



September 5, 2019

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The Honorable Judge Gary Nadler
Sonoma County Superior Court
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dee Schweitzer, Foreperson
Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury
PO Box 5109
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

READ AND CONSIDERED
DATE 9/10/19 BY [Signature]

Re: Sonoma County 2018-19 Civil Grand Jury Report – Will There be Water After an Earthquake?

Dear Judge Nadler/Foreperson Schweitzer:

North Marin Water District (NMWD) receives the majority (~75%) of its water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency). The remainder of NMWD's water supply is from its local Stafford Lake water supply and a modest amount of recycled water developed in cooperation with Novato and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary Districts.

Following is NMWD's response to the referenced 2018-19 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report – Will There be Water After an Earthquake?

Finding F8: *Because operating pressures must be maintained throughout the system, water contractors have limited ability to curtail non-essential water uses without compromising availability of water for critical applications such as fire suppression and hospital use.*

Response: North Marin Water District agrees with this finding.

Recommendation R5: *Water contractors study options for making local systems more adaptable under emergency conditions such as dedicated supply loops, digitally monitored metering or automatic shut-down valves by December 31, 2019.*

Response: Recommendation R5 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Key regional elements will be implemented by Spring 2020. Various local efforts to improve and/or study options for additional system resiliency are anticipated to be complete by December 31, 2019.

Local System Integration with Regional Wholesaler

NMWD fully supports the Grand Jury's recommendation to study options for making our local public water supply system more adaptable for emergency conditions. Although the water systems of Agency and its retail customers are already inter-connected, additional integration improvements are possible, especially in times of water shortage. By leveraging the collective water resources and infrastructure of the Agency and its nine retail customers, there could be opportunities to improve water supply reliability and resiliency through better integrated water resources planning and management.

To this end, the NMWD and the eight other retail water contractors are funding a Regional Water Supply Reliability Study ("Regional Reliability Study") coordinated by the Agency. The Regional Reliability Study was initiated in February of this year when the Agency engaged the services of Jacobs Engineering Group to evaluate strategies and water supply projects to improve integrated water resources management and make the service area more resilient to potential short term (e.g., earthquakes) and long-term (e.g. sustained drought) water shortages.

The Regional Reliability Study will identify opportunities to enhance coordination and partnerships between the NMWD, Agency and the eight other water contractors for improved regional integrated water supply emergency planning. It is anticipated that this Study will be completed by Spring 2020.

Local System Resiliency

In addition to purchasing wholesale water from the Agency, the NMWD has local water supplies that are used to meet the demands of our customers and operates a water system that is substantially looped and incorporates significant (37 million gallons) local gravity storage in 31 storage tanks located throughout the service area. In addition, the District has various inter-tie locations with Marin Municipal Water District that allow both water districts to utilize their respective water systems in a coordinated and beneficial manner. Some of the recent and future near term activities related to improving local

water supply resiliency include:

- Installation of an automatic shutdown valve at the aqueduct inter-tie location between NMWD and the Agency. This valve was installed in 2015.
- Complete integration of Automatic Meter Infrastructure (AMI) meters throughout the Novato Water system service area that provides the District with real time information regarding water usage. This project has been underway over the last two years and should be fully completed by October 31, 2019.
- Improved coordination with the City of Novato, Novato Fire District and other local agencies for sharing of resources and training for emergency events such as earthquakes and power outages. Local agencies have been meeting since July of this year to develop an action plan for major power outages that could occur after an earthquake or other emergency event. This action plan should be completed by September 30, 2019.
- Purchase of additional standby generators to backup power to the District's 26 booster pump stations and the Stafford Water Treatment Plant in the event of a utility power interruption. This work is ongoing and should be complete by December 31, 2019.
- FY20-FY21 budgeted Local Water Supply Enhancement Study to identify ways to improve local water supply resiliency. This study should be complete within the next two years.
- Update of NMWD's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) that addresses various possible emergencies including earthquakes and power failures. This update and related training is already underway and should be complete by December 31, 2019.

North Marin Water District appreciates this opportunity to discuss efforts to further enhance local water supply resiliency in the event of a major emergency such as an earthquake and looks forward to implementing the measures described above.

Sincerely,



Director Jack Baker
Board President

CC: Grant Davis, GM, Sonoma County Water Agency

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Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: WILL THERE BE WATER AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE?

Report Date: June 14, 2019

Response by: Jack Baker Title: Board President

Agency/Department Name: North Marin Water District

FINDINGS:

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: F8

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed with an explanation of the reasons.)

RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

Recommendations numbered: _____

have been implemented.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: R5 _____

have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.

(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: _____


require further analysis. _____

(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury report.)

Recommendations numbered: _____

will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: September XX, 2019 Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 4



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

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The Honorable Judge Gary Nadler
Sonoma County Superior Court
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Santa Rosa, CA 95403

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SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SONOMA

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