



SUISUN-SOLANO WATER AUTHORITY



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August 19, 2015

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The Honorable E. Bradley Nelson
600 Union Ave.
Fairfield, CA 94533

**RE: 2014-2015 Grand Jury Report Entitled: Mitigating Water Loss
Written Response to Findings and Recommendations**

Your Honor,

The Suisun Solano Water Authority (SSWA), on behalf of the City of Suisun City which is a party to this Joint Powers Authority with the Solano Irrigation District, is pleased to respond to the Findings and Recommendations of the referenced Grand Jury Report.

Finding 1: Not all of the cities are conducting regularly scheduled water audits.

Response: Regarding Suisun City we must disagree in part with the finding.

- SSWA has conducted the Water Audit for calendar year 2011 in accordance with the industry-standard methodology of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) presented in its Manual M36, Water Audits and Loss Control Programs. This Audit is being used as a basis of ongoing water conservation and water loss control projects.
- Audits for calendar years 2012 to 2014 have been scheduled but delayed due to increased staff work required to respond to the effects of the ongoing drought and consequential state regulations, and for capital projects to increase system storage capacity and preserve water treatment facilities.

Recommendation 1: Each city conduct routine scheduled water audits in order to improve control of water loss and for water supply planning.

Response: This recommendation has not yet been implemented but is planned to be implemented in the winter of 2015-16. Audits for calendar years 2012 to 2015 will be prepared by Authority staff in accordance with AWWA Manual M36.

Finding 2: All the cities face deteriorating water delivery infrastructure.

Response: We agree with the finding: everything wears out eventually.

Recommendation 2: Each city identify and replace aging infrastructure.

Response: Suisun City has, through SSWA, has replaced significant portions of the water system in Old Town Suisun City. The rest of the water system has been installed in the 1960s and later, meaning the system is not that old. We do not have high breakage/leakage rates in the majority of the system, and we have time to plan and fund rehabilitation projects. The portion of the system most in need of rehabilitation is the Cement Hill Water Treatment Plant. We have completed a Condition Assessment and Rehabilitation Plan and are actively pursuing rehabilitation projects.

Finding 3: All the cities have identified under-recording water meters as a cause of apparent water loss.

Response: Regarding Suisun City we agree with the finding.

Recommendation 3: Each city comply with programs to address inaccurate reading water meters.

Response: SSWA is pursuing projects to replace existing meters, beginning with the largest meters where the return on investment is greatest. Further studies are planned of the typical lifetime of meters in the SSWA system to determine the best time to replace them and fund accordingly. Adding meter data to a GIS system is planned to allow study of usage and maintenance data.

Finding 4: All the cities have developed water loss mitigation and conservation programs that serve their communities.

Response: Regarding Suisun City we agree with the finding.

Recommendation 4: Each city enforce and continue expanding water conservation measures for residential and business consumers.

Response: SSWA has proactively responded to the State's drought emergency conservation regulations and water consumption has dropped by the required amounts. On a more normal basis SSWA participates in water conservation programs coordinated by the Solano County Water Agency.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Cary Keaten
General Manager, Solano Irrigation District
SSWA Manager

cc: Suzanne Bragdon, City of Suisun City Manager