



ESTABLISHED 1850

CITY OF VACAVILLE

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Office of:
The City Manager

JUL 27 2015

SOLANO COUNTY
GRAND JURY

July 21, 2015

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson, Presiding Judge
Hall of Justice
Department 4, Room 306
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO 2014-2015 GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED: Mitigating Water Loss

Dear Judge Nelson:

This letter shall serve as the City of Vacaville's response in accordance with Penal Code § 933.05 to the Grand Jury report entitled "Mitigating Water Loss" as approved by the Vacaville City Council on July 20, 2015.

MITIGATING WATER LOSS - CITY OF VACAVILLE (FINDINGS 1, 2, 3, 4) - RESPONSES

FINDING 1

Not all of the cities are conducting regularly scheduled water audits.

RESPONSE TO FINDING 1

The City of Vacaville has not historically conducted regularly scheduled formal water audits.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Each city conduct routine scheduled water audits in order to improve control of water loss and for water supply planning.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 1

Although the City of Vacaville has not historically conducted formal water audits, it reviews water production, water delivery, and water system operational and repair records on a monthly basis. Through this review process, the City has successfully identified areas of the water system contributing to water loss. Water production and delivery information collected since the Grand Jury's original request for information indicates that the replacement of 14,000 older water meters in 2012 through 2013 has reduced the City's water loss from ten percent (10%) down to five percent (5%). The City does see the value in performing water audits, and will review methodologies and consider incorporating water audits in the management of the water system in the future.

FINDING 2

All the cities face deteriorating water delivery infrastructure.

RESPONSE TO FINDING 2

The City of Vacaville's water delivery infrastructure is aging.

RECOMMENDATION 2

Each city identify and replace aging infrastructure.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 2

The City of Vacaville has a proactive program to identify and replace aging infrastructure. The City has established five separate funding accounts for the rehabilitation and repair of water system infrastructure. These accounts are; the Water Meter Replacement Program, the Well Replacement Program, the Water Storage Replacement Program, the Water Facilities (pipelines) Rehabilitation Program, and the Major Facilities (pump stations, etc.) Replacement Program. Contributions are made annually to these accounts in the City's Budget. Rehabilitation and replacement projects are identified in the City's Capital Improvement Program, which is reviewed annually to identify any new infrastructure projects, and to prioritize projects to be funded and implemented in a given budget year.

FINDING 3

All the cities have identified under-recording water meters as a cause of apparent water loss.

RESPONSE TO FINDING 3

The identification of specific water meters as under-recording is difficult. The City of Vacaville tracks the age of water meters as part of its Water Meter Replacement Program, initiated in 2007, with a goal of replacing all water meters on a 10-year cycle.

RECOMMENDATION 3

Each city comply with programs to address inaccurate reading water meters.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 3

In 2012 and 2013 the City of Vacaville replaced 14,000 water meters. This resulted in a reduction in the City's water loss from 10% down to 5%. Additionally, the City continues to make annual contributions to its Water Meter Replacement Program to continue replacing water meters on a 10-year cycle to maintain accurate accounting of water deliveries.

FINDING 4

All cities have developed water loss mitigation and conservation programs that serve their communities.

RESPONSE TO FINDING 4

The City of Vacaville proactively evaluates water production and water delivery information to identify and rectify causes of water loss. Additionally, the City of Vacaville collaboratively works with the member agencies of the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) to develop and implement effective water conservation programs to ensure the sustainability of the regional water supply resources.

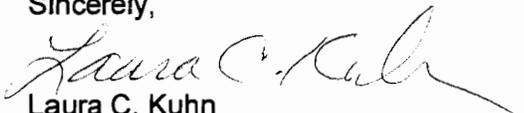
RECOMMENDATION 4

Each city enforce and continue expanding water conservation measures for residential and business consumers.

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 4

Through the preparation of an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP, 2010) and an Urban Water Shortage Contingency Plan (UWSCP, 2014), the City of Vacaville has created effective tools for the management and conservation of its water resources. The effectiveness of these tools has become especially evident during the current 4th year of drought in California. Vacaville has implemented successive drought stages of its UWSCP since early 2014, reducing water usage by 15% during 2014. Most recently, the City reduced water usage by 34% and 36% in May and June 2015, respectively, in response to a May 2015 State-mandated cumulative 32% reduction by February 2016.

Sincerely,



Laura C. Kuhn
City Manager

cc: Vacaville City Council
Royce Cunningham, Utilities Services Director