



COUNTY OF LAKE WATER RESOURCES

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Pawan Upadhyay, PhD
Water Resources Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Brad Rasmussen, Chair, Lake County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Pawan Upadhyay, PhD, Water Resources Director

DATE: January 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Supplemental Response to the 2024-25 Lake County Civil Grand Jury's Report/Findings: "The Status of the Cyanobacteria Bloom in Clear Lake"; and "Don't Move a Mussel": An Alarming New Threat to Lake County Waterways

Lake County Water Resources appreciates the Grand Jury's invitation to further respond to their Reports. Responses to specific Findings are included below.

"The Status of the Cyanobacteria Bloom in Clear Lake"

F-1) The ongoing algae bloom in Clear Lake is increasing and will continue to increase unless effective treatment is instituted.

DISAGREE partially with finding. While recent observations indicate that algae blooms in Clear Lake may be increasing, additional long-term data and continued scientific analysis are needed to conclusively determine trends.

F-2) Cyanobacteria poses substantial health and financial risks to Lake County and its human and animal residents.

AGREE with finding

F-3) The Blue Ribbon Committee for the Preservation of Clear Lake has recommended two of the experiments (LG Sonic Buoy, HOS) and is beginning the investigation of the NBOT experiment.

AGREE with finding

F-4) The LG Sonic Wave Buoys system will be initiated during the Summer of 2025.

DISAGREE wholly with finding. We are currently coordinating with state and federal agencies to complete the required Environmental Assessment for the project. This process is taking longer than initially anticipated, and deployment cannot proceed until the Environmental Assessment is completed and approved.

F-5) The size of the 14 Buoys will constitute a collision hazard to Clear Lake boaters.

DISAGREE partially with finding. The buoys are relatively small (approximately comparable to a small boat) and will be spaced apart. In addition, clear signage will be posted at public launch ramps to inform boaters of buoy locations, further reducing the potential for collision hazards.

“Don’t Move a Mussel”: An Alarming New Threat to Lake County Waterways

F-3: Boats entering Clear Lake from private access points may not be subject to inspection.

DISAGREE wholly with finding; All boats entering Clear Lake may be subject to inspection

F-4: In fourteen years since the alert for Quagga and Zebra mussels, no credible report of mussel infestation in Clear Lake has been reported.

AGREE with finding

F-5: Non-motor watercrafts are not inspected.

DISAGREE wholly with finding; All boats (Motor/ Non-motor) entering Clear Lake may be subject to inspection

F-6: The Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District has a vested financial interest in keeping the Golden Mussel from invading Clear Lake.

DISAGREE wholly with finding; Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District is the appropriate entity to address a Finding regarding their District's interests, not the Lake County Department of Water Resources.

F-7: Seventeen Lake County water districts have a vested financial interest in keeping the Golden Mussel from invading Clear Lake.

DISAGREE partially with finding. The Lake County Water Resources Department is concerned to promote the health of Clear Lake for all users, and recognizes threats posed by the Golden Mussel. However, requests for comment on the interests of Water Districts are most appropriately addressed by those entities.