

# CITY OF AMERICAN CANYON

Administration

Gateway to the Napa Valley



September 5, 2003

The Honorable Scott Snowden  
Presiding Judge  
Napa County Superior Court  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559

**Subject: Response to Grand Jury Finding 2 and Recommendation 2 – Water Consumption**

Dear Judge Snowden and Members of the Grand Jury:

This letter serves as a response from the City of American Canyon regarding finding 2 and recommendation 2 of the water report in the 2002-2003 Napa County Grand Jury Report. We would like to commend the Grand Jury Committee and their willingness to take on the monumental task of reviewing the many complexed and diverse water purveyors in Napa County. The 2002-2003 Napa County Grand Jury Final Report, Finding 2 and Recommendation 2 of the Water Report is attached to this response for reference.

## RESPONSE TO FINDING 2

The Grand Jury is correct in that public awareness of water issues needs to be heightened. Flowing water is constrained by inventory, funding, pipe capacity, entitlement programs and citizen's consent. Accordingly, the City of American Canyon has been proactive over the last few years and trying to ensure that we make citizens of our City aware of water issues by completing an update to our Water Master Plan, by identifying the appropriate funding to ensure that the appropriately sized pipes can be put in the ground to ensure delivery of potable water and by ensuring that the City has the appropriate entitlements for build out conditions for the City of American Canyon.

## RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 2

The programs that the City of American Canyon has implemented over the last few years include a toilet retrofit program where citizens are encouraged to replace old toilets using higher volumes of water with the extra low flow toilets. The City offers a cash rebate to those citizens within the City that replace the older toilets. In addition to this, the City of American Canyon has produced educational materials available to the


citizens within the community. These educational materials address water consumption, landscaping practices, irrigation practices, and other assorted water consumption suggestions. Most importantly, the City of American Canyon has recently completed a draft of our master plan for the use of recycled water. This master plan is currently in the review stage at the staff level for the City. We anticipate over the next few months bringing this forward to our City Council for review and adoption. In the master plan, the City is proposing to recycle over 20% of the currently used potable domestic water. The recycled water is slated to be used for irrigation purposes in several areas within the City, as well as the areas just outside the City limits within our water service area boundaries.

### **CONCLUSION**

The City of American Canyon agrees with both the finding 2 regarding public awareness of water issue needs and is currently implementing the items as listed under recommendation 2 for the water consumption.

We hope that this response has adequately addressed Finding 2 and Recommendation 2 within the report and would be happy to answer any questions from the Grand Jury or follow up to the response if it is felt necessary.

Very truly yours,



Don Colcleaser, Mayor  
City of American Canyon

JW:sb

## **Napa County Grand Jury 2002 -2003 Water Report**

- . The City of American Canyon
- . The City of Calistoga
- . The City of Napa
- . The City of St. Helena
- . The Town of Yountville
- . Circle Oaks County Water District
- . Congress Valley
- . Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District
- . Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District
- . Spanish Flat Water District
- . Los Carneros
- . Local Agency Formation Commission
- . Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- . Napa Sanitation Department
- . Napa County Department of Public Works

### **Finding 2**

Public awareness of water issues needs to be heightened. Flowing water is constrained by inventory, funding, pipe capacity, entitlement programs and citizen consent.

### **Recommendation 2**

Water consumption should be reduced.

- . Landscaping practices should accommodate environmental conditions.
- . Reclaimed water should be used for irrigation and landscaping whenever possible.
- . Potable water, including well water, should be designated for indoor, as well as outdoor, use.
- . Water saving ideas should be promoted and publicly rewarded throughout the County.
- . Water use in excess of a base line amount should not be subsidized.

### **Response Requested from**

- . The City of American Canyon
- . The City of Calistoga
- . The City of Napa
- . The City of St. Helena
- . The Town of Yountville
- . Circle Oaks County Water District
- . Congress Valley
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