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John Muir

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HETCH HETCHY INVADERS.

John Muir Asks That Their Bill Be Not Rushed Through Congress.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

The Yosemite National Park is not only the greatest and most wonderful national playground in California, but in some of its features it is without a rival in the whole world—its silver fir and sequoia forests, its twin songful rivers, and its twin Yosemite.

It belongs to the American people and should be protected as do Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

The headwaters of the two rivers embraced within its boundaries are the Merced and the Tuolumne. The Yosemite Valley is in the Merced Basin; the Hetch Hetchy Valley, the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne, and the Tuolumne Meadows are in the Tuolumne Basin.

Excepting only the Yosemite Valley, the Tuolumne Basin in its general features is more wonderful and larger half of the park.

San Francisco may be in immediate need of an increased supply of water, but her own engineers admit that the present supply can be more than doubled by adding to nearby sources, and this plan in any case will have to be followed, for years will be required to bring water to the city from any of the Sierra sources.

The Advisory Board of Army Engineers is of the opinion that there are several sources of water supply which could be obtained and used by the City of San Francisco and adjacent communities to supplement the near-by supplies as the necessity develops.

From any one of these sources the water is sufficient in quantity, and can be made, suitable in quality.

San Francisco may obtain abundance of pure water from other sources than the Tuolumne Hetch. So important a bill should not be rushed through Congress without mature consideration, and time allowed for its opponents to be heard.

San Francisco would be unjust to the American people. Therefore, in behalf of all who appreciate our mountain parks and believe that they should be preserved, we call on you to aid us in postponing consideration of this destructive bill until the next regular session of Congress.

JOHN MUIR.

San Francisco, Cal., July 15, 1913.