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City of Cloverdale

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GRAND JURY

September 22, 2004

The Honorable Allan D. Hardcastle, Presiding Judge
Superior Court, State of California
800 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

RE: City of Cloverdale's Response to 2003-2004 Grand Jury Final Report – Items R1 and R2

Dear Judge Hardcastle;

Please allow me to provide you with the City of Cloverdale's response to the recommendations of the 2003-2004 Grand Jury report concerning ground water issues in Sonoma County.

The City of Cloverdale will be more than happy to provide any technical information or assistance that may be requested of us concerning the conservation and management of its water resources. However, it appears from statements in the report section "Reason for the Investigation" that this report is concerned only with groundwater and not river or surface water sources. The City of Cloverdale currently has three wells that provide the source for the City's municipal water system. These wells are all located within 100 feet of the Russian River and, as such, are considered by the State Department of Health Services to be surface water sources. Subsequently, the City of Cloverdale does not have any municipal water sources of direct concern to this report.

That being said, I would like to address some of the comments in the report to illuminate the City of Cloverdale's position on water conservation and resource management.

R1. The County and each of its cities should adopt or amend a sustainable water element as part of their general plan with a target of January 1, 2005, the adoption of the next general plan.

The City is currently working on updating the General Plan. Within the Circulation Element of the 1992 General Plan, policies stated in Goal E acknowledge the City's



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responsibility to *manage and control water consumption by existing users to coincide with water availability and regulate commercial and industrial effluent in improve water quality*. Furthermore, the Circulation Element within the 1992 General Plan details an implementation program that includes:

- *The City will provide educational information on water conservation to Cloverdale citizens and businesses.*
- *The City will prepare a water rationing plan to be used in case acute water shortages occur.*
- *The City will review all Use Permits and other discretionary permits for any excessive water use above quotas.*

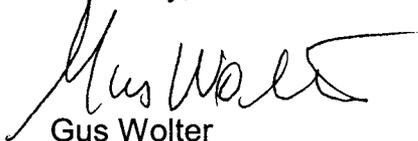
R2. *The county and each of its cities should adopt and develop a comprehensive groundwater management plan such as that set forth in AB 3030. The information from the existing groundwater studies should be used to provide a bank of information upon which to initiate a groundwater management plan.*

Since the City has no groundwater sources in its system, there is no groundwater management program to develop. Water source and use information is proposed to be contained within the City Facilities section of the General Plan Update currently underway with for the City of Cloverdale. However, in compliance with the policies outlined in the General Plan and noted above, the City has periodically provided educational information to our water users through mailings and informational flyers contained in monthly water bills. Additionally, all newer development and CIP projects within the City have been encouraged to install drought –tolerant landscaping materials. The City has also prepared the water rationing plan mentioned in the Master Plan Circulation Element.

In addition to the above policy efforts, the City also participates in regional efforts to manage and conserve water resources. The City is a member of The Russian River Watershed Association and City representatives regularly attend these meetings.

Please feel free to contact me if City staff or I can be of any assistance in providing further information to the Grand Jury on this matter.

Sincerely,



Gus Wolter
Mayor
The City of Cloverdale