



**Sonoma  
Water**

CF/0-0-1 Grand Jury (ID 33)

September 30, 2020

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

**RE: Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) Response to Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury 2019-2020 Final Report**

Dear Honorable Judge DeMeo,

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) respectfully submits the attached Response to Grand Jury Report Forms regarding recommendations and findings in the 2019-2020 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Final Report. We appreciate the diligent work of the Grand Jury to understand and advise on issues critical to our local communities, including this year's review of water resources in Sonoma Valley.

If you should need further clarification or have additional questions, please contact me at (707) 547-1911.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grant Davis".

Grant Davis  
General Manager

c: Sharon DeBenedetti, Foreperson Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury

Sonoma Water Board of Directors / Board of Supervisors  
Susan Gorin, Chair  
David Rabbitt  
Shirlee Zane  
James Gore  
Lynda Hopkins

Sheryl Bratton, Sonoma County Administrator  
Deva Marie Proto, Sonoma County Clerk

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**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Emergency Water Shortages in Sonoma Valley

Report Date: August 2, 2020

Response by: Grant Davis Title: General Manager

Agency/Department Name: Sonoma Water

**FINDINGS: F5**

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

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

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS: R4**

Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(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: SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 1

Sonoma Water Response  
Emergency Water Shortages in Sonoma Valley

Required Response to Findings

*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.*

Sonoma Water disagrees wholly or partially with this finding. Sonoma Water has no authority or control over the water treatment plant at the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) and, therefore, did not make a decision to close the water treatment plant. Sonoma Water is not a party to any mutual aid agreement between Valley of the Moon Water District and SDC and, therefore, cannot provide a response regarding the performance of that agreement.

Required Response to Recommendations

*R4. 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 (F5)*

This recommendation requires further analysis.

Sonoma Water strongly supports regional water supply resource planning and has been spearheading such efforts for many years. As noted in the Grand Jury's report, Sonoma Water is leading the development of a Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study. Sonoma Water is coordinating with its water contractors (including Valley of the Moon Water District and the City of Sonoma) to conduct the study. The study will include the development of a decision support framework model that will consider regional and local water supply sources and infrastructure. This tool will enable the simulation of emergency water supply shortages to assess impacts to service in addition to evaluating potential mitigation projects to reduce the risk of such shortages. The study will identify potential opportunities to coordinate water supply operations and share water resources with and among the water contractors as part of disaster response. The workplan for the study was completed in early August 2020 and implementation of the study is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2020 pending approval by Sonoma Water's Board of Directors scheduled for October 13, 2020. The study is anticipated to take 18 to 20 months to complete.

Sonoma Water does not have any jurisdiction or control over the SDC's water storage facilities. That said, through the Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study and Sonoma Water's existing water supply agreements with SDC, Valley of the Moon Water District, and City of Sonoma, Sonoma Water will continue to work with these entities on coordinated and resilient regional water resources planning.

**Response to Grand Jury Report Form**

Report Title: Sonoma Valley Regional Water Resources

Report Date: August 2, 2020

Response by: Grant Davis Title: General Manager

Agency/Department Name: Sonoma Water

**FINDINGS: F2**

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

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

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS: R1**

Recommendations numbered: \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
(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: **R1** 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: September 30, 2020 Signed: 

Number of pages attached: 2

Sonoma Water Response  
Sonoma Valley Regional Water Resources

Required Response to Findings

*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.*

Sonoma Water disagrees partially with this finding.

Sonoma Water and the State of California have had a municipal water service agreement for the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) in place since 1964. This agreement remains in effect.

The 2006 Restructured Agreement for Water Supply includes a provision that would require Sonoma Water to obtain consent from a Water Contractor for any new agreement to furnish water to areas within two miles of the corporate territory of a Water Contractor. This provision does not impact pre-existing agreements, like the municipal water service agreement for SDC, that pre-date the Restructured Agreement.

Required Response to Recommendations

*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.

Sonoma Water strongly supports regional water supply resource planning and has been spearheading such efforts for many years. As noted in the Grand Jury's report, Sonoma Water is leading the development of a Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study. Sonoma Water is coordinating with its water contractors (including Valley of the Moon Water District and the City of Sonoma) to conduct the study. The study will include the development of a decision support framework model that will consider regional and local water supply sources and infrastructure. This tool will enable the simulation of emergency water supply shortages to assess impacts to service in addition to evaluating potential mitigation projects to reduce the risk of such shortages. The study will identify potential opportunities to coordinate water supply operations and share water resources with and among the water contractors as part of disaster response. The workplan for the study was completed in early August 2020 and implementation of the study is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2020 pending approval by Sonoma Water's Board of Directors scheduled for October 13, 2020. The study is anticipated to take 18 to 20 months to complete.

Sonoma Water does not have any jurisdiction or control over the SDC's water storage facilities. That said, through the Regional Water Supply Resiliency Study and Sonoma Water's existing

Sonoma Water Response  
Sonoma Valley Regional Water Resources

water supply agreements with SDC, Valley of the Moon Water District, and City of Sonoma, Sonoma Water will continue to work with these entities on coordinated and resilient regional water resources planning.