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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY RELEASES REPORT ON STOCKTON'S MUNICIPAL UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Stockton officials should quickly address critical staffing needs in the City's Municipal Utilities Department, according to a report issued today by the San Joaquin County Civil Grand Jury.

The recommendation was one of a number made by the jurors who also expressed concerns about potential pipe failures caused by corrosion from hydrogen sulfide in sewer lines and levee settling at the Delta Water Treatment Plant's Intake Pump Station on the San Joaquin River that caused electrical and plumbing failures.

In March, MUD had 27 vacancies. In 2014, MUD overtime costs exceeded \$1 million. Jurors found significant worker turnover in the department that has had difficulty attracting and retaining skilled technical staff. At one point, the department's relatively new Delta Water Treatment Plant had to be closed four months because there was no one on staff with the proper certification to run it. The City then needed to obtain water from other sources at a higher cost.

The Grand Jury's recommendations are based on a months-long investigation that included witness interviews, tours of various facilities and the review of thousands of pages of documents. The Jury's recommendations are meant to strengthen MUD's operations.

The Stockton City Council is required to submit a response to each finding and recommendation in the report. Those responses must be sent to the Presiding Judge of the San Joaquin County Superior Court within 90 days.

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