



**2011-2012
Madera County Grand Jury
Final Report
Sumner Hill Water Treatment Plant**

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Introduction:

County Service Area 16 provides water service to the Sumner Hill Subdivision, located on Road 204. The plant is comprised of two parallel water treatment facilities which utilize water from the San Joaquin River. The system consists of:

- 2 submersible pumps in the San Joaquin River;
- 2 booster pumps for pressurized distribution;
- 1 sodium hypochlorite tank for water treatment; and
- 2 storage tanks with a combined capacity of 160,000 gallons.

The Grand Jury toured the plant and interviewed plant personnel in its review of the operation.

Findings:

1. The Grand Jury found that the plant operators have current, required state certifications.
2. The Grand Jury found that the plant is routinely monitored for contaminants in the drinking water according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and state laws.
3. The Grand Jury found that required water quality tests are conducted by a state certified laboratory in Fresno.
4. The Grand Jury found that the annual Consumer Confidence Report delivered to area residents showed the quality of the water to be within state parameters for potable water.
5. The Grand Jury found that the plant requires many adjustments to accommodate the rapid changes in river water quality.
6. The Grand Jury found that the plant is capable of a combined production of 180 gallons of potable water per minute.
7. The Grand Jury found that the plant currently provides water service to 34 of a potential 49 homes.
8. The Grand Jury found that the current water volume capacity is insufficient during the summer months.
9. The Grand Jury found that there was an excessive amount of rust on the exterior of the piping and holding tanks.

10. The Grand Jury found that sodium hypochlorite is delivered to the plant by a vendor who is responsible for the storage tank and the required spill containment system.

Conclusions:

1. The Grand Jury concluded that the current plant capacity will be unable to support additional connections.
2. The Grand Jury concluded that there is insufficient maintenance on the exterior of the piping and holding tanks.

Recommendations:

1. The Grand Jury recommends that a moratorium be imposed on future building in the service area until its water capacity issues are addressed.
2. The Grand Jury recommends that the required maintenance on the exterior of the piping and holding tanks be performed.

Respondent: written response required pursuant to PC 933(c)

Madera County Board of Supervisors
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Informational: response optional

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