

Saving the Bay

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed people can change the world, indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



Overview

The current protections afforded to San Francisco Bay are a result of

concerted public pressure, governmental regulation, and organized action. Through this activity students will understand the role of the citizen in a democracy, by investigating historical figures who affected change, primarily the three women who founded Save The Bay. San Francisco Bay historically was seen as a garbage dump, an empty space to be filled, and unrealized real estate. In the early 1960s there were plans being considered that would have dramatically altered the size and health of the Bay. Students will read several articles to distinguish the various points of view and the issues that were at stake in the late 1960s. Students will also explore a successful citizen action that brought significant change to the Bay Area.

Estimated Time

Approximately one hour in class and a one-hour homework assignment.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- describe how civil society makes it possible for individuals or groups to bring influence to bear on government.
- explain the political history of San Francisco Bay in the 1960s and how democracies rely upon active individuals.

Materials

For each student: photocopies of student pages, articles, and calls to action



California Science Content Standards Grades 9-12

Earth Sciences Standard Set 9.c: the importance of water to society, the origins of California’s fresh water, and the relationship between supply and need.

Investigation and Experimentation m: investigate a science-based societal issue by researching the literature, analyzing data, and communicating the findings. Examples include . . . land and water use decisions in California.

California History/Social Science Content Standards Grades 9-12

Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills

Chronological and Spatial Thinking

1. Students compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determining the lessons that were learned.

Historical Interpretation

3. Students interpret past events and issues within the context in which an event unfolded rather than solely in terms of present-day norms and values.
4. Students understand the meaning, implication, and impact of historical events and recognize that events could have taken other directions.
5. Students analyze human modifications of landscapes and examine the resulting

environmental policy issues.

Grade 11

Standard 11.11.5: Trace the impact of, need for, and controversies associated with environmental conservation, expansion of the national park system, and the development of environmental protection laws, with particular attention to the interaction between environmental protection and property rights.

Grade 12

Standard 12.3.2: how civil society makes it possible for people, individually or in association with others, to bring their influence to bear on government in ways other than voting and elections

Standard 12.7.5: how public policy is formed, including the setting of the public agenda and how it is carried out through regulations and executive orders

Standard 12.7.6: the process of lawmaking at each of the three levels of government, including the role of lobbying and the media

Standard 12.8.1: the meaning and importance of a free and responsible press

English/Language Arts Content Standards Grades 9-12

Reading Comprehension

2.0 Students read and understand grade-level appropriate material.

Writing Strategies

1.0 Students write coherent and focused essays that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument.

Listening and Speaking Strategies

1.0 Students deliver focused and coherent presentations of their own that convey clear and distinct perspectives and solid reasoning.

Teacher Procedure

1. Place students in groups of three or four. Each student receives a packet of articles, a copy of the student pages, and a copy of the quotes.
2. Students should read “They’re Filling in San Francisco Bay” individually and work

as a group to answer Part I questions. Ask each group to report on their answer to question 3 in Part I (is the author biased?).

3. Students should individually read “Diagnosis of San Francisco Bay” and work as a group to answer Part II questions. Ask each group to report on their answer to question 3 in Part II (a metaphor they would use to protect the Bay).
4. Students should individually read “Powerful ‘Tea Ladies’ want help saving the Bay” and the attached quotes and respond to Part III, either in class or as a homework assignment.

Extensions:

1. In a group, students identify an issue they think is important to their community. After an issue has been selected, students will work to devise a strategy to meet their goals. The strategy should have several components: community outreach, identification of political allies and mission statement.
2. Students research the political history of San Francisco Bay and how the Bay Conservation and Development Commission came into existence. Students present a research paper illustrating the issues, controversies, and resolutions surrounding Bay protection. Students also illustrate current issues affecting San Francisco Bay: fill, airport expansion, non-native species, loss of wetlands, pollutants.

Resources

“The Saving of San Francisco Bay” Rice Odell, The Conservation Foundation 1972.

“Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Bay: The Struggle to Save San Francisco Bay” Harrold Gilliam, Chronicle Books, 1969.

