




## MEMORANDUM

TO: Lake County Grand Jury

FROM: Scott De Leon, Director 

SUBJECT: Question received February 12, 2014

DATE: February 14, 2014

On February 12<sup>th</sup> I received a written question from the Lake County Civil Grand Jury (GJ) related to Public Works and Water Resources. This note was followed by a voice-mail message from an individual on the GJ. The note is attached, and I offer the following clarifications:

The Water Resources Department, which is the name of the Department where the Lake County Watershed Protection District resides, is responsible for a variety of programs that affect the water quality in not only Clear Lake, but throughout the entire watershed. There are actually 17 recognized water purveyors who obtain water from Clear Lake, and they are overseen by the State of California Department of Public Health. The public health concerns related to potable water from these agencies is not the responsibility of Water Resources, but rather the State of California. Water Resources does not perform coliform bacterial sampling as this is under the purview of the Lake County Environmental Health Department, however cyanobacteria blooms, turbidity and pollutants resulting from storm water runoff are all issues that involve Water Resources.

The Departments of Public Works and Water Resources were separated by the Board of Supervisors around 2009. Prior to that, Water Resources was a Division under Public Works. After a lengthy recruitment, I was hired as the Director of this new Department in May of 2010. In 2011, I was appointed the additional role of Public Works Director. The Department's remain separate, even though they share a common work area in the Courthouse. As the Director, my salary is divided between the two Departments (75% DPW and 25% Water Resources). In 2013, the Board of Supervisors supported my request for help in Water Resources when they approved the funding of a Deputy Director, which we hope to begin recruitment for in the near future. Management of the daily operations in Public Works is accomplished by a sound management staff that, in addition to the Director, includes an Assistant Public Works Director, a Fiscal Analyst, Principal Civil Engineer, and a Road Superintendent.

Water Resources does not have a staff biologist, although one member of the staff possesses a Bachelor's Degree in Biology. I might suggest the final sentence be revised to end with: "...delegating to well qualified and knowledgeable staff in the department."