earthquake strikes—we are truly in a race against time."

- Julie Labonte, Director, Water System Improvement Program

REBUILDING IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NEIGHBORHOOD-FRIENDLY MANNER

The SFPUC has designed these projects at the outset to minimize impacts as much as possible to neighboring communities as well as the natural habitat.

The use of less intrusive construction methods and careful coordination of our work hours and schedules will enable project teams to reduce construction impacts in nearby communities. The SFPUC is working closely with state and federal regulatory agencies to protect and enhance the precious natural resources near these projects.

It is our policy to protect and restore viable populations of native species, and maintain the integrity of the ecosystems that support them for current and future generations.

The **Water System Improvement Program** will:

- Ensure you receive the highest quality water.
- Strengthen our system to deliver water after an earthquake.
- Provide redundancy in case of an emergency or for system maintenance.
- Develop new sources of groundwater and recycled water.
- Provide improvements related to water supply and drought protection.
- Protect the natural and human environment through comprehensive environmental planning.

