



CITY OF FILLMORE

CENTRAL PARK PLAZA

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MAR 19 2019



Ventura County
Grand Jury

March 15, 2019

County of Ventura – Grand Jury
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

ATTN: Michael Planet

Dear Mr. Planet:

The City of Fillmore received the report titled “Water Consideration for Cities” dated May 17, 2017. Enclosed please find the City of Fillmore’s responses to your questions. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David W. Rowlands
City Manager

Enclosure

Final Report: Water Considerations for Cities

Report Date: March 15, 2019

Response By: David W. Rowlands Title: City Manager

Grand Jury Conclusions C-01 through C-07

C-01 Cities' water plans are based on historic water availability patterns which may no longer be applicable. Over the last 100 years, water availability from precipitation has been tending downward and may never return to what was considered average.

Response: Partially Disagree

The City of Fillmore's groundwater from the City's wells has been at a consistent level for the past 10-15 years. Future supplies are based upon the UWMP and are updated every five years. Pursuant to the September 16, 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the City is actively participating in the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency. This joint power authority comprised of the local public agencies that operate within the Fillmore and Piru groundwater basins is cooperatively engaged in developing and implementing long term sustainability policy at this time. The next UWMP update will incorporate information and policy directives pursuant to the SGMA.

C-02 Cities' plans address the minimum, state-required, three-year drought scenarios. None of the UWMPs address a long-term drought, even though the current drought has lasted over five years.

Response: Partially Disagree

The UWMP was prepared in accordance with the state-required, three-year drought scenarios. During the drought the City was able to supply water to our customers with minimal effect on our residents and businesses.

C-03 Long term city plans are based on the optimistic view there will be as much water available in 2035 or 2040, as there was in 2010. Additional future water resources are not well-defined other than being described as imported water or coming from recycling and conservation efforts.

Response: Partially Disagree

The City of Fillmore had a study completed on our aquifer and the report indicated the City had plenty of water into the future. Ultimately, it was determined that the City of Fillmore's Municipal pumping is a very small component of total pumping within basin, and as a result, agricultural pumping will exert the largest control on groundwater

elevations. Pursuant to the September 16, 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the City is actively participating in the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency. In addition, since 2009 the City's Water Recycling Plant (WRP) processes over 800,000 gallons a day of incoming sewage into recycled water meeting State Title 22 Regulations for unrestricted reuse. Although the quantity varies from month to month depending upon temperatures, a 4-year average of 20% of the recycled water produced (currently 160,000 gallons of recycled water per day or over 55 million gallons per year) is supplied back into the community via a 5-mile backbone pipeline for use irrigating landscaping. 20 parks, school yards and other sites have been removed from the use of potable water and converted to using recycled water. The City is expanding this potable to recycled conversion to additional parks, school yards and other sites as infrastructure funding becomes available. These conversions extend the potable water supply for use by the City's growing population. All new development projects are required to use recycled water for soil compaction and dust control during construction. All new development projects within a reasonable distance of the backbone pipeline are required to extend recycled water infrastructure to the site and use recycled water for landscape irrigation. Any recycled water not used in this way is percolated into the aquifer daily; thus returning it for eventual reuse. The WRP is not permitted to discharge to Santa Clara River, therefore 100% of the approximately 800,000 gallons a day is beneficially reused.

C-04 Current and future rate payers will bear the burden of the cost of building water purification facilities, desalination plants, desalters, recycling plants, additional pipelines, and storage facilities needed to ensure there is an adequate water supply system in the future.

Response: Agree

C-05 Since many of the cities in the County rely on MWD wholesale water, Cities should base UWMPs on the wholesalers' prediction that retail water demand will outstrip total reliable water resources by 2040.

City of Fillmore to C-05 – No Response. (Relates to Metropolitan's Wholesale Water)

C-06 The UWMPs use different sources for analyzing past and future populations. The inconsistency makes it difficult to compare plans, especially when cities have multiple retail water providers. Some UWMPs even use different population sources within the same report.

Response: Agree

C-07 Cities water plans do not appear to adequately address catastrophic failures or interruptions with in the system, such as:

- **Infrastructure failures (dams)**

- **Major earthquake destruction**
- **Damage to the groundwater**
 - + **saltwater intrusion**
 - + **environmental disasters (oil or chemical spills)**

Response: Disagree

Plans to address water supply emergencies and groundwater quality exist. The City of Fillmore participates in the Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan which was updated in September 2015.

Responses to Grand Jury Recommendations R-01 through R-05

R-01 The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils collaborate with all the County water purveyors to develop long term plans ‘to respond to catastrophic disruption of water projections.

Response: Will Be Implemented

Fillmore participates in ongoing discussions with neighboring agencies to discuss and develop long-range plans in the event of catastrophic interruptions to water supplies.

R-02 The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils use the same data source when making population projections.

Response: Will Be Implemented

R-03 The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils develop drought plans that extend at least 5 years.

Response: Will Be Implemented

It is expected that a five-year drought plan will be required in 2020 UWMPs.

R-04 The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils extend drought conservation measures during non-drought years.

Response: Has Been Implemented

The City has adopted a Resolution that implements the drought regulations adopted by the California Water Resources Control Board. The prohibitions are as follows:

Watering of outdoor landscapes with potable water that causes runoff to adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures; and

Using a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use; and

Applying potable water to driveways and sidewalks; and

Using potable water in a fountain or decorative water feature except where the water is part of a recirculating system; and

The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall; and

The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased; and

The irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians; and

The irrigation with potable water of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission or the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Operators of hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily, and prominently display notice of this option in each guestroom using clear and easily understood language.

R-05 The Grand Jury recommends the 10 city councils ensure all future water availability plans clearly identify any potential water sources that are based on unfunded or unpermitted infrastructure.

Response: Will Be Implemented

This recommendation will be implemented in the 2020 UWMP.