

City of Sonoma

No. 1 The Plaza
Sonoma California 95476-6690
Phone (707) 938-3681 Fax (707) 938-8775
E-Mail: cityhall@sonomacity.org



September 4, 2019

Honorable Gary Nadler
Presiding Superior Court Judge
Hall of Justice
600 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, 95402

READ AND CONSIDERED
DATE 9/11/19 BY [Signature]

CITY OF SONOMA RESPONSE TO SONOMA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT

Dear Honorable Judge Nadler,

This letter is in response to the 2018-19 Grand Jury Final Report titled “Will There be Water After an Earthquake?” Please also find attached the completed Response to Grand Jury Report Form. 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 (from the City of Sonoma’s 2018 Water Master Plan Update). The Water Master Plan Update and subsequent Water Rate Study are recent examples of the important investments that the City has historically made in its water infrastructure to meet the objectives of supply reliability, resilience and public safety. The City appreciates the Grand Jury’s interest in ensuring that there will be enough water after an earthquake.

The City of Sonoma is a water contractor who is required to respond to recommendation R5. This recommendation references Finding F8:

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

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 #5 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City of Sonoma has three separate water zones with isolation valves at each reservoir and an almost entirely looped system. The City just completed in 2018 a Water Master Plan with extensive review and planning for water infrastructure needs. In terms of digitally monitored metering, the 2018 Water Master Plan Update recommended replacing the City’s existing hybrid-mechanical system with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to enhance

customer service, improve water savings, and provide near real-time water usage data to customers. The subsequent 2018 Water Rate Study and the new water rates adopted by the City Council in August 2018 include funding to design an AMI system in 2019-20 and to implement AMI in 2020-21. The City plans to work with the consultant who prepared the 2018 Water Master Plan Update, GHD, to develop a response plan for immediate implementation in the event of loss of Sonoma Water aqueduct supply. This response plan is expected to include public outreach regarding the dire need for water conservation in addition to necessary operational actions.

Local System Integration with Regional Wholesaler

The City of Sonoma fully supports the Grand Jury's recommendation to study options for making our local public water supply system more adaptable for emergency conditions. The City of Sonoma and the eight other retail water contractors are funding a Regional Water Supply Reliability Study (Study) coordinated by Sonoma Water. The Study was initiated in February 2019 when Sonoma Water 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. This Study will identify opportunities to enhance coordination and partnerships between the City of Sonoma, Sonoma Water and the eight other water contractors for improved regional integrated water supply emergency planning. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by Spring 2020.

Local System Resiliency

In addition to purchasing wholesale water from Sonoma Water, the City of Sonoma operates wells to meet the demands of our customers. Per the 2018 Water Master Plan Update, loss of aqueduct water supply in the event of an emergency would most likely last for one or two weeks, during which the City operators could run the City's wells at a daily average flow between 0.81 million gallons per day (mgd) to 1.31 mgd, which exceeds to anticipated demand in a state of emergency. A one to two-week duration is a reasonable time for an interim emergency aqueduct water supply to be provided until a permanent solution can be achieved.

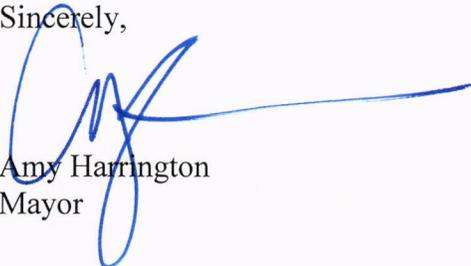
Aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), also known as groundwater banking, would increase the availability of groundwater for the City. ASR accelerates the recovery of groundwater in storage and allows for greater surety of supply. The City worked with Sonoma Water on an ASR pilot test in Sonoma in 2018.

The Sonoma Developmental Center Water Supply Source was an important source of water that had been available to provide increased reliability of water to the City's customers. The project would have utilized excess capacity in the Valley of the Moon Water District (VOMWD) and Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) water systems, captured, and made beneficial use of off-peak water (wintertime water) available in the Russian River and off-peak capacity available in Sonoma Water's water supply and transmission system. This project would have increased the

water supply to the City of Sonoma during water shortages and increased flows available in the southern end of the Sonoma Aqueduct that serves VOMWD and City of Sonoma. The City had not actively engaged in this project with SDC and VOMWD. A recent decision to close the SDC water plant has eliminated this potential local water supply for now.

