



City of St. Helena

*"We will conduct city affairs on behalf of our citizens
using an open and creative process."*

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

July 27, 2010

The Honorable Stephen T. Kroyer
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of the State of California, County of Napa
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

FILED

AUG 13 2010

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court
By: C. Brennan
Deputy

Subject: Grand Jury Final Report on Water: Our Precious, Critical Resource

Dear Honorable Judge Kroyer:

The City of St. Helena has received and reviewed the subject report. Pursuant to the provisions of the California Penal Code, this letter is to respond to Recommendations for the City of St. Helena Public Works Department 1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 14, as well as to respond to Recommendations for the Mayor, St. Helena 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, and Recommendations for the City Council, St. Helena 3, 5, 9, 11, and 14.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Recommendation 1:**
"Municipalities within the County develop, expand, and formalize agreements to provide water allocations to address a catastrophic loss of water".

Response:

Disagree partially with the finding. The recommendation requires further analysis by December 1, 2010. The City produces water from two water treatment plants. One plant treats water from Bell Canyon Reservoir and the other treats surface water from Stonebridge Wells (two deep groundwater sources fed by Sonoma Volcanic aquifer). The City also has an agreement with the City of Napa to purchase between 400 and 800 acre-feet of water per year. The City has adequate groundwater and backup water supply, and the Public Works Director is working with other municipalities in the County to improve water supply reliability in the entire Napa Valley and to address a catastrophic loss of water.

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Napa Superior Court

- **Recommendation 2:**

“All County municipalities evaluate means to increase the capacity, and enhance the survivability, of municipal reservoirs and water storage facilities”.

Response:

Disagree partially with the finding. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not environmentally or financially feasible.

The municipal reservoir created by the dam at Bell Canyon, built in the late 1950's, is a tall earthen dam in a narrow canyon. Increasing the capacity of the dam is not likely for the following reasons:

- The dam at Bell Canyon cannot be raised without an environmental study proving to the State Water Board that the watershed can support additional storage.
- The dam could not be raised without a seismic study satisfactory to the Division of Safety of Dams. Due to the age and type of the current facility it is probable that the Division would require that the dam be rebuilt to modern standards.
- The State Water Board would require careful evaluation of the any increase in capacity against its recently adopted Inflow Stream Policy (**AB 2121**).

- **Recommendation 4:**

“Each County municipality prepare a plan to ensure rapid repair of the water delivery system and include procedures for emergency water delivery to facilities responsible for providing immediate health and safety aid to the communities' population, especially local hospitals, shelters, and emergency centers”.

Response:

Disagree partially with the finding. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City has less than 2,400 service connections (1,964 within City limits, 348 outside city limits) to a population of approximately 6,800 people using approximately 1977 acre feet of water per year. The City is not required to prepare an Emergency Response Plan; however the City has established an Urban Water Management Plan which addresses the City's response to a catastrophic loss of water in Section 9 Water Shortage Contingency Plan, Section 9.1, the City has a five-phased Water Shortage Emergency (Contingency) Plan which includes voluntary and mandatory conservation measures. At any time that the City Council determines that a water shortage emergency condition exists, and that it is necessary to limit usage by the customers of the City's water system, the City Council shall adopt a resolution setting forth applicable phases.

