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1907-09-19

Letter from John Muir to [Charles A.] Keeler, 1907 Sep 19.

John Muir

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Martinez, Sep. 19/07

Dear Mr Keeler:

As no doubt you have seen by the newspapers, Mr Phelan & the S. F. Supervisors are trying to get the use of Hetch Hetchy Valley for a reservoir for city water supply. Their application to the Secretary should be denied because Hetch Hetchy is a wonderful counterpart of Yosemite with the same grand walls similar in form & sculpture, with falls gardens groves meadows etc. To dam it would be as destructive & deplorable in its effects on the Park as damming Yosemite itself. For not only would it be rendered utterly inaccessible but the way up the Canyon of the Park to the grand Central Camp ground of the volume would be blocked. The great National Park should be kept free in pure wildness forever. Please write to Secretary Garfield at

Washington if you are
like minded on the subject
& as soon as possible
as the case is to be
decided perhaps within
less than a month.
All sorts of untrue
statements are being
made by the promoters
If you can spare the time
to see Mr Colby or Prof
Le Conte. You could
get particulars

With kindest regards
to you Charlie & your
darlings & the Bunnys
& Symonds I am
Faithfully Yours

John Muir
Come & see us there five days