



FAIRFIELD-SUISUN SEWER DISTRICT

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GREGORY G. BAATRUP, GENERAL MANAGER

July 24, 2019

LE-230/19

Honorable John B. Ellis, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Solano County
Hall of Justice
600 Union Avenue, Room 306
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: 2018-2019 Grand Jury Report Entitled: Wastewater Treatment Plants

Dear Judge Ellis:

We appreciate the Grand Jury efforts to understand the state of critical infrastructure. We were pleased to meet with several jurists and provide them a tour of our facilities. We also appreciate their efforts to understand the water challenges in Solano County. It is through well-researched understanding that better solutions to infrastructure needs can be developed and implemented.

As requested, the District is pleased to offer the following response to the Grand Jury Report regarding Wastewater Treatment Plants. Specifically, the report requires the District to respond to the following Findings & Recommendations:

FINDING 1

In many cases, wastewater effluent is not used to supply industrial needs or to irrigate crops and public lands.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Wastewater treatment facility decision-makers consider, on an ongoing basis, if additional treated water can be used to replace current water supplies.

Following the construction of the regional plant in the 1970's, the District has beneficially reused 100% of its wastewater effluent to irrigate crops and help sustain a healthy ecosystem in the Suisun Marsh. These customers rely on this water to sustain current uses. Directing water for new customers will likely have negative impacts on current uses. If the current customer needs change, we will look for other opportunities to reuse water.

Recycling wastewater is just one of several opportunities to make sure there is enough water to meet demand. The water suppliers have obligation under state law to produce and update an Urban Water Master Plan. These plans address how water supplies will meet demands.

In addition to looking for opportunities to maximize the use and value of recycled water, the District looks to recycling other resources produced during wastewater treatment. Recently, this has been demonstrated in our energy management and biosolids projects. Approximately 63% of

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the energy used to treat wastewater comes from multiple renewable sources (solar, wind, and cogeneration using methane produced at the plant) and we continue to look to cost-effectively decrease reliance on energy from the local utility. As noted in the report, the District and Lystek International implemented a biosolids project where 100% of the District biosolids are used to create a biofertilizer for agriculture, replacing the prior practice of landfilling biosolids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gregory G. Baatrup", with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Gregory G. Baatrup
General Manager

cc: