

**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Emergency Water Shortage In Sonoma Valley

Report Date: July 27, 2020

Response by: Alan Gardner / Matt Fullmer Title: Interim General Manager

Agency/Department Name: Valley of the Moon Water District

**FINDINGS: F2, F4, F5, F6**

I (we) agree with the findings numbered F2, F4, F5, F6

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: R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7**

Recommendations numbered: R5, R6, R7 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

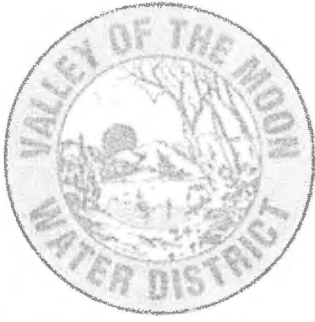
Recommendations numbered: R3 have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)

Recommendations numbered: R1, R2, R4 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: 10-8-20 Signed: [Signature]

Number of pages attached: 275  
(See attached Civil Grand Jury Response Requirements)



*VALLEY OF THE MOON WATER DISTRICT*

A Public Agency Established in 1962  
19039 Bay Street · P.O. Box 280  
El Verano, CA 95433-0280  
Phone: (707) 996-1037  
Fax: (707) 996-7615

October 6, 2020

The Honorable Bradford J. DeMeo  
Presiding Superior Court Judge  
Hall of Justice  
600 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Re: *Valley of the Moon Water District Response to Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report Entitled: Emergency Water Shortages in Sonoma Valley - The Situation Has Worsened***

Foreword:

Dear Honorable Judge DeMeo,

Valley of the Moon Water District (District) would like to thank the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury for taking the time and expending the effort looking into matters that are so close to our hearts in the greater Sonoma Valley. Protecting the water supply and the District's ability to serve our valued customers and neighbors during an emergency is paramount to our way of life. Please find the District's responses to the recommendations outlined in the above referenced Grand Jury Report listed on the following pages.

Recommendations (R)/Responses:

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. (F2)

Response to R1: The District agrees with this recommendation. The District feels that Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) must be involved in this effort as it is currently supplying water to the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) campus. Also, please see the response to R4 below for further information related to this recommendation.

R2. The Valley of the Moon Water District evaluate by **November 30, 2020** whether District operation of Sonoma Developmental Center water distribution and storage facilities would offset deficiencies in emergency water for both Valley of the Moon Water District and Sonoma Developmental Center. (F5)

Response to R2: The District generally agrees with this recommendation. However, given recent changes in District management and the limited resources currently on hand, the District believes it must

continue its current plan to develop and rehabilitate a handful of local wells. Bringing these wells online is the quickest solution to making water available during emergencies in the short to medium term. The District would also like to analyze the SDC Water Supply Assessment before exploring the possibility of assuming operation of the SDC water facilities.

10. 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**. (F2)

Response to F2: The District agrees with this recommendation. The District and the City of Sonoma are both parties to a mutual aid agreement along with other members of the CalWARN network. The City of Sonoma is currently working on engineering specifications for the physical interconnection between the City and the District's distribution systems. The interconnection and related facilities will be installed once funds are appropriated and the formal bidding process is complete. It is expected that this work will commence in the spring of 2021. The District has already been in contact with DWR regarding this project and how it will affect operations and reporting.

11. 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)

Response to F4: The District generally agrees with this recommendation. However, the current conditions at SDC hampers the District's ability to achieve the desired outcomes; at least in the short term. Relevant conditions at SDC include the following:

- SDC no longer operates a permitted water system. This means that the District cannot interconnect with the facilities pursuant to California Department of Water Resources (DWR) regulations.
- The above also means that SDC does not have a certified operator making sure the tanks and distribution system meet the State's drinking water standards at all times.

The California Department of General Services (DGS) is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury. Given that DGS has a lot of contingencies to consider, at SDC and at other projects throughout the State, DGS has not been inclined to work collaboratively toward a solution that would benefit a greater Sonoma Valley emergency water portfolio.

Despite the above, the District is looking into all possible means by which this recommendation might be accomplished. District staff has already taken the lead in facilitating meetings with Sonoma Water, DGS, SDC and the City of Sonoma to insure this is the case.

12. The Valley of the Moon Water District accelerate its program for expanding well capacity and water storage by **December 31, 2020**. (F6) Emergency Water for Sonoma Valley Report 10

Response to F6: The District agrees with this recommendation. The District has already identified the installation of new wells and tanks as high priorities both in its Water Master Plan and Strategic Plan. The District will continue its accelerated program for the installation of these facilities.

13. The Valley of the Moon Water District establish specific emergency water-use restrictions and communicate them to its customers by **September 30, 2020**. (F4)

Response to R6: The District agrees with this recommendation. The District's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) contains a section entitled: Water Shortage Contingency Plan. This plan contains specific actions that the District will take in a water shortage emergency. The UWMP is posted on the District's website, please find the link below. Also, please find a copy of the UWMP attached. The District will insert language informing its customers of the plan and where to find it on outgoing water bills beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

UWMP Link: [https://b01d7349-da91-4080-a3f3-d52365de43c7.filesusr.com/ugd/f7204b\\_0b944a237b264fb294630cc4b82619ba.pdf](https://b01d7349-da91-4080-a3f3-d52365de43c7.filesusr.com/ugd/f7204b_0b944a237b264fb294630cc4b82619ba.pdf)

R7. By **September 30, 2020**, the Valley of the Moon Water District inform customers annually, or when conditions change, regarding risks and deficiencies in the emergency water supply and any actions taken to mitigate them. (F4)

Response to R7: The District agrees with this recommendation. The District created a new webpage with messaging for its customers regarding risks and deficiencies in the emergency water supply. The District began notifying its customers about the new webpage and that it can be found on the District's website via bill inserts. Those bills began going out on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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)

Response to R8: No response required from the District.

#### REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code § 933.05, the Grand Jury requires responses as follows:

- The Valley of the Moon Water District (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R6, R7)
- City of Sonoma (R1, R3, R4)
- Sonoma Water (R4)
- Permit Sonoma (R4, R8)

The District appreciates the opportunity to consider the above referenced items as they relate to its ability to supply water in emergencies. We look forward to implementing the measures described herein in order to achieve that worthy goal.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require further clarification on any of the items above at 707-996-1037.

Yours,



Matt Fullner – Interim General Manager  
Attached: VOMWD 2015 UWMP