

GRAND JURY

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CITY OF
SANTA ROSA

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September 24, 2004

The Honorable Allan D. Hardcastle, Presiding Judge
Superior Court for the County of Sonoma
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

SUBJECT: Response by City of Santa Rosa to 2003-2004 Grand Jury
Final Report: "Got Water?" and "Santa Rosa Fire Station Deployment"
Reports

SHARON WRIGHT
Mayor

JANE BENDER
Vice Mayor

BOB BLANCHARD
JANET CONDRON
MICHAEL F. MARTINI
NOREEN M. EVANS
STEVE RABINOWITSH
Councilmembers

Dear Judge Hardcastle:

The City of Santa Rosa appreciates this opportunity to respond to the 2003-2004 Grand Jury recommendations contained in its reports entitled "Got Water?" and "Santa Rosa Fire Station Deployment." The City's responses to these recommendations are attached.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury recommendations. Please feel free to contact our City Manager, Jeff Kolin, at (707) 543-3020 should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

SHARON WRIGHT
Mayor

SW:rca

Attachments

**CITY OF SANTA ROSA'S RESPONSE TO
THE 2003-2004 GRAND JURY REPORT
*Got Water?***

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

Response to Recommendation R1:

The City of Santa Rosa already addresses the issue of sustainable water resources within the current format of its General Plan adopted in 2002. In addition, City staff are actively participating in the development of the new Water Resources Element to be included in the next County General Plan update.

With regard to the City's current General Plan, the limits on water supply and the likely demand for the next 20 years are discussed in the Water Supply section (section 6-6) of the Public Services and Facilities Element. The following goal and six policies related to sustainable water usage are specified in that element:

- PSF-F Ensure that an adequate supply of water is available to serve existing and future needs of the City.

- PSF-F-1 Utilize high quality water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) aqueduct system as the primary water supply.

- PSF-F-2 Ensure that water supply capacity and infrastructure are in place prior to occupancy of new development.

- PSF-F-3 Develop available groundwater resources for the purposes of providing a supplemental source of water in the event of an emergency.

- PSF-F-4 Maintain existing levels of water service by preserving and improving infrastructure, replacing water mains as necessary, and improving water transmission facilities.

- PSF-F-5 Decline requests for extension of water beyond the Urban Growth Boundary, except in cases of existing documented health hazards and in areas where the City has agreements to provide services.

- PSF-F-6 Evaluate the City's long-term water supply strategies, including

development of new sources of water supply, improved water conservation and re-use, and implementation of appropriate growth control measures if necessary.

Related to policy PSF-F-6 above, the Public Services and Facilities Element also addresses re-use of treated wastewater as a sustainable practice, including the following policy:

- PSF-G-1 Continue to explore and develop new uses for treated wastewater, including expanding existing programs such as urban and agricultural irrigation, consistent with objectives adopted by the Board of Public Utilities and the City Council. Examples of urban re-use include park and landscape irrigation programs.

This same element also addresses stormwater management, including on-site retention of stormwater, as set forth in the following policy:

- PSF-1-1 Require dedication, improvement and maintenance of stormwater flow and retention as a condition of [project] approval.

Chapter 7, the Open Space and Conservation Element of the City's General Plan, includes the following goal and policies:

- OSC-F Conserve water and maintain water quality.
- OSC-F-5 Maintain high levels of water quality for human consumption and for other life systems in the region by regularly monitoring water quality.
- OSC-F-6 Require non-residential projects requesting Conditional Use Permit or Design Review approval to provide water efficient landscaping in accordance with the City's Water Efficient Landscape Policy.
- OSC-F-7 Promote water conservation through public education, provision of conservation kits, and information about low-flow plumbing fixtures and leak detection.
- OSC-F-8 Consider water conservation measures in the review of new residential development projects.

Because the City already addresses sustainable water use in its current General Plan and the policies set forth are being implemented, a separate General Plan element is not needed at this time.

Recommendation 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.

Response to Recommendation R2: As an urbanized area, development in the City does not rely on individual wells dependent upon groundwater conditions. Individual wells which serve existing development are regulated and controlled by the County and the City becomes involved only when the wells become unavailable for water supply and the user wishes to or is required to connect to the City system. The City does have seven standby wells which are monitored annually for water quality and production rate. The City is involved in the investigation of groundwater use for emergency conditions and to supplement water supply. Results of City groundwater investigations will continue to be supplied to the Sonoma County Water Agency to supplement its information on groundwater capacity and quality.

In addition, the City of Santa Rosa is participating in a regional groundwater study with Sonoma County Water Agency, the U.S. Geological Service and a number of other cities and water companies to evaluate the Santa Rosa Plain groundwater resources. Santa Rosa's role in this regional effort includes funding, data sharing, technical review and staff support. This study will begin in 2004 and is scheduled to be completed in five (5) years.