

[REDACTED]

Greetings Holly,

My name is Kathleen O'Connor and I live in [REDACTED] Lake County. I am not a farmer, a winemaker, or an elected official. I am a stakeholder because I use water from Clear Lake from my tap. I live three blocks away from Clear Lake shoreline. I am a concerned citizen and determined to learn all I can in the understanding and aid of health of Clear Lake.

I am deeply concerned regarding the amount of nutrients going into Clear Lake and the current TMDL standards; the Lake County Water Resource/Watershed Districts inability to monitor source and non-source sites for meaningful data and the lack of ability to enforce anything.

Since those levels were set, a great deal of new vineyards (est. 47% more) have gone in. The county doesn't even have the metrics to follow up. I was sitting next to the ED of the LC Farm Bureau at the Aug 28 Mtg in Lakeport. She repeatedly spoke to me about the "vineyards are not using phosphorus" when in social media, a vineyard owner showed his brand of phosphate he uses.

[REDACTED] The Red Hills are phosphorus deficient. It is a necessary nutrient.

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[REDACTED] Triple 15 is pretty much what everyone uses, including home gardeners.

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[REDACTED] is there some map that shows phosphorus laden soils? I'm just looking at the fertilizer part at this point. Any other spots that are phosphorus deficient that you know of?

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[REDACTED] here's Triple 15. High in Phosphorus.

Also, Lake County has experienced three huge fires plus numerous other fires that required red slurry (Fos-Chek) drops. The soil, debris, the red slurry dumped has not been factored in. I mention the red slurry because it contains phosphorus. Hundreds of thousands of gallons have been dropped on Lake County in the last five years.

The Middle Creek project has been stalled for years. There are land owners who have stated many times that they will not sell. The County has put all efforts into this project but hasn't done much else. It all (remediation of nutrients) hangs on the Middle Creek project.

While algae blooms and fish die-offs are a regular event for Clear Lake, the MAGNITUDE of them has visibly increased. The water testing done by Big Valley and Elem Tribes around the lake bi-weekly and on request attest to this. Even Blue Lakes showed microcystins this year.

This year between the winter flooding and the summer heat, the nutrients and other factors have lead to severe restrictions on recreational use of the lake all year. The public is not effectively notified of the microcystin levels; what they mean and can't make meaningful decisions regarding using the lake.

When the public meeting was held on August 28, 2017 in Lakeport, most of the stakeholders who attended weren't able to answer the questions posed by the Regional Board- they were the wrong scope. It's taken me all summer to understand the fundamentals of TDML, let alone understand how the different local, State, and Federal agencies interact let alone collaborate in a meaningful way. I still don't know after hours of digging. We asked for an organizational chart at the August 28 meeting. I would really like to see that.

In closing, I would like to state that residents of Lake County don't want to wait another generation for standards and enforcement, we want to help! We want the agencies that are stewards for water quality in Lake County and California to be able to do their jobs, be effective and include meaningful public collaboration in protecting this jewel called Clear Lake.

Sincerely,
Kathleen O'Connor

