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**CITY OF CLEARLAKE ANIMAL SHELTER**



*Pleeeese -----*

*Take Me Home*

## **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to educate the public and improve conditions at the Clearlake Animal Shelter. After receiving several complaints from the public, the Civil Grand Jury began its investigation.

Among the problems was the fact that the shelter was overcrowded due to the high rate of new animals entering the shelter making it hard, if not impossible, to care for all the animals in a humane way. There was also no provision in the contract with North Bay Animal Services (NBAS) as to how the budget was to be spent, the number of staff needed or even if the money donated by Lake County residents would be used in Clearlake.

In addition, the 10-year contract with NBAS at a set amount of \$375,000.00 per year is unrealistic and under budget. Other problems that were apparent included a slow response to animals needing medical care, a lack of transparency, and inconsistent quality of food and infrequent delivery.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Interviews were conducted with the management of North Bay Animal Services, their former employees, the police and former veterinarians who also worked there. A number of citizens who sent in complaints to the Civil Grand Jury were also interviewed. In addition, a total of five visits were made by the Civil Grand Jury members to the shelter in Clearlake.

## **BACKGROUND**

Lake County has two shelters, one in Lakeport run by Lake County, and a second one in the City of Clearlake run by North Bay Animal Services. Previously, the County ran both shelters but in the summer of 2022 the City of Clearlake decided to run its own shelter. After North Bay Animal Services initially provided help over a period of several months, the City of Clearlake entered into a 10 year contract with them at a cost of \$375,000.00 per year.

## **DISCUSSION**

There were too many animals being abandoned or surrendered. People were no longer able to care for their animals after COVID. There was a lack of affordable spay and neuter services, and few veterinarians were available which contributed to the shelter's overcrowding. In Lake County, it costs between \$300.00 to \$1,200.00 for spay and neutering services. However, North Bay Animal Services has an agreement with local veterinarians to be charged only \$300.00 for those services.

The "no kill" philosophy which the Clearlake shelter adheres to, puts an additional strain on the shelter as well. Thus, the number of animals needing to be placed at the Clearlake shelter overwhelms its capacity to house them properly. One possible solution is for the shelter to prioritize spay and neutering services. Another consideration could be increasing the number of animals in respite or foster care. However, there are also times when terminating an animal's life due to illness or dangerous behavior is a choice as these animals are unlikely to be adopted. It also reduces the danger to the staff when dealing with an overly aggressive animal.

When the population of the shelter was 70 dogs or more, the shelter was too small to house the animals properly. Some of the dogs were left in cages outdoors exposed to the rain, cold and snow. Fortunately, now although the animals are still outside in cages, the cages have covering on three sides and a roof overhead.

Because the City of Clearlake, Public Works, still has equipment and trucks at the site of one the larger buildings, the shelter is unable to expand and develop the adjacent property to accommodate more animals. At this time, the shelter has 43 animals. There are however, 35 more animals in foster care.

With prices rising every year, the contract for the next 10 years at \$375,000.00 per year is not likely to be sufficient to provide quality care for the animals at the shelter. Besides caring for the animals, the present contract requires North Bay Animal Services to patrol and respond to calls as dispatched, to complete reports, testify at hearings, pick up animals and enforce local, state, and federal laws relating to animals. In addition, they must issue citations, investigate bite reports, and also cases of animal cruelty, neglect and public nuisance. They oversee rabies control, as well as filing records with the County Health Department, and providing care and control as part of a disaster response.

Under the contract, there is to be one certified animal control officer on duty from 9:00a.m. to 6: 00p.m., seven days a week, excluding federally recognized holidays. The agreement also

addresses the animal population and euthanasia. It states, “Contractor will endeavor to operate under the No Kill philosophy. However, the Contractor and the City recognize that some animals will need to be humanely euthanized for public safety and/or animal health issues. The Contractor is responsible for managing the shelter population to insure that space is available for additional animals.”

Presently there is limited oversight on how money received is being used. This includes donations from individuals, and funds from the thrift store, the budget and any grants received. There is no indication funds received from the local community are being used locally.

In interviews with members of the public, the conditions that the animals live in was mentioned as inadequate. For example, feces and urine were left on the floor of the cages for a long period of time and excrement was smeared on the wires of the cages. Cleanliness, or rather the lack of cleanliness, was a major issue.

Other complaints were about the slow response to animals needing medical care. A veterinarian refused to work at the shelter because of the way they were treated and in their own words “Because of the deplorable conditions at the shelter.” Another veterinarian refused to work there until past due bills were paid. A foster family was told that they would have to pay the medical bills, despite being told earlier, that the shelter would be responsible for the bills.

Chain of command had been a problem, causing medical treatment for sick or injured animals to be delayed. Delaying medical treatment for sick or injured animals is unacceptable. Complaints were also made about the lack of responsiveness to the community. For example, phone calls were not being returned. There is now a plan to train an on-site supervisor to respond to the public on a timely basis.

