

**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Emergency Water Shortage in Sonoma Valley

Report Date: August 2, 2020

Response by: Tennis Wick Title: Director

Agency/Department Name: Permit Sonoma

**FINDINGS: F5, F8**

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

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: F5, F8. See attached.

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS: R4, R8**

Recommendations numbered: R8 has been implemented. See attached.

(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.

(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: R4 requires further analysis. See attached.

(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: 2

(See attached Civil Grand Jury Response Requirements)

**Permit and Resource Management Department (Permit Sonoma)**  
**Response to Emergency Water Shortage in Sonoma Valley**

Response to Findings F5, F8

*F5. The decision to close the water treatment plant at Sonoma Developmental Center impacted performance under the mutual aid agreement between the Valley of the Moon Water District and Sonoma Developmental Center.*

Permit Sonoma wholly or partially disagrees with Finding F5. Permit Sonoma has no authority or control over the water treatment plant at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) and was not a party to a decision to close the water treatment plant. Further, Permit Sonoma is not a party to any mutual aid agreement between Valley of the Moon Water District (VOMWD) and SDC. Accordingly, Permit Sonoma is unable to provide a substantive response to Finding F5.

*F8. The planning process currently underway for the SDC Specific Plan will impact all Sonoma Valley water agencies.*

Permit Sonoma wholly or partially disagrees with Finding F8. The SDC Specific Plan process is underway, but it is still relatively early in the planning process. Potential impacts to Sonoma Valley water agencies will be identified and analyzed as parts of the ongoing plan development and environmental review processes. While Permit Sonoma acknowledges that the planning process is likely to affect Sonoma Valley water agencies, Permit Sonoma does not have adequate information at the present time to definitively concur that the SDC Specific Plan process will impact all Sonoma Valley water agencies.

Response to Recommendations R4, R8

*R4. Sonoma Water, Valley of the Moon Water District, the City of Sonoma, Permit Sonoma, and the California Department of General Services form 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. (F5)*

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 emergency 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 possible emergency water use agreements as part of the planning and environmental review processes.

*R8. Permit Sonoma establish, by September 30, 2020, communication with water system managers for the City of Sonoma, the Valley of the Moon Water District, and Sonoma Developmental Center to inform the SDC Specific Plan process. (F8)*

This recommendation has been implemented. Because the California Department of General Services (DGS) manages the SDC property and represents the state's interest as owner, Permit Sonoma staff and consultants working on the SDC Specific Plan project regularly communicate with DGS staff. Permit Sonoma Director Tennis Wick is engaged in ongoing talks with Valley of the Moon Water District (VOMWD) Water System Manager Matt Fullner and with City of Sonoma Public Works Director Colleen Ferguson regarding the SDC process and related issues. Permit Sonoma staff or consultants working on the SDC project have also 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.