“Bay in Peril” by Jane Kay, A Special Reprint of the *San Francisco Examiner*, 1993.

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Part I

Facts are the basis of newspaper stories. Facts are also used to sway the general public to reach certain conclusion. Individually, read “They’re Filling in San Francisco Bay” from the Christian Science Monitor, written in 1967. Newspaper articles often betray a bias through the facts chosen or the quotes given.

1. Find the following facts in the article:

Between the Gold Rush and 1967, how much of San Francisco Bay was lost to fill? _____

What percentage of this remaining amount of Bay was in private ownership in 1967? _____

2. The author of the article is reporting on “a clash between the needs of a growing community and the desire to preserve an irreplaceable resource.” List the supporting facts given for each position.

<u>Bay Fill Is Needed</u>

<u>Bay Fill Is a Problem</u>

3. Based on the number of facts supporting each position, does the author show a bias and if so what is it?

4. The Christian Science Monitor article was one way that individuals inspired others to get involved and take action on behalf of the Bay. In the article, find three other ways that inspired activists took action to protect the Bay.

Part II

Metaphors communicate through association taking something familiar and using that to explain the unfamiliar. A metaphor helps create reality without stating the reality literally. For instance, we talk about the “head” of organizations and everyone understands the metaphor without it needing to be explained that the person in charge directs the organization like the brain directs the body.

The choice of association depends upon the intent of the metaphor. On your own, read the following article “Diagnosis of San Francisco Bay” for the use of metaphors in creating the argument that the Bay should be saved. As a group, answer the following questions:

1. What is the metaphor and do you think it is a good association for the Bay?
2. What is the purpose of the metaphor?
3. Choose another metaphor for San Francisco Bay that supports saving the Bay. Write your metaphor below and be prepared to share it with the class.

Part III

Individually, read the article “Powerful Tea Ladies Want Help Saving the Bay.”

1. What inspired the founders of Save The Bay to take action?

Now read the “Calls to Action” page and on your own answer the next two questions.

1. Which of the quotes would have most inspired you to take action? Why?
2. Is there anything in your life that would inspire you to take action in the political arena? Write an essay about an issue that would inspire you to act and what you would do to protect or support the idea you have chosen.

They're filling in San Francisco Bay

Saturday, May 6, 1967

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

Californians are worried about plans for extensive land reclamation in the Bay Area. They have been told that land fill on the scale proposed would tamper with the tidal and biological mechanisms. Here is a report on a clash between the needs of a growing community and the desire to preserve an irreplaceable resource.

By Kimmis Hendrick

Staff correspondent of *The Christian Science Monitor*

San Francisco

WHO OWNS SAN FRANCISCO BAY?

Anybody looking out over the Bay from Nob Hill might answer, "Why, everybody!" But it isn't that simple.

Getting a precise answer now is urgent. Proposals for extensive land fill could reduce big parts of the Bay, by United States Army Engineers calculations, to the dimensions of a river (see map). One proposal would make land about the size of Manhattan Island.

Thanks to informed citizen concern, the state has started researching the problem. The 1965 Legislature established the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and gave it clear commitments. Now the commission is studying ownership, pollution threats, and shore-development possibilities. Its charge is to provide "a comprehensive and enforceable plan."

Citizens organized

The bill proposing the commission was authored by State Sen. Eugene McAteer of San Francisco and Assemblyman (now State Senator) Nicholas C. Petris, both Democrats.

They had backing largely because Mrs. Clark Kerr, wife of the former president of the University of California, working with some of her Berkeley neighbors, had already formed the Save San Francisco Bay Association. The association now has 10,000 dues-paying members (\$1 a year) from all over the Bay Area.

They backed Senator McAteer and As-

semblyman Petris by writing to legislators. Some of them even sent bags of sand. They attached cards to the bags that read, "You'll wonder where the water went if you fill the Bay with sediment." So did a multitude of other citizens.

Filling has been going on, for almost 100 years, with nobody's noticing.

San Francisco's whole financial district below Montgomery Street is on land that was once under water. More recent fills have produced Hunters Point, the San Francisco International Airport, and considerable Alameda County shore land.

