



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

It has come to our attention that the Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory may possibly be closing in the next few months. This lab is a regional laboratory, which is a part of the State Public Health Laboratory system; the Lake County Health Services Department has regular dealings with the Sonoma lab. We are writing this letter to request that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors consider other arrangements than closing, due to the lab's important contribution to the region's health.

The network of Public Health Laboratories throughout California has been an essential component of protecting the health of our communities. Especially during this time of increased threat from emerging infections and pandemics, having a local lab with whom we have an ongoing relationship is extremely beneficial.

County of Lake Health Services Department uses the lab with some regularity, especially when concerning problems like Tuberculosis and Rabies. The Lake County Health Department is also able to get advice from them, when needed, for specimen collection and processing. These functions will be much more difficult to access if the lab closes. In that situation, we will need to work with the next closest laboratory in Solano or Richmond, which will present significant challenges.

Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory has been a steady partner for many years, and we request that any discussions about closing the lab give strong consideration to the impact that it will have on the other counties in the region. We understand that Sonoma County may have carried a large part of the burden for this facility, and we encourage some visioning about other possibilities for moving into the future, rather than closing the facility completely.

Respectfully Submitted,

COUNTY OF LAKE

Moke Simon
CHAIR, Board of Supervisors