

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Sonoma Valley Regional Water Resources

Report Date: August 2, 2020

Response by: Tennis Wick Title: Director

Agency/Department Name: Permit Sonoma

FINDINGS: F2, F3, F5, F7, F8

I (we) agree with the findings numbered **F3, F5, F7, F8. Please see attached as to F5 and F7.**

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: **F2**

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

RECOMMENDATIONS: R1, R2, R3, R4

Recommendations numbered: **R2, R3** have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: **R4** have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: **R1** require(s) 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: _____ Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: **3** _____

Permit Sonoma Response to Sonoma Valley Regional Water Resources

Introduction

The Permit and Resource Management Department (Permit Sonoma) respectfully submits the following responses to the findings and recommendations in the 2019-2020 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report regarding Sonoma Valley Regional Water Resources. We appreciate the work of the Grand Jury to understand and advise on critical water resource issues in Sonoma Valley.

Responses to Findings F2, F5, F7, F8

F2. The Sonoma Developmental Center has chosen to purchase water from Sonoma Water, rather than continue treating local water for its supply, but the Restructured Agreement may give the Valley of the Moon Water District the right to replace Sonoma Water as the water supplier for the Sonoma Developmental Center.

Permit Sonoma wholly or partially disagrees with this finding. Permit Sonoma was not a party to a decision to purchase water for Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), and similarly was not a party to a decision to discontinue treating local water for SDC's water supply. Permit Sonoma is also not a party to the Restructured Agreement. Accordingly, Permit Sonoma is unable to provide a factual response to Finding F2.

F5. The City of Sonoma, the Valley of the Moon Water District, and Sonoma Developmental Center have common interests that warrant current and ongoing cooperation between and among them through formal and informal processes.

Permit Sonoma agrees generally with this finding, but is not one of the entities enumerated in this finding. Permit Sonoma has no authority or control over the SDC site. SDC is owned and controlled by the State of California. However, in its role leading the ongoing SDC Specific Plan process in accordance with state law and an agreement with the California Department of General Services (DGS), Permit Sonoma is working cooperatively with DGS and is actively engaged with the City of Sonoma and Valley of the Moon Water District (VOMWD) to inform the planning process and outcomes and facilitate cooperation where appropriate. Permit Sonoma notes that other entities not enumerated in this finding, including the Local Agency Formation Commission, may also have a role in facilitating ongoing cooperation among these entities.

F7. Cooperation between regional water suppliers might include projects such as: wastewater collection and treatment, recycled water use, spreading basins for groundwater recharge and fire suppression.

Permit Sonoma objectively agrees with this finding, and supports identification and implementation of holistic approaches to regional problems, such as the options listed in this

finding. However, Permit Sonoma is not a regional water supplier, and accordingly is unable to respond as to any particular options for cooperation between suppliers in this context.

Responses to Recommendations R1, R2, R3, R4

R1. Sonoma Water, the Valley of the Moon Water District, the City of Sonoma and Permit Sonoma work with California Department of General Services to seek an agreement, by October 31, 2020, that potable water storage facilities at Sonoma Developmental Center shall remain active and available for sharing water (F2)

This recommendation requires further analysis. Permit Sonoma does not have authority or control over SDC's potable water storage facilities, and as a result it is not clear what role Permit Sonoma could have in an agreement for availability and shared use of SDC water facilities.

However, in its role leading the SDC Specific Plan process, Permit Sonoma is committed to facilitating the best outcomes for the community, while also meeting the state's requirements with respect to the ultimate disposition and use of the SDC property and the water rights and water supply facilities on the property. While it is still relatively early in the SDC Specific Plan process, Permit Sonoma will timely consider options for evaluating shared water use agreements as part of the planning and environmental review processes.

R2. Permit Sonoma establish, by August 31, 2020, a continuing dialog with water system managers for the City of Sonoma, the Valley of the Moon Water District, and the Sonoma Developmental Center to inform the SDC Specific Plan. (F5, F8)

This recommendation has been implemented. Permit Sonoma staff and consultants working on the SDC Specific Plan process have necessarily been in regular communication with DGS staff throughout the process, because DGS manages the SDC. Permit Sonoma Director Tennis Wick is engaged in ongoing talks with VOMWD Water System Manager Matt Fullner and with City of Sonoma Public Works Director Colleen Ferguson regarding the SDC process and related issues. In addition, Permit Sonoma staff and consultants working on the SDC project have had preliminary communications with VOMWD, and will initiate communication with the City of Sonoma Public Works Department by September 30. Coordination with VOMWD and City of Sonoma water supply managers would have occurred in any event because referral to and consultation with potentially affected entities, including VOMWD and the City of Sonoma as well as the Local Agency Formation Commission, is required for this project as part of the planning and environmental review processes. Permit Sonoma is committed to robust and meaningful engagement with these and other potentially affected entities to inform the SDC Specific Plan process and to shape its outcome.

R3. Sonoma Valley water agencies take an active role in the SDC Specific plan process, by September 30, 2020. (F3, F7)

To the extent applicable, Permit Sonoma has implemented this recommendation. As discussed in the response to Recommendations R1 and R2, Permit Sonoma has initiated ongoing communication with VOMWD and the City of Sonoma regarding the SDC Specific Plan process and related issues, and will continue to support and facilitate their involvement in upcoming steps in the planning process.

R4. Permit Sonoma communicate the results of the Water Supply Assessment to water system managers for the City of Sonoma and the Valley of the Moon Water District as soon as they become available. (F8)

This recommendation will be implemented in the future. Under the current schedule for the SDC Specific Plan process, the Water Supply Assessment (WSA) is scheduled to be prepared by a consultant in 2021. It is likely that VOMWD and the City of Sonoma will be consulted or otherwise involved in the preparation of the WSA. Permit Sonoma will communicate the final WSA to both entities as soon as it is available.