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1907-11-07

Letter from John Muir to [Robert Underwood] Johnson, 1907 Nov 7.

John Muir

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**Recommended Citation**

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Martinez, Nov. 7, 1907.

Dear Mr Johnson

I don't know anything about Mr Bourne although I have often heard that the Hetch Hetchy & other Sierra water schemes were not made in good faith but as weapons of attack on the Spring Valley Co for pecuniary purposes. Every mention of Sierra water in the press always had something about the purchase of Spring Valley connected with it. Anyhow the call for Hetch Hetchy as a reservoir comes not from the citizens of S. F. but from Mr. Phelan & his few hired promoters & pleaders--such as Marsden Manson & Warren Olney. Strange that anything so important to the world should have so small & mean a cause.

A few weeks ago I took Keith into Hetchy. He made 38 sketches & says that in fine picturesque park like beauty it surpasses Yosemite. I have no news from Washington but hope more time will be given us to get light cast on the matter. Most everything Phelan & his assistants say about the Valley is untrue or only partly true. I suppose my going to Washington would be useless. Cherry Valley & other basins on Cherry Creek outside the Park on the north could be made available for a city water supply even purer than Hetch Hetchy & in far greater abundance than will be required for generations

Thanks for your ever faithful help

John Muir

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