Ownership debated

When the '49-ers came to San Francisco during the Gold Rush, the Bay—consisting of what are known as San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun Bays—covered about 680 square miles.

Today this water complex, famed the world over as one of the American continent's magnificent scenic treasures, covers only some 400 square miles.

Its ownership pattern represents questions that have hardly ever been raised until the present time. Private owners say they own 25 percent, including most of the shallow areas near the shore. The state says it owns about 50 percent. The state has granted another 20 percent to the cities and counties around the edge. The remaining 5 percent apparently belongs to the federal government.

"The question in all this now," says Mrs. Kerr, "is whether the state has the right to dispose of major parts of such a body of

water. It also involves questions of federal trust for fishing and navigation—as well as questions of protecting the rights and health of future generations."

Currently the ownership question is focused on a vast undertaking organized in 1963 as Pacific Air Commerce Center (PACC). It was initiated by the Crocker Land Company, the Ideal Cement Company, and David Rockefeller to join with the City of San Francisco in the development and expansion of its airport.

Warren T. Lindquist, PACC president, recently stated that since the city intends to develop the airport by itself, PACC will devote itself to developing its extensive properties. Mr. Lindquist describes these as consisting "primarily of tidelands along San Francisco Bay, extending generally south from the airport to the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge."

PACC, which has just restyled itself Westbay Community Associates, contemplates a gigantic fill program that will yield industrial sites, commercial areas, and major residential developments.

Report awaited

In the course of a recent radio discussion, ecologist George Treichel of San Francisco State College expressed regret that the Rockefeller family is involved in the Westbay proposal. The Rockefellers, Professor Treichel commented, have made great contributions to conservation.

But Mr. Lindquist responded that the Rockefellers have also been active in business. "Many of us forget that it is business which makes all the rest of this possible."

For the time being, such a project necessarily remains in the planning stage. The state's Conservation and Development Commission is to file a final report in January, 1969. Until that time, it has control over permitting fills and extractions from the Bay, and this control is keyed to the concept that further Bay development must not be haphazard.

But the PACC, or now Westbay Associates, plan has enthusiastic supporters as well as critics. It raises questions for both; and the state commission, which is concerned only with objective research in the interests of the whole area, is studying them.

"It isn't a question of good guys vs. bad guys," comments Joseph E. Bodovitz, executive director of the state commission.

"Advocates of filling in the shallow land

(CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE)

will argue that the economic welfare of the Bay Area depends on the creation of this new land. They will say it is needed for many of the same purposes for which filling has taken place in the past—wharves, airports, roadways, homes, offices, factories, and so on.

"So the question is," Mr. Bodovitz points out, "To what extent must they be provided at the expense of the Bay?"

This is a big question. For example, Dr. H. Thomas Harvey, professor of biology at San Jose State College, has prepared a study on the Bay's marshes and mud flats.

Dr. Harvey points out that the mud flats provide oxygen in the water, preventing stagnation in the big southern parts of the Bay where pollution is already a serious problem. Army Engineers reckon that if sewage had to be piped directly to the sea from this region—instead of being emptied into the Bay as it is now—the minimum cost would be \$700 million.

Smog predicted

Another study made for the state commission, this one by Dr. Albert Miller, professor of meteorology at San Jose State College, raises questions about smog and weather.

If 25 percent of the existing Bay water surface is finally eliminated, his study says, the following effects could be expected:

Cooling summer breezes, coming in through the Golden Gate, would not blow as far south and east as they do now.

Temperatures would rise over the Bay Area. San Jose's summer temperature would increase at an average maximum about five degrees—to an average maximum of 86 degrees in July.

More smog would occur.

Winter fogs would become more frequent. They would be more dense.

One concerned citizen, Palo Alto attorney Paul F. McCloskey Jr., says a thorough study of the legal questions involved in Bay ownership will cement the conclusion that the people have a right to protect that great intangible—natural beauty.

Mr. McCloskey was retained some while back by people interested in a project called Redwood Shores. His researches took him to Washington. He found that areas of interest to his clients had been designated by the 1858 Geodetic Survey as "navigable sloughs."

