

# City of Sonoma

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October 6, 2020

Honorable Brad DeMeo  
Presiding Superior Court Judge  
Hall of Justice  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, 95403

## **RESPONSE TO 2019-20 SONOMA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT *EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY IN SONOMA VALLEY***

Dear Honorable Judge DeMeo,

This letter transmits the City of Sonoma Response to Grand Jury Report Form to the 2019-20 Grand Jury Final Report titled "Emergency Water Shortages in Sonoma Valley *The Situation Has Worsened*". The attached response was approved by the Sonoma City Council at their October 5, 2020 meeting. The residents, visitors, and businesses in Sonoma count on the City to deliver high quality, dependable water for drinking, cooking, cleaning dishes, hygiene, landscaping, operating restaurants, hotels and other businesses, as well as dozens of other uses each and every day. The City appreciates the Grand Jury's interest in Sonoma Valley emergency water supply and the work of everyone who served on the Grand Jury.

If you should need clarification or have questions, please contact me at 933-2230 or [cferguson@sonomacity.org](mailto:cferguson@sonomacity.org).

Sincerely,

J. Colleen Ferguson  
Public Works Director/City Engineer

cc: Foreperson of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury  
PO Box 5109  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk, County of Sonoma,  
585 Fiscal Drive Room 103, Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Rebekah Barr, City Clerk, City of Sonoma

# Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Emergency Water Shortages in Sonoma Valley

Report Date: August 2, 2020

Response by: J. Colleen Ferguson Title: Public Works Director/City Engineer

Agency/Department Name: City of Sonoma/Public Works Department

## FINDINGS:

I (we) agree with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

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: R3 \_\_\_\_\_

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: R1 and R4 \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Attach an explanation.)

Date: October 6, 2020 Signed: J. Colleen Ferguson

Number of pages attached: Two

## Grand Jury Report: Emergency Water Shortages in Sonoma Valley

Dated August 2, 2020

City of Sonoma/Public Works Department

### Implemented Action

#### Recommendation R3:

*The Valley of the Moon Water District and the City of Sonoma interconnect their distribution systems, and establish an agreement for sharing water during emergencies by December 31, 2020.*

Response: Recommendation #3 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

Water distribution systems operated by the Valley of the Moon Water District (VOMWD) and the City of Sonoma (City) are approximately 100 feet apart in Junipero Serra Drive in Sonoma. The City's Capital Improvement Program includes 2020 Fire Flow Improvement Project No. 1905. This project includes extension of the City water main in Junipero Serra Drive and installation of a fire hydrant close to an existing fire hydrant on the VOMWD system. Two hydrants in close proximity will allow VOMWD and City to interconnect distribution systems and share water during emergencies. The City's 2020 Fire Flow Improvement Project is expected to be constructed in Winter/Spring 2021. VOMWD and City are both members of the California Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CalWARN). As CalWARN members, VOMWD and City have an established agreement for sharing water during emergencies through the CalWARN Mutual Aid and Assistance Program. Through the program, members coordinate response activities and share resources during emergencies.

### Explanation

#### Recommendation R1:

*By December 31, 2020, The Valley of the Moon Water District, City of Sonoma and Sonoma Developmental Center initiate cooperative planning to reduce risk in emergencies, including promptly implementing ways to share existing water resources.*

#### Recommendation R4:

*Sonoma Water, Valley of the Moon Water District, the City of Sonoma, Permit Sonoma, and the California Department of General Services for an agreement by October 31, 2020, that potable water storage facilities at Sonoma Developmental Center shall remain active and available for shared access during emergencies.*

Response: Recommendations #1 and #4 will not be implemented because they are not reasonable in terms of timeline or overall scope and approach. The City and VOMWD obtain most their water supply through the Sonoma Aqueduct operated by Sonoma Water. Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) currently receives its entire water supply through the Sonoma Aqueduct. All three entities currently share Sonoma Aqueduct water. There are no additional water resources to share at SDC at this time. The potable water storage facilities at SDC are not active and are not available for sharing access during emergencies. The SDC Specific Plan and future development of SDC may result in restoration of an independent water supply at SDC, which would be beneficial for water agencies in Sonoma Valley and could lead to possible shared access during emergencies. This is a longer term initiative. The City is monitoring the efforts of the SDC Specific Plan and can participate actively when water options are considered.