



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

TO: The Honorable Mike Harper,
Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors *to*

CC: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2015-2016
Grand Jury Water Committee Final Report
RE: SDR 2015-2016-001 Water Committee

DATE: *September 6, 2016*

The Grand Jury Water Committee has requested a written response to their final report on the Water Committee. The response of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors is as follows:

Finding #2: The County needs a cross-discipline study of carrying capacity in Trinity County that projects what population and agricultural activities the water and other resources in Trinity County are capable of supporting.

Response: *Agree.*

Recommendation #2: All Water Providers should meet with County officers and elected officials to examine and resolve the conflicting customs and practices described in this report regarding sale and transportation of bulk water for agricultural purposes.

Response: *Will not be implemented. The water providers operate under State regulations and are governed by their own boards of directors.*

Finding #3: Water Providers of all types within Trinity County need to sufficiently educate water users about their responsibilities for sharing water resources, potential limitations on water use, and the advantages of making sure, through sustainability, that water will be available in the future for their own use.

KEITH GROVES
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

KARL FISHER
DISTRICT 3

BILL BURTON
DISTRICT 4

JOHN FENLEY
DISTRICT 5

Response: *Agree in part. "...that water will be available in the future for their own use.", is too far reaching. That "fact" could only be known if one knows that the area will receive enough precipitation to satisfy those needs.*

Recommendation #3: The Trinity County Board of Supervisors should immediately review its resolutions, ordinances, and practices, as well as State law, regarding regulating, managing, and permitting wells. If they do not comply, they should take immediate steps to change their practices.

Response: *Will be implemented. Well permit upgrades are currently being worked on by staff.*

Finding #4: Most governmental entities in Trinity County — departments, and other agencies — have yet to adopt sustainability provisions in their mission statements, goals, and programs, or to coordinate those efforts with other government entities.

Response: *Disagree in part. Water sustainability provisions are part of the California Building Codes that are adhered to by Trinity County Building and Planning Departments.*

Recommendation #4: The Trinity County Board of Supervisors should examine and act on ways to protect its watersheds and aquifers from unauthorized or damaging incursions.

Response: *Requires further analysis. The desire is there, however the funding is not. Funding must be found to establish codes and regulations and to provide sufficient resources to enforce those regulations.*

Finding #5: Trinity County has not participated significantly in preparations for sustainable water management, including failure to regulate grading.

Response: *Disagree in part. The "County" has no county wide water system. TC has been looking for funding to draft a grading ordinance.*

Recommendation #5: The Grand Jury recommends that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors and all Water Providers in Trinity County take prompt action to establish goals that include sustainability and recognize water sustainability as a specific goal.

Response: *Will be implemented. WCSD has already increased its infrastructure. TC WW#1 has been working with engineers to find a way to increase treatment capacity at a cost the water users can afford. Lewiston water districts are in the process of combining. The County will when it finds the funding to complete a county wide study of water sustainability in order to have facts to base sustainability goals.*

Finding #6: Residential water is most important. Any agricultural or other use that interferes with residential use must be well and carefully regulated.

Response: *Disagree in part. Disagree that residential water is most important. This matter will be studied further to set priorities for the County understanding that agricultural and residential water rights are very important.*

Recommendation #6: The Grand Jury recommends that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors and all Water Providers and all stakeholders assign a high priority to and participate in conducting a county-wide study of carrying capacity. The study should also consider additional public and private water storage opportunities.

Response: *Requires further analysis. The need is there, however the resources are not available at this time. This study would require a very large grant. I will get done when the resources are found.*

Finding #7: Policies of Water Providers and the County conflict. Transport of water out of District boundaries has opened up agriculture in areas, and to an extent, not anticipated or desired by County policies.

Response: *Disagree in part. County ordinance requires that a legal permitted residence must be on a parcel used for the cultivation of Cannabis. The WCSD and TCWW#1 have been providing "drought emergency" water to residences that have had their wells dry up. This practice has been supported by CA EOS and the State Water Boards. The Water Providers do not have the resources to police where the water is going or what it is being used for. The actual amount of these diversions are an insignificant volume of water in the total volume processed by the providers.*

Recommendation #7: The Grand Jury recommends that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors acknowledge the real issues of water sustainability in Trinity County and establish, fund and support a GSA or similar entity and related laws and enforcement.

Response: *Will not be implemented. This is an issue, although needed, is beyond the current resources of the County, and would require a sizeable grant.*

Finding #10: Water was plentiful during the last century. Water in saturated soil beneath the surface of the earth could be easily pumped for use and its availability fostered urban and agricultural growth. Riparian (land adjacent to rivers or other bodies of water) demands did not overwhelm streams. As demand for water increased, effective management became critical to protecting the future availability and quality of the supply.

Response: *Agree.*

Recommendation #10: The Board of Supervisors should promptly adopt a grading ordinance.

Response: *Will be implemented. This ordinance has been on the Planning Departments "to do" list for several years and has become even more important with the expansion of illegal agriculture. This ordinance will be drafted when the County finds the funding to do so and has the planning staff to draft the ordinance.*