



# TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

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

RECEIVED

SEP - 8 2016

TRINITY COUNTY  
SUPERIOR COURT

TO: The Honorable Mike Harper  
Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Peter Hedtke, Trinity County Environmental Health Director *PH*

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 SDR 2015-2016-001 – Water Committee. The response of the Trinity County Environmental Health Director is as follows:

**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

**Finding #11:** *Excessive sediment loads to creeks and rivers can negatively impact salmon and steelhead populations. For Trinity County there is concern about Coho and other Salmon or Steelhead of becoming legally endangered, as that can cause serious economic repercussions. Even just one species, such as Coho, on the endangered list would seriously impact any recreational or commercial fishing.*

**Response:** Agree

**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.*

KEITH GROVES  
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS  
DISTRICT 2

KARL FISHER  
DISTRICT 3

BILL BURTON  
DISTRICT 4

JOHN FENLEY  
DISTRICT 5

**Response:** Requires further analysis. To date, the Trinity County Planning Commission is continuing a discussion of Countywide Water Resource Policy Changes per the Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council Input-Potential Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Timeline unknown.

**Findings #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.*

**Response:** Agree

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

**Response:** Agree

**Finding #9:** *Water quality tests of drinking water are recognized as an expense. Most Water Provider Organizations do only the State required tests. Individual owners do not have such requirements and are likely not to do any tests except at property transfer.*

**Response:** Agree

**Recommendation #9:** Regular testing of well water quality and quantity should be done. An incentive program would help.

**Response:** Has been implemented. The Water Providers do educate their water users to conserve and properly use the water. Residential water tests do occur more frequently than only at the time of property transfers. An incentive program would help.

**Finding #11:** *see page one.*

**Response:** Agree

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

**Response:** Requires further analysis. Trinity County Environmental Health has strongly recommended a grading ordinance, for many years. There are hundreds of examples of existing properties with severe environmental damage and degradation countywide. The further analysis is not required to determine IF the county needs a grading ordinance. The analysis will only be needed to create and fully implement and then enforce the ordinance. The timeline is now.