California law, Mr. McCloskey points out, states that all navigable waters belong to the people—unconditionally.

"The basic problem," Mr. McCloskey comments, "is the perfectly proper chamber-of-commerce view that new industry—with new people—must be developed, versus the view of people who came here because the area is beautiful and they want to keep it that way.

"Many of us," he smiles, "are refugees from Los Angeles smog."

But there is another factor, as Mr. Bodovitz emphasizes. Time was when converting a mud flat into solid ground was called "reclamation," and nobody saw any harm in doing it piecemeal.

Modern thinking regards any such structure as San Francisco Bay as a system. Dr. Harvey calls it "a single physical mechanism." A fill here may harm the weather there. Turning mud flats into sites for factories in one place may smother another place with smog.

San Francisco Bay seems unique among the country's big ones because of its narrow opening. The Golden Gate acts almost

like a fixed control on tidal action. Dr. Harvey and Mrs. Kerr both point to the probability that any tampering with tides inside the Bay has got to be worked out in terms of this fact.

This system approach holds as true for Chesapeake Bay on the East Coast, apparently, as for San Francisco Bay on the West.

L. Eugene Cronin, from the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory at the University of Maryland, recently referred to changes along that body of water which can be "destructive to the efficiency of the system." He was addressing the recent North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

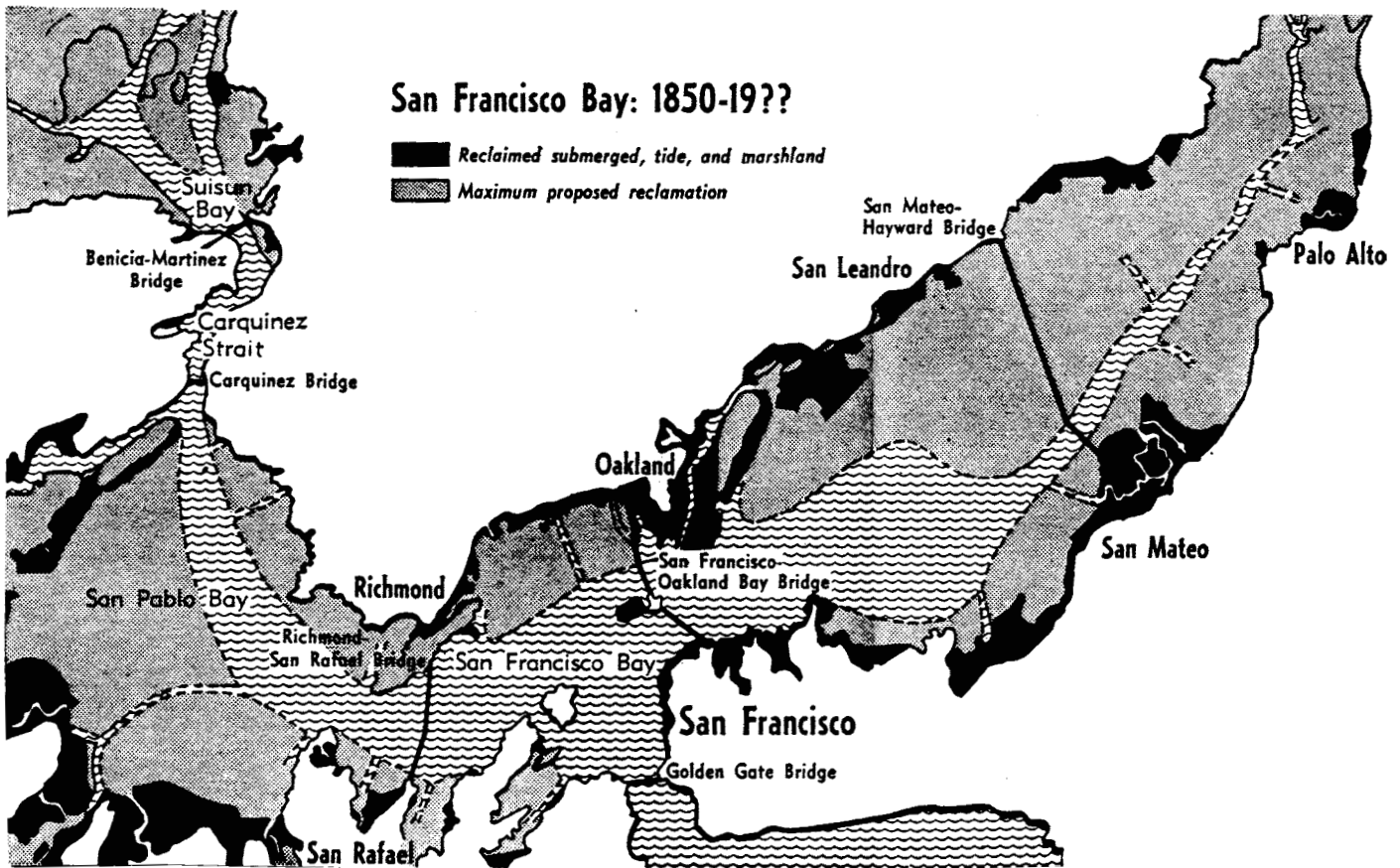
"Public concern appears to be increasing," he noted, "and this is desirable if somewhat unreliable."

