

**To the Water Board
Regional Water Quality Control Board
August 28, 2017
From Joan Moss**

I am writing to you regarding the whole of Clear Lake and all of Lake County, not only the TMDL nutrient load of the Clear Lake due to phosphorous. I was present at the meeting Monday August 28 at the Lakeport City Hall and officials there said there was no deadline for submitting concerns.

I am concerned about the Clear Lake Mercury Total Maximum Daily Load update, and there is information available online from the Final report November 8, 2010. I also downloaded the amendment of the Water Quality Control Plan for Nutrients in Clear Lake.

I believe we need to consider Mercury, arsenic, nitrogen and sewage spills and septic systems, and vineyard run off as well as erosion.

My story regarding the announcement of the Mercury Superfund Site at Sulphur Bank was published in the SF Francisco Chronicle in the 1980's and went over KZYX Community Radio in Philo California.

I tutored through the federal Indian Education Program Title V at Elem Indian Colony from 19788-1992, and came to know Sharon Good of the State EPA who along with others conducted tests for mercury on consenting members of the tribe living at Elem.

I AM PRESENTLY REPORTING NEWS FOR A RADIO PROGRAM, The Giving Tree, heard every Thursday on KPFZ Community Radio in Lake County, 88.1 FM Lake County Community Radio.

I am concerned for the health of the lake, the people, the animals, and fish in Lake County.

Federal EPA tribal representatives Sara Ryan and Karola Kennedy have been networking with Phillip Moy, Lake County Department of Resources and coordinating monitoring efforts measuring the presence and levels of microcystins in the Cyanobacteria in Clear Lake.

To me this is a good sign, unlike the action Lake County Supervisors took when they abolished the Clear Lake Advisory Committee, because a supervisors did not like the direction the committee took when the committee recommended monitoring the Lake for toxic Cyanobacteria.

My Channel 50 broadcast “Abnormal Algae” is presently on You Tube, Thanks to Beth, of Channel 50 Public Access Television. That was the year the algae would not sink.

I read in the local paper that the Water Board wants to extend the deadline for cleaning the lake another twenty years.

Does this mean that vineyard will continue to be established, and wells will continue to be dug for those vineyards that deplete the wells of neighbors and their families?

Why regulate the medicinal cannabis yet ignore vineyards which seem to be given a preference over the needs of humans and wildlife for space and water?

Ken Wells wrote recently in the Record Bee that the problem of phosphorus in the lake is caused by pesticides used in vineyards and then running into the Lake.

Why is a new mammoth Safeway, new houses, and a theatre planned near Hidden Valley, where a halt has been established on building new house because of a lack of water?

How does the 20 year extension of the deadline to clean the lake tie in with the blue ribbon committee funded by the California legislature to clean up Clear Lake?

An article in the Press Democrat February 5, 2017, stated that 2/3 of fish tested from Clear Lake showed mercury levels above acceptable limits.

A media release from your Water Board July 21, 2017 stated levels of microcystins in toxic Cyanobacteria in Copsey Creek near Quarter Horse Lane in Lower Lake tested at 45.1 micrograms per liter. This means the microcystins are at a danger level, tier 2, red.

Neighbors who live on my road, [REDACTED] in Kelseyville, blame the vineyards for water shortages and dry wells in 2015. Many want a moratorium on new vineyard development.

I question the category of agriculture given to vineyards, since the grapes produce wine, which is alcohol, which is a drug.

We are no better than the people in Afghanistan who grow their poppies for heroin.

Cannabis is a medicine, yet people treat it as a drug, and it will soon be considered a recreational drug.

What is the connection between the methyl mercury production and the cyanobacteria that undergoes photosynthesis and produces oxygen? Both Methyl Mercury and Toxic Cyanobacteria would start to disappear if erosion of the land was halted, and pesticides would no longer enter the lake. Is this true?

It is not the fault of the bluegreen algae that they undergo photosynthesis and produce microcystins. If the bluegreen algae existed in cleaner water, the blue green algae would not be toxic.

What happens in Clear Lake effects the rivers that flow to Sacramento and into the San Francisco Bay.

Thank-you for the time you have spent reading this letter.

Joan Moss

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