



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
Mountain View, CA 94041

January 31, 2016

City Council
City of Mountain View

Re: Agenda Item 7.1, February 2, 2016: Agreement with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Regarding Hetch Hetchy Properties

Honorable Mayor Showalter and Members of the City Council:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning, a group of Mountain View residents concerned with our city's sustainability, would like to comment on item 7.1 - Agreement with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Regarding Hetch Hetchy Properties.

We are delighted that Staff has reached an understanding on an MOA with the SFPUC for licensing consistency of Hetch Hetchy parcels in our city for public use, especially to create Fayette Park and improve the Rex Manor property. This has been a long and difficult process.

However, based on our reading of the Council Report, we think certain terms of the agreement need to be clarified before it is signed, as it will be very important in the future to understand very precisely what is being agreed to.

1) Tree removals: "The proposed MOA requires that the City remove 27 trees located on SFPUC parcels or in the public right-of-way..."

Does this refer only to currently licensed parcels and the public right-of-way, or to all SFPUC land in Mountain View? Must all trees on these parcels be removed, or just ones that the SFPUC judges hazardous to their operations? The "General" section, two sections below that, says that "no trees may be planted", meaning there will be no new trees, including in a "park", but what about existing trees?

2) "Finally, the SFPUC is requesting the City's assistance and cooperation in any future efforts and communications with third parties to remove structures, trees, and shrubs from other SFPUC parcels not licensed to the City but within City limits, if it determines their presence violates the SFPUC's Encroachment and Vegetation Policies."

Does this open-ended agreement mean that any tree, structure, or shrub (shrubs were not previously mentioned, only trees) on the Hetch Hetchy right-of-way anywhere in the City is now subject to removal? Does Staff know how many existing trees or shrubs might be impacted in the long run?

3) Bicycles. The "General" section says that "...no new bike trails are allowed on the SFPUC property". What is a "bike trail"? Does the term imply paving? Do we currently have any existing or planned "bike trails" on SFPUC property? If so, where are they and how are they constructed? Specifically, what are the implications for the Permanente Creek Trail?

We are concerned that this will discourage bicycling in some of the very places it would most benefit our residents, including school-age residents.

Have these SFPUC policies been applied with similar terms to their property in any other city, or are they unique to Mountain View?

Thank you for considering our comments. We hope that these matters can be clarified at the February 2 Council meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron Grossman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aaron Grossman
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc: Jacqueline Andrews Solomon, Jannie L. Quinn, Michael A. Fuller, Daniel H. Rich