The City of Sonoma appreciates the work of the Grand Jury and looks forward to continuing work to implement measures to improve the reliability of water supply to our customers in the event of a major earthquake. If you should need clarification or have questions, please contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Colleen Ferguson at 933-2230 or cferguson@sonomacity.org.

Sincerely,



Amy Harrington
Mayor

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

Deva Marie Proto, County Clerk, County of Sonoma

Rebekah Barr, City Clerk, City of Sonoma

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Will There Be Water After an Earthquake?

Report Date: June 19, 2019

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: R5 _____

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: August 30, 2019 Signed: J. Colleen Ferguson

Number of pages attached: One

Grand Jury Report: Will There be Water After an Earthquake?

Dated June 19, 2019

City of Sonoma/Public Works Department

Timeframe for Implementation

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 #5 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The City of Sonoma has three separate water zones with isolation valves at each reservoir and an almost entirely looped system. The 2018 Water Master Plan Update recommended replacing the City's existing hybrid-mechanical system with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to enhance customer service, improve water savings, and provide near real-time water usage data to customers. The subsequent Water Rate Study and the new water rates adopted by the City Council include funding to design an AMI system in 2019-20 and to implement AMI in 2020-21. The City plans to work with the consultant who prepared the 2018 Water Master Plan Update, GHD, to develop a response plan for immediate implementation in the event of loss of Sonoma Water aqueduct supply. This response plan is expected to include public outreach regarding the dire need for water conservation in addition to necessary operational actions, and be completed by December 31, 2019.

The City of Sonoma and the eight other retail water contractors are funding a Regional Water Supply Reliability Study (Study) coordinated by Sonoma Water. The Study was initiated in February 2019 when Sonoma Water 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. This Study will identify opportunities to enhance coordination and partnerships between the City of Sonoma, Sonoma Water and the eight other water contractors for improved regional integrated water supply emergency planning. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by Spring 2020.

City of Sonoma

RESOLUTION # ~~32~~ 35 2019

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA
APPROVING THE CITY OF SONOMA RESPONSE TO THE SONOMA COUNTY
CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT TITLED "WILL THERE BE WATER AFTER AN
EARTHQUAKE?", AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A RESPONSE LETTER,
AND AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/CITY ENGINEER
TO SIGN THE REQUIRED RESPONSE FORM**

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2019, the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury presented their Final Consolidated Grant Jury Report; and

WHEREAS, one of the reports included in the consolidated report was *Will There Be Water After an Earthquake? Sonoma County Residents Face Big Challenges*; and

WHEREAS, the report concludes with eleven findings and six recommendations; and

WHEREAS, per Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury required responses to five of the recommendations by Sonoma Water and to one of the recommendations by the water contractors, including the City of Sonoma; and

WHEREAS, responses are due no later than 90 days after the date of the Grand Jury Report; and

WHEREAS, in addition to completing the required response form, City staff prepared a response letter for the Mayor's signature.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approves the City of Sonoma response to the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury report titled "Will There Be Water After an Earthquake?"

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the response letter, attached as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Public Works Director/City Engineer to sign the required response form, attached as Exhibit B.

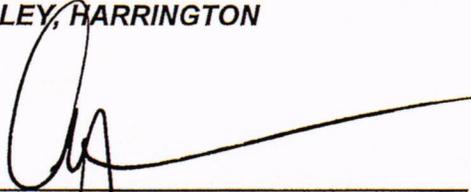
ADOPTED the 19th day of August 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: **AGRIMONTI, COOK, HARVEY, HUNDLEY, HARRINGTON**

NOES:

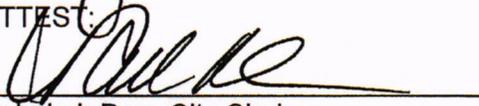
ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:



Amy Harrington, Mayor

ATTEST:



Rebekah Barr, City Clerk