

AUG 30 2010

Court Executive Office



# CITY OF AMERICAN CANYON

*Napa Valley's New Destination*

August 18, 2010

The Honorable Stephen T. Kroyer, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of the State of California  
County of Napa  
825 Brown Street  
Napa, CA 94559

**FILED**

AUG 30 2010

Clerk of the Napa Superior Court  
By: C. Brennan  
Deputy

SUBJECT: Response to the 2009–2010 Napa County Grand Jury Final Report  
“Water: Our Precious, Critical Resource”

Dear Judge Kroyer:

At their meeting on August 17, 2010, the American Canyon City Council authorized me to submit the following response to the 2009-10 Napa County Grand Jury Final Report entitled “Water: Our Precious, Critical Resource.”

## **GRAND JURY COMMENDATIONS**

The City of American Canyon appreciates that the 2009–2010 Grand Jury commended the City “for its plan to use recycled water for irrigation fields at its new high school and for building recycled water storage capacity for beneficial uses within the City.”

## **GRAND JURY FINDINGS**

**Finding No. 2—** In the event of supply disruption from the NBA, the County and its municipalities will depend on water from municipal reservoirs and water storage facilities.

**City Response to Finding No. 2—** Agree. The City would include in the finding that the City of American Canyon also depends on water purchased from the City of Vallejo in Solano County.

## **GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Recommendation No. 1—** Municipalities within the County develop, expand, and formalize agreements to provide water allocations to address a catastrophic loss of water.

**City Response to Recommendation No. 1—** Agree. The City concurs that it is beneficial to develop mutual water-aid agreements between the municipalities and the County as a component of our emergency

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operations plan and water system emergency response plans. All six Napa County Public Works Directors meet bi-monthly to discuss items of mutual interest and concern, and from these meetings, a public works first responder mutual aid framework is expected to be created.

**Recommendation No. 2—** All county municipalities evaluate means to increase the capacity, and enhance the survivability, of municipal reservoirs and water storage facilities.

**City Response to Recommendation No. 2—** Agree. The City of American Canyon works closely with the City of Napa, the County, and the other northern cities in this regard and meets monthly with these partners to discuss matters of common interest and advantage, and to plan and coordinate water allocation and supply opportunities. The Napa Turnout Reservoir raw water tank near the City's water treatment plant (see Final Report Figure 3) was recently expanded from 7-million gallons to 10-million gallons. The City is planning to construct in the next several years an additional 4.5-million gallons of water storage to improve storage, water quality, and delivery reliability.

**Recommendation No. 4—** Each County municipality prepare a plan to ensure rapid repair of the water delivery system and include procedures for emergency water delivery to facilities responsible for providing immediate health and safety aid to the community's population, especially local hospitals, shelters, and emergency centers.

**City Response to Recommendation No. 4—** Agree. Enhancing the existing American Canyon water system emergency response plan to include such procedures in the next update would be beneficial during an emergency.

**Recommendation No. 5—** Cities of American Canyon and Napa are encouraged to complete their updated UWMP plans on schedule and train appropriate city and County officials to carry out their specific responsibilities. St. Helena is encouraged to update their UWMP plan on a periodic basis.

**City Response to Recommendation No. 5—** Agree. The City expects to begin the process of updating its Urban Water Management Plan later this calendar year as required by the State of California (see <http://www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/sb7/committees/urban/u7/> for up-to-date information from the Department of Water Resources) and will involve the City Council ad hoc committee on water resources (the "Blue Ribbon Committee") and interested members of the American Canyon community.

**Recommendation No. 9**— The County and all municipalities continue development and expansion of recycled water projects to alleviate future water shortages.

**City Response to Recommendation No. 9**— Agree. The City is currently delivering recycled water to several community parks and a commercial vineyard. We plan to continue to expand the system in accordance with the recycled water implementation plan and as funding becomes available.

**Recommendation No. 10**— The County, all municipalities, and NSD investigate the process and economics for the formation of a countywide utility district to the benefit the County residents and holistically manage the availability, distribution, and economics of potable and recycled water.

**City Response to Recommendation No. 10**— Disagree. Each water agency in Napa County operates its water system according to state and federal regulations and in accordance with the needs and desires of each community, and at the direction of their respective elected governing bodies. While there might be financial benefit from the economy of scale afforded by a countywide water agency, a one-size-fits-all approach to water supply, demand, and conservation issues would not be appropriate for the diversity of Napa County cities and their community goals and objectives.

**Recommendation No. 14**— That within six months American Canyon, Calistoga, St. Helena, and Yountville prepare capital cost proposals for fluoridation of their water supplies.

**City Response to Recommendation No. 14**— Before the City can agree or disagree with the Grand Jury recommendation, the City Council will refer this proposal to its Blue Ribbon Committee on Water Resources, a community technical advisory group, who will evaluate the merits of fluoridation and provide a recommendation to the City Council early next year.

#### ***CORRECTIONS TO GRAND JURY REPORT***

**Page 4 - First Full Sentence Below Table**—“It [American Canyon] also receives some treated water from the City of Vallejo.”

**Correction**—“It also receives some treated water from the City of Vallejo and the City of Napa on an emergency or urgent-need basis.”

**Page 9 - First Full Paragraph Recounting Taste and Odor Problems in 2009**

**Add to the end of the paragraph—** “The City of American Canyon also experienced the full force of the taste and odor problem caused by the algae bloom. To respond, the City completely discontinued the use of NBA water for several weeks while flushing the undesirable water from the distribution and water storage system. The only course of action available to the City to keep customers supplied with water was to purchase additional potable water from the cities of Napa and Vallejo, at a cost to the rate payers of more than \$500,000.”

**Page 14 - Second Full Paragraph Describing Recycled Water Rates**

**Add after the second sentence—** “The official rate will be determined through a recycled water rate study that would be approved by the City Council after a public hearing process.”

**Page 11 - Second Full Paragraph, Second Sentence—** “Napa City’s Plan describes and evaluates sources of water, projected population, and future water needs.”

**Correction—**“Napa City’s and American Canyon’s Plan describes and evaluates sources of water, projected population, and future water needs.”

**Page 11 - Second Full Paragraph, Fifth Sentence—** “The Napa City Plan was last updated in 2005.”

**Correction—** “The Napa City and American Canyon Plans was were last updated in 2005.”

**Page 12 - First Full Paragraph, First Sentence—** “The threats addressed by Napa City’s ERP that could cause a major disruption in...”

**Correction—** “The threats addressed by Napa City’s and American Canyon’s ERP that could cause a major disruption in...”

**Page 21 - Request for Responses from Public Works Department**

**Correction—** “Public Works Department of American Canyon Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, ~~13~~, 14”

**Page 22 - Request for Responses from Mayor**

**Correction—** “Mayor, American Canyon Recommendations 3, 5, 9, 10, 14”

**Letter to The Honorable Stephen T. Kroyer**  
**August 18, 2010**  
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Thank you for your consideration of the above comments. On behalf of the City Council, please convey my compliments and appreciation to the members of the 2009-2010 Grand Jury for their comprehensive and thoughtful work on a challenging issue.

Please feel free to contact me at (707) 647-4558 if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Throne, P.E.  
Public Works Director

cc: Richard J. Ramirez, City Manager  
Rebekah Barr, City Clerk  
Steve Moore, Water Systems Manager