

NEVADA CITY WATER TREATMENT PLANT

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

The Nevada County Civil Grand Jury has responsibility to review departments of the cities in Nevada County.

PROCEDURE FOLLOWED

The Grand Jury inspected the Nevada City water treatment plant on August 30, 2000, interviewed the supervisor and based its findings on its observations supplemented by city personnel's statements.

FINDINGS

1. Untreated water is taken from Little Deer Creek and supplemented by up to 30 acre feet of water from Nevada Irrigation District's Cascade Canal.
2. Average treated water usage during the winter and summer periods is 0.5 and 1.2 million gallons per day respectively. Treatment capacity could be as much as 2 million gallons per day. Any increase in present usage is limited by filter capacity and would require either more filtering capacity or staffing of more than one shift per day.
3. A well-maintained emergency power system is in place. Storage capacity of treated water is ample, with one 1.4-million gallon tank, a second 640,000 gallon tank, and a third 1.1-million gallon tank.
4. Treated water samples are analyzed on a fixed schedule for pH, turbidity, aluminum and residual chlorine. Organics and bacterial analyses are contracted to an outside laboratory. All of the analyzed compounds are well below the levels set by the California Department of Health Services. Monthly reports are sent to the state and the state inspects the plant twice a year.
5. Potable water plant operators and wastewater plant operators are state certified in both disciplines and can operate either plant.
6. The water treatment plant is in spotless condition and all electrical and mechanical equipment is kept in excellent condition.
7. The plant operates automatically except for backwashing the filters and thus there is no need at the present time for staffing the second and third shifts. Any equipment failures on un-staffed shifts are automatically alarmed and an operator responds.
8. The plant is surrounded by a 6-foot high chain link fence that the Grand Jury deems inadequate to protect against vandalism that has occurred at other county water treatment plants. One of the two sets of gates has an opening large enough to admit a small person. There is no alarm system to detect intruders.

CONCLUSION

The Nevada City water treatment plant is well-operated and maintained and water supply is ample.

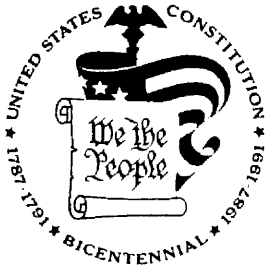
RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grand Jury recommends that the city immediately revise the plant fencing by raising its height, installing security wire to prevent intruders from entering the plant premises and adding an intruder alarm system.

REQUIRED RESPONSE

The Nevada City City Council. due May 2, 2001.

RESPONSES



Nevada City
A Bicentennial
Community

CITY OF NEVADA CITY

CALIFORNIA

November 14, 2001

Honorable Ersel L. Edwards
Presiding Judge of the Civil Grand Jury
201 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

REC'D BY SUPERIOR COURT
DATE: 11-16-01
BY: *A. Simpson*

RE: Response to Grand Jury Report – 2000-2001

Honorable Judge Edwards:

The City Council of the City of Nevada City wishes to express our profound apologies for failing to respond to the Grand Jury report in a timely manner. We assure you it was not done intentionally. Our response is as follows:

Findings 1-8

We agree with the findings as reported.

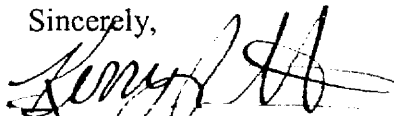
Recommendations: “The Grand Jury recommends that the City immediately revise the plant fencing by raising its height, installing security wire to prevent intruders from entering the plant premises and adding an intruder alarm system.”

In response to the Grand Jury’s concerns, the City of Nevada City contracted with Empire Fence Company to install an extension on the height of the fence and to add strands of barbed wire to the top two feet. Additionally we have received estimates on an alarm system that will alert the police department to anyone trying to enter the building after it has been activated. We anticipate the alarm being installed before the end of 2001.

Again, we apologize for the delay in this response and thank you for concern for the safety of our citizens’ water supply.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Kerry Arnett
Mayor