



Hi Holly,

I have lived in Lake County all of my life. I grew up spending a lot of time on our lake enjoying fishing with my Dad and boating, skiing, kneeboarding, jet skiing, and as my kids grew up we have always had a boat as they love to wakeboard.

Over the years I have always understood the algae and the natural occurrence of algae in Clear Lake. However, in the last three years there has been an extreme difference in this type of algae and it makes it very hard to even take our boat on the lake now. Over the last three years we go to Lake Shasta and Lake Oroville, Lake Mendocino, Lake Berryessa and Bullards Bar to enjoy boating in which water is fun to get in and refreshing and also less harsh on our boat. We have found that when we pull our boat out of Clear Lake it takes a full on waxing of the exterior to get rid of the stain that it leaves! It's very sad to see that when the county was given options for remedies from an outside company to harvest the algae they declined to do so. I would imagine at the time they were offered this proposition that was before the blue green algae was present in the lake. I have had many conversations with people over the years as with myself being a Realtor I get all kinds of comments and theories on why the lake has changed so much. One of the theories I have to say made sense to me and came from an older gentleman who seemed to know a great deal about flora and fauna and how the different species of fish play into the affects of algae in a natural lake. He spoke of algae eating fish and bluegill and Crappie, catfish and a few others that seem to be native of the lake. He said that unfortunately when humans introduce other types of fish into a natural lake native fish become more and more scarce. In turn after many years and less reproduction of the fish that eat the algae other weeds start popping up and the whole ecosystem gets messed up. Anyway I've heard so many different theories but this one kind of hit home as he mentioned more and more bass being introduced into our lake was actually great for many bass fishermen but in the long run it's only hurt our lake by messing with our ecosystem.

We have had many measures on our ballots to "Save The Lake" however almost everyone in our county wants to know how will funds be spent? As over the years we have seen monies be put into improving public docks, new Sheriff boats and things that don't have anything to do with actually improving our lake. So nothing has ever been successful which leaves us all sitting wondering how long it's going to be before something on a larger scale has to come in and take care of this before the largest natural lake in California ends up getting shut down completely to all boating and recreational use. Not to mention our water source and water treatment plants that are not able to keep up with the damage this is doing. I live in N. Lakeport and very close to the special districts water treatment plant. This is the first time ever that we smell a very strong smell of the lake in our drinking water. I had them come out to test our water they tested it at the water spicket outside and they said that .08 is acceptable and ours was 1.37 but was still within acceptable range they say that they have been chlorinating it and going through filters like crazy and when the wind blows it's really bad and hard to keep up with treating it fast enough. I'm sorry but I am not drinking this water given their uncertainty and what I smell.

I can't even imagine being pregnant or having a child and allowing them to drink this water.

Even my dogs drink bottled water. Taking a shower in it and brushing our teeth with something that smells so horrible makes you want to gag.

I really hope that somebody takes a handle on this I fear that it is very late in the game to make any impact. But hopefully there are bigger programs maybe by UC Davis or scientific program that could take this on and give some real solutions that overtime may improve this once beautiful lake.

Over the years my two girls have had to write reports and their biology classes regarding algae and the good things that occur from it and more recently there was one Report that my daughter had to do in regards to agricultural runoff into lakes and the effects. I realize some of this may be going on due to our change from pear and Walnut orchards to vineyards. And after reading so much on this it clearly seems that perhaps we need some real specialists in here figuring it out. There have been other lakes that were taken over by Cyanobacteria and were completely shut down due to high toxic levels. Granted these lakes were much smaller but it stands to reason this is the largest natural lake and maybe due to overall size the ratios are not "of concern" according to all the local testing being done. I'm just not buying it! Something on a larger scale needs to be done and there must be some kind of grant money or a more scientific study that can be done before it's too late.

Also I came across this and wonder if anyone has taken this into consideration to check out.
<https://www.lgsonic.com/ultrasonic-algae-control-technology/>

I do hope that this information is useful and would like to be added to any email list that gives updates or plans for Clear Lake.

Thank you

Linda

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