

Hetch Hetchy Filtration-Avoidance Watershed Protection (San Francisco, USA)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

San Francisco's water utility keeps about 85% of the city's supply flowing from the pristine Hetch Hetchy Reservoir without filtration — a rare EPA/California waiver sustained through decades of National Park Service watershed protection instead of costly treatment plants.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[San Francisco Public Utilities Commission \(SFPUC\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[SFPUC — Water Treatment Process](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[Water Education Foundation — Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Water System](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

[SPUR — Why We Need Hetch Hetchy More Than Ever](#) — accessed 2026-07-16

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