

# **GRASS VALLEY 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 Grass Valley water treatment plant on August 15, 2000, interviewed supervisors and based its findings on its observations supplemented by city personnel's statements.

## **FINDINGS**

1. Untreated water is supplied to the Grass Valley water treatment plant by the Nevada Irrigation District (NID).
2. The water treatment plant has a capacity of 5 million gallons of treated water per day. Usage during the summer is about two million gallons per day and during the winter about one million gallons per day.
3. A well-maintained emergency power system is in place. During plant shutdowns or yearly cleaning of the settling ponds, treated water can be supplied by NID from their Elizabeth George treatment plant, thus assuring a constant supply of treated water to Grass Valley. Alternatively the Grass Valley plant can supply treated water to NID. A 2- million gallon covered reservoir for treated water is sited at the plant and another 2.5- million gallon covered storage tank is located on Empire Street.
4. Treated water samples are analyzed on a fixed schedule for pH, turbidity, residual chlorine and coliform bacteria at the Grass Valley wastewater treatment plant laboratory. Analyses for copper, lead and other compounds are done at an outside laboratory. All of the compounds analyzed 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. All potable water plant operators and wastewater plant operators are state certified in both disciplines and can operate either plant.
6. The water treatment plant was in spotless condition and all electrical and mechanical equipment is kept in excellent condition.
7. Since the plant operates automatically there is no need for staffing the second and third shifts each day. Any equipment failures on un-staffed shifts are automatically alarmed and an operator is called out.
8. The plant is protected by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. Some vandalism has occurred in the past and plans have been made to install an outside electronic monitoring system to detect intruders.

# RESPONSES

Rec'd  
DEC 5 - 2000

# City of Grass Valley

A CENTENNIAL CITY

November 28, 2000

Honorable Carl Bryan II  
Presiding Judge of the Nevada County Courts  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

CITY COUNCIL  
BILL HULLENDER, MAYOR  
LINDA STEVENS, VICE MAYOR  
PATTI INGRAM  
GERARD TASSONE  
JOHN A. TAYLOR

GENE HAROLDSSEN  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

125 EAST MAIN STREET  
GRASS VALLEY, CA 95945  
(530) 274-4310 FAX: 274-4399

Re: Grass Valley Water Treatment Plant

Your Honor,

We received the Nevada County Grand Jury's November 3, 2000 report regarding the City's Water Treatment Plant. Pursuant to California Penal Code 933.05, here is the City's response to the findings listed:

1. The City Council agrees with this finding.
2. The City Council agrees with this finding.
3. The City Council agrees with this finding.
4. The City Council agrees with this finding.
5. The City Council agrees with this finding.
6. The City Council agrees with this finding.
7. The City Council agrees with this finding.
8. The City Council agrees with this finding.

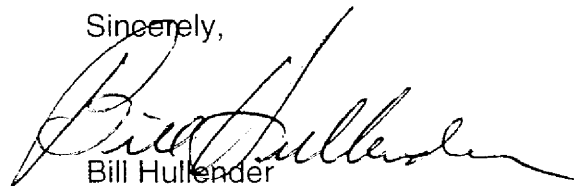
The City appreciates that the conclusion of the Nevada County Grand Jury is that "the Grass Valley water treatment plant is well operated and is a credit to the city."

Regarding the recommendation of the Grand Jury "that the city upgrade the security system as soon as possible":

1. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future. The time frame for implementation is as follows: An upgraded security system at the Water Treatment Plant is expected to be completed by the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2001.

If you have any questions, please contact Rudi Golnik, Director of Public Works / City Engineer at 274-4351. Thank you for your consideration of our response.

Sincerely,



Bill Hullender  
Mayor

cc: City Council  
Claude Biddle, City Attorney  
Rudi Golnik, Director of Public Works / City Engineer  
David Janison, Nevada County Grand Jury Foreman

## **CONCLUSION**

The Grass Valley water treatment plant is well operated and is a credit to the city.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Grand Jury recommends that the city upgrade the security system as soon as possible.

## **REQUIRED RESPONSE**

The Grass Valley City Council, due January 3, 2001.