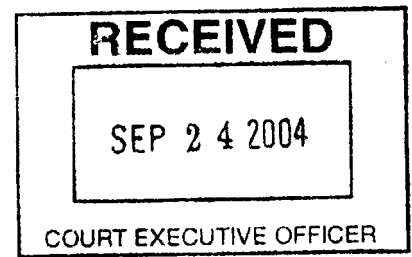


Town of Yountville
"The Heart of the Napa Valley"



September 16, 2004

Honorable Scott Snowden, Presiding Judge
Napa County Superior Court
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559

RE: Response to Napa County Grand Jury 2003-2004 Water Report

Dear Judge Snowden,

On behalf of the Town of Yountville, I am writing in response to the Napa County Grand Jury report dated June 23, 2004. The findings and recommendations for the Town of Yountville by the Grand Jury Committee and our responses are as follows.

Please note that in reference to the long term water agreement with the Department of Veteran Affairs for the use of water from Rector Reservoir the Town executed a twenty years agreement with the State to provide over 500 acre-feet of water annually.

Finding 1

Napa County has finite water resources and growing water needs.

Response to Finding 1

The Town of Yountville agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 1

The use of recycled water should be maximized throughout the County. Cities and towns, in concert with the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District should intensify efforts to use reclaimed water.

Municipalities should also be encouraged to construct tertiary level wastewater treatment plants and seek funds to construct infrastructure to deliver recycled waters.

Response to Recommendation 1

The Town of Yountville currently recycled approximately 45 % of its annual wastewater effluent to four irrigation customers: three winery/vineyards and one golf course. The Town's ability to increase the utilization of recycled water is limited by a few different factors:

Town of Yountville Grand Jury Response to Finding 2


- **Seasonal Irrigation Demand:** the demand for irrigation water is generally seven to eight months of the year when the hydraulic inflow to the treatment facility is the lowest and the organic loading to the facility is the highest.
- The high groundwater table of the Napa Valley during the winter months has a large impact on the inflow of water to the sewer collection system, which is the majority of winter hydraulic inflow to the treatment facility. This is also when the irrigation demand is not needed. Thus, to more fully utilize recycled water, a great deal of winter storage is needed which requires costly land acquisitions.
- The current level of tertiary treatment of the recycled water is slightly under the maximum allowed by regulation. Additional demands may be available with an increased level of treatment.
- Public perception of recycled wastewater has always been an obstacle for maximizing the potential use of the resource.

The Town Council has committed to maximizing the potential of recycled water use with the recent approval of the Water Supply Plan for the Town. Negotiations are currently underway to contract with an engineering consultant to determine the feasibility of:

1. Improving the treatment process to obtain the highest level of recycled water available.
2. Expand the distribution system to include additional recycled water customers.
3. Minimize the discharge of highly treated wastewater to the Napa River.
4. Improving the sewer collection system to reduce the inflow during winter months.

Upon completion of the feasibility study, the Council will be able to establish a goal for the Town to maximize the recycled water potential for future water supplies. In addition, the completion of the 2050 Water Resources Update for Napa Valley may provide some guidance as to the maximization of this valuable resource.

Yours truly,



Kevin R. Plett
Town Administrator

cc: Mayor & Council