Region's major asset

So far as San Francisco Bay goes, everybody agrees it is the region's major asset. Some local government officials and developers see its value in a yield of new land for industry. Other people say its scenic and natural advantages are beyond price. The Save San Francisco Bay Association argues that inland California has lots of room—and a crying need—for industry.

It is significant that California's new Governor, Ronald Reagan, has appointed the president of the Save San Francisco Bay Association as director of state parks and recreation. This is William Penn Mott Jr.

Mr. Mott points out that in his new position he must be as objective as the state commission itself. He does not hesitate to concede that a Bay-development project might be "very valid" if looked at just by itself. He is obviously deeply committed, however, to the view that San Francisco Bay presents a challenge to view such a resource in a broader context.



Diagnosis of San Francisco Bay

Freedom News, May, 1969

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY COMMUNITY

Over five million people share the lands sloping down to the Bay's gentle wash. This community is clumped around the Bay which breathes twice a day, drawing in fresh oxygen-rich water from the sea beyond the Golden Gate. Such a dependable supply of oxygen once supported a wide variety of marine life, both in the Bay and in extensive salt marshes. But we have not understood the Bay, neither how it functions nor its role in the ecology of the Bay Region. And so we are now destroying the very thing that is responsible for our living here.

As a coal miner's lungs slowly fill up with the life-depriving particles, so we are filling up the Bay. The process begins in the farthest reaches first and gradually lowers the efficiency of the whole lung until a critical period is reached and death settles the whole issue.

Putrifaction within our Bay will be the result of more filling, reduced water flow and reduced quality from the delta area, and dumping more organic materials (sewage and garbage) into the Bay. But, we don't fill the Bay ourselves, we pay others to do it for us. We pay them to dilute our sewage and pump it into the Bay through a submerged pipe. We pay them to collect our trash and garbage and throw it away into the Bay's waters. Reclaimable materials and the Bay itself are both destroyed by this expedient, ignorant practice.

We have already filled more than one-third of the Bay. The Bay Area as a geographical entity may soon cease to exist. Would you prefer to drive over to the other side on the Bridge above the Bay's open waters or on a steel scaffold above miles of industrial development with attendant smoke, smells and ugliness?

Each sighting of the Bay and thought of it is vitally important to us in ways we do not completely understand. It is more than just an urban planner's 'open space', it has moods and movements, and we cannot possess it.

Powerful 'Tea Ladies' want help saving the Bay

The saviors of '61 turn task over to others

By JANE KAY

EXAMINER ENVIRONMENTAL WRITER

Three East Bay women, well-connected, intelligent and stubborn, saved the Bay 30 years ago.

Cajoling, didactic and single-minded, they preached an end to filling the Bay.

