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| journal.gif | Environmental Science Journal**Writing Assignment #1****Environmental Ethics and the Hetch Hetchy Decision** |
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San Francisco is facing a severe water shortage. The year is 1903. The only nearby sources of water are the Pacific Ocean and the Tolumne river. The salt water of the ocean cannot be filtered using available technology, and the river is too small to provide enough water. The river could be dammed, but the dam would have to be built inside a national park which is Federal land. As president, you are ultimately responsible for making the decision whether or not to allow this dam to be built. Give the potential consequences of building and of not building the dam. What decision would you ultimately make, and why? Explain how this decision makes you an anthropocentrist, resource conservationist, or nature preservationist in your environmental philosophy.