

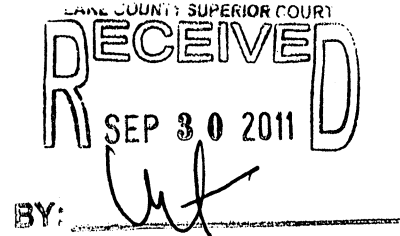


# City of Clearlake

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, CA 95422  
(707) 994-8201 • FAX (707) 995-2653

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Richard Martin  
Superior Court of California  
County of Lake  
255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, CA 95453



RE: Grand Jury Response.

Dear Judge Martin:

We were asked to respond to items in the 2010-11 Grand Jury Final Report. The Council reviewed the items at the September 22, 2011 City Council meeting and approved the responses below:

***Page 3, Policy and Procedure Manual Review:***

Recommendations:

- R1: City and County agencies review their policy and procedure manuals to ensure all employees without prior specific experience can understand and follow the policies and procedures as written.
- R2: Take steps to update manuals and appropriately complete policies and procedures where gaps occur.
- R3: Re-write policies and procedures to maintain continuity.

We agree with the Grand Jury's recommendation. The City reviews and rewrites policies and procedures as necessary. Each current employee is familiar with the policies and procedures for their department and new employees are oriented with policies and procedures when hired.

***Page 9, Joint Power Authorities:***

Recommendations:

- R2: Joint Power Authorities be required to comply with the Brown Act with respect to Notice of Meetings and agenda.

We agree with the Grand Jury's recommendation. The City of Clearlake belongs to two Joint Power Authorities: Public Agency Risk Management Authority of California for self-insurance risk pooling, and Lake County/City Area Planning Council (APC) for infrastructure improvement needs and maintenance of Lake County highway call boxes. Both JPAs adhere strictly to the Brown Act. Agendas and minutes for these organizations are available either online or by request.

***Page 12, Mold:***

R1: Have County government become informed in mold mitigation.

R2: Correct County website to remove reference to mold services.

The City of Clearlake has no Code Enforcement Department or website due to budget constraints. The City does not have jurisdiction over County Code Enforcement or County Building Department policies and practices.

***Page 141, Animal Control:***

R1: The Grand Jury recommends the City of Clearlake use the significant savings achieved by the City of Clearlake Animal Control when it contracted its contract with Lake County Animal Control to construct its own adequate animal control facility.

We agree that the ultimate goal of the City of Clearlake Animal Control would be to have its own modern facility. However, the the City's severe economic hardship does not allow for the "savings" to be used to construct a facility. The cost of the facility would greatly out cost the "savings" of not contracting with Lake County for animal control services. The only reason the City of Clearlake did not renew the contract with Lake County was the total cost was over two hundred thousand dollars a year, and the City of Clearlake could simple not afford that cost.

R2: The Grand Jury recommends increasing City of Clearlake Animal Control personnel to offset the 73% discrepancy in the numbers of animals that are taken in by City of Clearlake Animal Control compared to Lake County Animal Control.

We would disagree with the statement of the percentage of the decrease in the number of animals that service was provided comparing the county with the City of Clearlake. When the county was contracted to provide services in the City of Clearlake the collection point for anyone in the south end of the county was within the city of Clearlake at the City of Clearlake's Corporation Yard. It is our understanding that any surrendered animal was counted as a "Clearlake" animal. Furthermore, the only other physical area for someone to surrender an animal was at Lake County Animal main facility located in Lakeport. There was no requirement for anyone residing outside the city limits to travel to Lakeport but they could surrender an animal in Clearlake and it would be counted as such.

We agree it would be the ultimate goal of the City of Clearlake Animal Control is to increase the staffing levels as soon as fiscally feasible.

R3: The Grand Jury recommends the City of Clearlake has a high rate of euthanasia, a low cost spay/neuter and Trap/Neuter/Release program be incorporated into the future of animal control.

We disagree with the statement Clearlake Animal Control has a high rate of euthanasia. For the 2010-2011 fiscal year the Clearlake Animal Control euthanized eight (8) K-9's out of three hundred and fifty nine (359) for a total percentage of 2.2% and euthanized twenty four (24) felines out of 181 (181) for a total percentage of 13.25%.

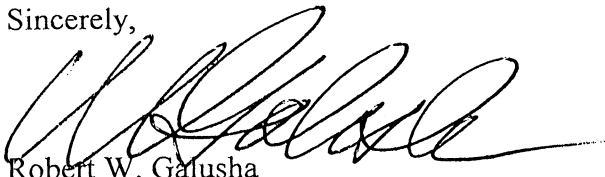
The Clearlake City Council approved the 2011-2012 budget on June 23, 2011. In that budget there is six thousand two hundred dollars (\$6,200) budgeted for the Lake County Animal Collation. The Lake County Animal Collation provides for low cost spay and neuter.

The Clearlake Animal Control has made a counter offer to the Lake County Animal Control's proposed contract to accept feral cats for fifteen dollars (\$15) per animal. The City of Clearlake is still under negotiations with Lake County for the final contact.

We would agree with the suggestion of the Trap/Neuter/Release program. This program is implemented in other jurisdictions and can be successful. This program does come at a considerable cost to the city. However, under the current financial situation of the City of Clearlake, it is not feasible to implement this program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (707) 994-8201, extension 116.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Galusha  
Interim City Administrator