



# **PULGAS WATER TEMPLE**

*Celebrating the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System*



## **PRESERVING PRECIOUS NATURAL RESOURCES**

Pulgas Water Temple nestles inside the Peninsula Watershed, 23,000 acres of coniferous forests, California coastal scrub and rare serpentine grasslands. Designated as a California State Fish and Wildlife Refuge and International Biosphere Reserve, it is home to the highest concentration of rare and endangered species in the Bay Area. The lakes in the watershed are drinking water reservoirs for San Francisco and Peninsula water customers.

In addition to protecting and preserving our watershed lands, we are also deeply committed to conserving our most precious resource—water. Here at the Pulgas Water Temple we strive to sustain the Temple’s historic verdant look for public enjoyment while using as little water as possible. We renovated our lawn irrigation system for use in summer months, and we turn it off in winter. More than 90% of our plantings are native and drought-resistant species that require minimal hand watering during hot months. And during the wedding season we clean the reflecting pool once a week by draining the water back into the lake so none is wasted.

## ENJOYING THE SITE

Pulgas Water Temple is located about one-half mile south of the Cañada Road trailhead. To get there, take Interstate 280 to the Edgewood Road exit. Proceed west on Edgewood Road to Cañada Road, then north on Cañada Road approximately two miles to the temple.

**Hours:** Pulgas Water Temple is open to the public 7 days a week, 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

**The parking lot** is closed on weekends, except for permitted events. To obtain a permit for your wedding or group event, call the SFPUC at 650-652-3212, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM, or visit [sfwater.org](http://sfwater.org). For 24-hour assistance, call 650-872-5900.

**Cañada Road** is closed to car traffic every Sunday, from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM from November through March, and from 9:00 AM–4:00 PM from April through October, for the enjoyment of hikers and bicyclists. For details call San Mateo County Parks Department at 650-363-4020.

## NEARBY OPEN SPACE ATTRACTIONS

The Fifiield-Cahill Ridge Trail in the SFPUC Peninsula Watershed is accessible through guided tours. The trail begins at Skyline Quarry on Highway 92 and extends northward to the watershed boundary at the Portola Ridge Gale, where it connects with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area trail system and the Sweeney Ridge section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. For tour reservations, see [trail.sfwater.org](http://trail.sfwater.org) or call 650-652-3203.

The historic Sawyer Camp Trail, once a segment of the main route between San Francisco and Half Moon Bay, winds approximately six miles through the SFPUC watershed from Crystal Springs Reservoir to San Andreas Lake. For more information, call the San Mateo Park and Recreation Division's Sawyer Camp Trail office at 650-589-4294.



*The existing Pulgas Water Temple was built to commemorate the completion of the Hetch Hetchy Water System. The Temple is the terminus of the aqueduct that transports water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to join local waters in the San Francisco Peninsula Watershed.*

## CELEBRATING THE HETCH HETCHY WATER SYSTEM

San Francisco built Pulgas Water Temple as a monument to the engineering marvel that brings Hetch Hetchy water more than 160 miles across California by gravity from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Bay Area. The 20-year Hetch Hetchy Project was completed in October 1934 at a cost of \$102 million.

On October 28 of that year, San Franciscans gathered at Pulgas Temple to celebrate the rush of the first mountain waters into the Bay Area. With still vivid memories of the fire that had raged unchecked after the Great Earthquake of 1906, they rejoiced in the new, reliable and plentiful supply of high-quality drinking water. The frieze above the columns reflects the universal relief: ***“I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people.”***

Pulgas Water Temple was designed in the Beaux Arts style by William Merchant, a San Francisco architect trained by Bernard Maybeck. Merchant’s design reflects the architecture of ancient Greeks and Romans, whose engineering methods were applied in the construction of the new water system. Artist and master stone carver Albert Bernasconi brought Merchant’s drawings to life.