They stopped golf courses, malls and high-rises proposed on new Bay fill by powerful landowners like the Santa Fe railroad. They got politicians elected and laws passed, one of which spawned the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Now the "Tea Ladies," Esther Gulick, 81, Kay Kerr, 81, and Sylvia McLaughlin, 76, who met as UC-Berkeley faculty wives, want others to save it again.

"The Bay is never really saved," says McLaughlin, who retired in January as president of Save San Francisco Bay Association. "Kay likes to say the Bay is always in the process of being saved."

Now, McLaughlin says, "Others must fight for water quality, fresh water coming into the Bay, public access to recreation and against the continued threats of the Peripheral Canal, filling and toxics."

Gulick, Kerr and McLaughlin banded together in 1961, shocked into action by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map showing what the Bay would be like in 2020 — if the corps drained marshland, filled in

open water and promoted construction.

The map, Gulick noted then, showed "an awful" future: one narrow river flowing from the Delta to the ocean.

"Bay or River?" was how the trio tagged the corps map, before mailing it out to attract

members for the new Save San Francisco Bay Association.

They all loved San Francisco Bay, remembers Kay Kerr, whose husband Clark Kerr was UC president at the time.

"We all had beautiful Bay views, and we were looking out on garbage dumps. At the time, there were 41 smoking garbage dumps at the edge of the Bay. We thought of

what someone had told us: When you have three people, you can accomplish miracles."

McLaughlin says, "We couldn't stand the Bay just to be filled in for garbage and future development. Berkeley had a plan to fill in more than 2,000 acres of open water. Those at the City Hall and the city manager thought it was a great idea. My colleagues and I thought open water was more important.

"Visually this is one of the most beautiful places in the world," McLaughlin says. "The price of saving the Bay will always be the eternal vigilance of concerned citizens."

BAY OR RIVER ?



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers map shocked women into action.

Calls to Action in the United States

Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson in 1962

“For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals from the moment of conception until death. ... These chemicals are now stored in the bodies of the vast majority of human beings, regardless of age. They occur in the mother’s milk, and probably in the tissues of the unborn child.”

“If the Bill of Rights contains no guarantee that a citizen shall be secure against lethal poisons distributed either by private individuals or by public officials, it is surely only because our forefathers, despite their considerable wisdom and foresight, could conceive of no such problem,”

Civil Disobedience, by Henry David Thoreau

“Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavor to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Men, generally, under such a government as this, think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that, if they should resist, the remedy would be worse than the evil...”

“All men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and to resist, the government, when its tyranny or its inefficiency are great and unendurable. But almost all say that such is not the case now. ... when a sixth of the population of a nation which has undertaken to be the refuge of liberty are slaves, and a whole country is unjustly overrun and conquered by a foreign army, and subjected to military law, I think that it is not too soon for honest men to rebel and revolutionize.”

Abigail Adams, letter to her husband, John Adams, second President of the United States

“...remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

I Have a Dream, by Martin Luther King, Jr., Delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., August 28, 1963

“We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God’s children. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

“It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negro’s legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.”

The Hetch Hetchy Valley, by John Muir in the Sierra Club Bulletin in January, 1908

“It is impossible to overestimate the value of wild mountains and mountain temples as places for people to grow in, recreation grounds for soul and body. They are the greatest of our natural resources, God’s best gifts, but none, however high and holy, is beyond reach of the spoiler. In these ravaging money-mad days monopolizing San Francisco capitalists are now doing their best to destroy the Yosemite Park, the most wonderful of all our great mountain national parks. Beginning on the Tuolumne side, they are trying with a lot of sinful ingenuity to get the Government’s permission to dam and destroy the Hetch-Hetchy Valley for a reservoir, simply that comparatively private gain may be made out of universal public loss, while of course the Sierra Club is doing all it can to save the valley.”

Inaugural Address, by John F. Kennedy, January 20, 1961

“In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world. And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.”

Cesar Chavez

“The consumer boycott is the only open door in the dark corridor of nothingness down which farm workers have had to walk for many years. It is a gate of hope through which they expect to find the sunlight of a better life for themselves and their families.”