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August 24, 2004

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

Subject: Response to 2003-2004 Grand Jury

Dear Judge Snowden and Members of the Grand Jury:

This letter is in response to the 2003-2004 Grand Jury Report which was released on June 23, 2004, and is intended to fulfill the legal requirements for response. We appreciate the comments by the Grand Jury and the opportunity to respond.

The City of St. Helena's response to the Grand Jury's Napa Sanitation District Report, Finding 6: The City and County of Napa do not have a recycling program for household grease and oil.

Response to Finding 6: The City of St. Helena agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 6: The City and County of Napa should expand their recycling programs to include household grease and oil.

Response to Recommendation 6: The City of St. Helena agrees with this finding.

St. Helena actively supports and participates in the recycling of used residential motor oils. The problems with fats, oils and grease (FOG) are associated with wastewater collection and treatment system operation and maintenance. In St. Helena, these issues are primarily related to commercial facilities (food preparation and food manufacturing). These facilities are subject to existing ordinance (SHMC Section 13.24.100 Greasetraps) as well as targeted educational efforts. Even these efforts tend not to encourage recycling of FOG, but simply disposal as solid waste. One potential avenue for a recycling program would be the production of biodiesel fuel. The City would participate in a County-wide effort if one were undertaken, but it would not be economical for the City to pursue such an effort alone.

The City of St. Helena's response to the Grand Jury's 2003-2004 Water Report, Finding 1: Napa County has finite water resources and growing water needs.

Response to Finding 1: The City of St. Helena agrees with this finding.

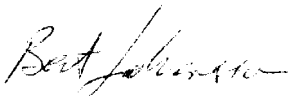
Recommendation 1: The use of recycled water should be maximized throughout the County. Cities and towns, in concert with the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District should intensify efforts to use reclaimed water. Municipalities should also be encouraged to construct tertiary level wastewater treatment plants and seek funds to construct infrastructure to deliver recycled waters.

Response to Recommendation 1: The City of St. Helena agrees with this recommendation.

The City of St. Helena has proposed to upgrade its wastewater treatment plant to add tertiary treatment adequate to meet State Title 22 requirements for wastewater reclamations. In order to meet future wastewater treatment and irrigation demand, the City has identified a consulting team to develop a design memorandum to increase plant capacity from the current 0.50 mgd dry weather design flow to 0.9 mgd. The project will include distribution pipelines to convey the recycled water between the treatment plant and the irrigation sites. (Within the City limits, there are approximately 1,550 acres of irrigated vineyard area and approximately 60 acres of irrigated turf area.) The City's existing effluent disposal site adjacent to the treatment plant will continue to be used or competitively leased to a vineyard operator with the City providing recycled water for irrigation. The project will offset approximately 20% of the City's current potable water supply being used for irrigation in addition to reducing the amount of privately pumped groundwater.

These comments are respectfully submitted for the City of St. Helena, as approved by the St. Helena City Council at their regular meeting of August 24, 2004.

Sincerely,



Bert Johansson
City Manager