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#1885

# GRAND JURY

September 2, 2004

Judge Allan Hardcastle  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Hall of Justice  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, California 95403

SEP 14 REC'D

Re: Response to Recommendations R-1 and R-2, 2003-04 Sonoma County  
Grand Jury Final Report Regarding Groundwater Resources

This letter is in response to the recommendations contained in the 2003-04 Sonoma County Grand Jury Final Report with regard to groundwater resources in the county. The Town of Windsor is required to respond to:

*Recommendation 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 date of January 1, 2005, the adoption date of the next general plan."

*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."

With regard to Recommendation R1, the Town's adopted General Plan, which covers the period since its adoption in 1996 until 2015, as well as the Town's adopted Water System Master Plan, already include policies and implementation programs designed to ensure water supply availability and reliability to the community, from the present time until build-out of the Town. The elements of the General Plan that are pertinent to the subject of water resources include Chapter 4, Section E - Community Services and Facilities, and Chapter 6, Section C - Water Resources and Quality. The Town's water resource management policies and plans require the Town to monitor the rate of development against the availability of water (and other community utilities and resources). Water supply reliability is also enhanced by the utilization of water conservation measures. Windsor has been a leader for decades in the implementation of water conservation programs, notably through the beneficial reuse of recycled water for agricultural and landscape irrigation.

With regard to Recommendation R2, the Town's adopted General Plan further states, at Chapter 6 - Environmental Resources, Implementation Program C.1, that the Town shall participate in a comprehensive, county-wide groundwater management program. Toward that end, the Town has agreed in principle to

fully participate in a regional groundwater study program to be implemented and managed by the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The study is planned for a five-year period, starting in Fall 2004, and will be focused on the Santa Rosa Plain, in which Windsor is located. The Town's participation in the study will include the sharing and exchange of groundwater and geologic information, staff support to coordinate and contribute to the study, and payment of a pro-rata share of the USGS cost for the project. It is anticipated that the county, SCWA, the incorporated cities (including Windsor), agricultural users, and other stakeholders in the Santa Rosa Plain could use the results of the five-year study of groundwater resources to assist the development and implementation of a comprehensive groundwater management plan.

Respectfully submitted,



Debora Fudge  
Mayor

c: Board of Supervisors  
Council Members