

[REDACTED]

Dear Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board Staff Members,

This letter is in reference to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting you facilitated in Lakeport on August 28th for the purpose of collecting public comments on extending the compliance date for the “Clear Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (RMDL) and Waste Load Allocations to reduce harmful phosphorus runoff into the lake.”

Our extended family has a 100 year history with Clear Lake. Our elders had property in what is now the City of Clearlake in the 1930s. A lakefront parcel has been in the family since 1952. We razed the summer cottage located [REDACTED] in 2008, when lake water quality seemed to be improving, and replaced it with a modern home appropriate for year-round occupancy. Ever since, we have been horrified by the increasing frequency and severity of algae blooms and fish die-offs.

We urge you to use the strongest possible terms to inform the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board members that Clear Lake cannot wait another ten to twenty years for the Clear Lake Nutrient Control Program to be implemented. They should be ashamed the June, 2017, deadline passed without action. Delaying plans to clean-up lake pollution caused primarily by fertilizers will not only threaten the health of Clear Lake and the area’s struggling economy, but even more importantly, the health of its residents, wildlife and visitors will also be in danger.

Last summer, two of our adult sons became extremely ill after swimming in the water off our property. One required a visit to the Adventist Health Clearlake Medical Center emergency room due to severe intestinal and abdominal problems: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, quickened heart rate, etc. Thank goodness our granddaughter, who was a one-year-old at the time, was not allowed to play in the lake!

A related concern is the lack of funding needed to proceed with the Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project. We encourage you to actively lobby our state and national governments to procure the funds needed to complete this much needed plan. Clear Lake is in a **death spiral**. Nothing will improve until the water quality improves. The situation must be your first on your priority list.

Respectfully,

Ken and Joanne Brown
[REDACTED]