



Town of Yountville

"The Heart of the Napa Valley"

FILED

AUG 11 2005

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court

By: C. Brennan
Deputy

July 19, 2005

Napa County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 5397
Napa, California 94581-0397

Attention: Brent Randol, Foreperson

RE: 2005 Report Response

Dear Foreperson,

The Town of Yountville has had a very proactive water loss program over the last several years while restricting new construction during the recently rescinded water moratorium. In addition to the curtailment of new construction, any loss of water represented a financial burden on all the water customers. The Grand Jury statement that water losses can "also represent real financial losses running into millions of dollars" might be better stated that customer rates are affected by the percentage of water loss of the system.

Regardless of how one states the financial impact of water loss within a system, it is important to realize that all systems are different and the loss stated for a particular system needs to be put into the context of the operation of that system. For example, Yountville purchases the majority of its water supply from the California Veteran's Home Rector Reservoir Treatment Facility and therefore we have no control water loss due to the treatment process and distribution system. This is similarly true of the North Bay Aqueduct, which is operated by the Department of Water Resources. Local agencies utilizing this water source can advise on operational issue but do not have "control" over those operations. As a group, the State water Project contractors and subcontractors work very closely with the operating agencies to reduce the percentage of water loss.

The Town has actively participated in a meter maintenance program contracted out to a local contractor. All large meters are routinely tested to assure that their performance is within acceptable limits. The Town has also been very proactive in the replacement of residential meters due to a problem of filtration sand becoming lodged in many meters. The Town has recently completed a program to replace all water meters within our distribution system. We took this opportunity to install a new, drive-by electronic radio read system called the Orion

brand. This new system allows Town staff to read all water meters within our system in about an hour. It also allows each customer to monitor his or her water use with the purchase of an in-house, digital monitor that can be mounted on his or her refrigerator. Although this feature will not affect unaccounted for water loss in the system, it will lead to individual conservation by the customers.

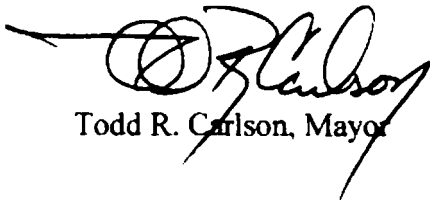
Due to the nature of soil in Napa County, older lines constructed of galvanized pipe (and in some cases, newer copper piping) are very susceptible to corrosion and thus leakage. With the gravel lenses prevalent through the Valley, leaks may go on undetected for a considerable time. The Town of Yountville has, for several years, conducted a program of water main and lateral replacement aimed at replacing these older lines. We believe we are finally getting ahead of leaks within the piping system and will be able to maintain our current loss rate of below 10%.

Specifically, in response to the Grand Jury's recommendation:

1. The Town of Yountville has an existing program for water loss monitoring and control that appears to have major benefit to reducing the unaccounted water loss within our water distribution system. We also work closely with our water suppliers to assist in reduction of losses due to the treatment and distribution system.
2. The Town uses the AWWA standards for water loss monitoring.
3. The Town has invested approximately \$200,000 in the replacement of all water meters in the system and the addition of the instantaneous radio read system. The Town also budgets \$25,000 a year to the replacement of service laterals and another \$100,000 per year to water main replacement projects.
4. The California Urban Water Conservation Council's standards for audit procedures in essentially the same procedure used by other professional associations and agencies, namely AWWA and DWR. The Town is also a member of the California Rural Water Association, which is a similar professional association for smaller water agencies.
5. No comment.

We trust that this response is adequate for your needs and appreciate the opportunity to provide such.

Sincerely,



Todd R. Carlson, Mayor