

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Advisory Committee August 2, 2019
From: Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair
Subject: 2019 Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury Report – Will There Be Water After an Earthquake?

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: None. Information Only

At the July 8th TAC meeting, the TAC members received an oral report from Agency staff on the above referenced report. The Agency, Water Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District received the Grand Jury report on June 14, 2019. The report had eleven findings and six recommendations. A copy of the complete report was included in the July 8th TAC agenda and is available at <http://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/info/administration/grand-jury/GJ-2018-2019>. Per the requirements of the Report, the Agency must respond to recommendations R1-R4, and R6 and findings F1-F7 and F9-F11. The retail water contractors must respond separately to recommendation R5. In addition, it is anticipated that each water contractor will also respond to findings, F3, F5, F6, F7, F8 and F11. The Findings and Recommendations are listed below:

FINDINGS

- F1: Sonoma County relies primarily on the Russian River for drinking water which may be disrupted in the event of a major earthquake.
- F2. Sonoma County relies primarily on a single wholesale provider for its water. Sonoma Water, which delivers water under contract to cities and water districts.in Sonoma County and northern Marin County, may be without sufficient resources to meet all emergency needs.
- F3. In the event of a major earthquake, water supplies are likely to be significantly disrupted for extended periods of days or weeks, although reduced water supplies may be provided through alternative means. Full recovery of systems could take longer.
- F4. Measures implemented by Sonoma Water to reduce the risk of critical water shortages following a major earthquake have relied heavily upon state and federal grant funds, but implementation has fallen behind the schedules

proposed in the LHMP. A more rapid reduction of risks could be achieved through water rate adjustments.

- F5. Consistent with FEMA recommendations, residents need to maintain their own emergency source of water to meet their personal needs for more than the three days frequently stated by officials
- F6. More public outreach is needed to educate water users to their risks and individual responsibility for earthquake preparedness.
- F7. Coordination between Sonoma Water and its contractors needs to improve by increasing training exercises, mutual aid training, and systems information exchange.
- F8. Because operating pressures must be maintained throughout the system, water contractors have limited ability to curtail non-essential water uses without compromising availability of water for critical applications such as fire suppression and hospital use.
- F9. Sonoma Water's planning for earthquake response, supplies, repairs, and restoration of water depends significantly on institutional repair knowledge concentrated in a few long-term employees, but lacks adequate documentation such as manuals for standard operating procedures.
- F10. Sonoma Water's estimate of three days to return to service following an earthquake is conditional on the availability of suitable repair parts, aqueduct pipe, joints, pumps and valves. The Grand Jury found the inventory of emergency supplies is sparse and the inventory list is incomplete and out-of-date.
- F11. Sonoma Water and its water contractors maintain a well-designed system and have made significant progress in mitigating earthquake risks. Ongoing efforts are needed to reduce remaining risks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. Sonoma Water review and establish viable options for accelerating how rapidly the highest-priority mitigation measures are being funded and implemented, by December 31,2019. (F3, F4)
- R2. Sonoma Water maintain inventory lists with current goals for items, quantities, locations, and sourcing; and improve stockpiling accordingly, by December 31,2019. (F10)

- R3. Sonoma Water and water contractors derive and publicize more realistic outage periods and provide updated information to the public, by December 31, 2019. (F5, F6)
- R4. Sonoma Water improve coordination with water contractors, including field exercises, by December 31,2019. (F7)
- R5. Water contractors study options for making local systems more adaptable under emergency conditions - such as dedicated supply loops, digitally monitored metering, or automatic shut-down valves, by December 31, 2019. (F8)
- R6. Sonoma Water prepare and maintain one or more SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) for the restoration of water deliveries specifically for an earthquake; SOPs should be updated annually or whenever there are changes to procedures, by December 31,2019. (F9)

DRAFT COMMON RESPONSE TO R5

Response: Recommendation #5 has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. Key regional elements will be implemented by Spring 2020. <each water agency to tailor their message separately regarding timing for implementation of local system improvements>

Local System Integration with Regional Wholesaler

The <insert water contractor> fully supports the Grand Jury's recommendation to study options for making our local public water supply system more adaptable for emergency conditions. Although the water systems of Sonoma Water and its retail customers are interconnected, integration improvements are possible, especially in times of water shortage. By leveraging the collective water resources and infrastructure of Sonoma Water and its nine retail customers, there could be opportunities to improve water supply reliability and resiliency through better integrated water resources planning and management.

To this end, <insert water contractor> and the eight other retail water contractors are funding a Regional Water Supply Reliability Study (Study) coordinated by Sonoma Water. The Study was initiated in February of this year when Sonoma Water engaged the services of Jacobs Engineering Group to evaluate strategies and water supply projects to improve integrated water resources management and make the service area more resilient to potential short term (e.g., earthquakes) and long-term (e.g. sustained drought) water shortages. This Study will identify opportunities to enhance coordination and partnerships between <insert water contractor >, Sonoma Water and the eight other water contractors for improved regional

integrated water supply emergency planning. It is anticipated that this work will be completed by Spring 2020.

Local System Resiliency

In addition to purchasing wholesale water from Sonoma Water, < insert water contractor> has local water supplies that are used to meet the demands of our customers. <add more narrative regarding what is being done locally to address this issue >