Another problem cited in the past has been a lack of on-site supervision at the shelter. NBAS is currently training an on-site staff member to facilitate direct on-site supervision at the shelter.

Another similar complaint is that food is delivered by the manager who may be there only once a month. In addition, donations of “expired” food are being accepted and fed to the dogs.

For a period of time, the locking mechanism at the shelter was in disrepair which allowed unauthorized access to the site. Volunteers and citizens had unsupervised access to the shelter and the Public Works yard, which caused safety and security issues for NBAS and the City of Clearlake. Evidently, this situation was also unsafe because it allowed access to areas where aggressive animals were being housed. Unfamiliar people were around these dogs which caused them stress. The situation was resolved, and the lock was fixed.



Despite the problems and complaints cited, Clearlake still needs a shelter for abandoned and mistreated animals. There were several events in the past that the public genuinely appreciated. For example, on February 7<sup>th</sup> of this year, the shelter had a free vaccination and microchip clinic, and treated over 50 animals. Also, during a community event at Austin Park the Shelter participated to promote the adoption of the animals in its care as well as other services. North Bay Animal Services benefits from low cost spay and neuter services provided by local veterinarians which is required for adoption. In addition, NBAS runs a “no kill” animal shelter which spares the lives of many animals.

If it were not for North Bay Animal Shelter, many more animals would be roaming the streets seeking food and shelter. Hopefully, when Public Works removes its equipment and trucks, more animals can be cared for and the site could be developed to accommodate them.

## **FINDINGS**

- F-1 The animal shelter is overcrowded when there are more than 40-45 dogs being housed there.
- F-2 The 10-year contract at \$375,000.00 per year has no provision for an increase over time.
- F-3 Timely medical care is not always provided.
- F-4 There continues to be an overall lack of communication between NBAS and the community.

F-5 Cleaning practices need improvement.

F-6 There is no set schedule for food deliveries and expired food is being fed to the dogs.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

R-1 That the City of Clearlake limit the population to 40-45 dogs at this time. F-1

R-2 That the Clearlake City Council review the contract with North Bay Animal Services annually. F-2

R-3 That the Clearlake City Council exercise regular oversight of NBAS to ensure that timely medical care is provided. F-3

R-4 That the Clearlake City Council ensure that that NBAS improve communication with the public. F-4

R-5 That the Clearlake City Council ensure that NBAS comply with the terms of the contract regarding the University of California at Davis, Veterinary School's recommendations for cleanliness. F-5

R-6 That the Clearlake City Council support regular food deliveries through a local food distributor. F-6

## **RESPONSES**

According to the Penal Code, Section 933.05 the following responses are required:

Clearlake City Council (R-1), (R-2), (R-3), (R-4), (R5), (R-6) 60 days

City of Clearlake Police Chief (R-1) 90 days

*Polk's Grocery and Odd Fellows Hall*



*Oxen Pulling Logs*

*Upper Buck Ridge Sawmill*



## **HOMELESSNESS IN LAKE COUNTY**

### **SUMMARY**

"The number of homeless Californians has increased by 50% in despite the state's spending about \$20 billion on the various anti-homelessness programs during the last five years." Dan Walters, *CALmatters Commentary*, April 12, 2024, (10)

The article quoted above demonstrates the failure of the California Legislature's scattergun approach to addressing crises, particularly homelessness. Despite the significant funds allocated to various anti-homelessness programs over the years, State Auditor Grant Parks' recent critical report reveals a lack of coordination and efficacy in these efforts. Despite the creation of the California Inter-agency Council on Homelessness (ICH) in 1971, which aimed to coordinate activities, the new audit suggests persistent issues with tardy reporting, misaligned action plans, and inaccurate data collection. The public's skepticism, reflected in the recent narrow approval of Proposition 1, Homeless Mental Health Spending Bill underscores growing disillusionment with politicians' promises to tackle homelessness effectively. Overall, the article highlights the need for more effective coordination, evaluation, and accountability in addressing California's homelessness crisis.

Mr. Walters' article addresses the issue as a state problem in the aggregate which is most prominent and visible in the metropolitan areas of Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles.

Lake County is no exception to the general homelessness predicament in which the State of California finds itself. The population of Lake County is approximately 68,000. Unofficial estimates put the number of homeless at approximately 1000 or 1.5 per cent. Temporary group shelters are available for less than 100 of these. There are virtually no Section 8 rental housing assistance vouchers available and approximately only 2 per cent of the homeless population, or around 20 people per year, are able to get Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV's) for families with critical short-term housing needs. The term "under-served" is certainly in-line with where Lake County stands in the overall situation the State of California finds itself in with respect to the homeless.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Several Lake County career professionals involved and dedicated to serving the homeless community were interviewed. Government websites and news sources were researched. The Lakeport homeless shelter was visited, and informal conversations were held with operating personnel. The county-wide Forum on Homelessness was also attended late last year.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **I. INFLUENTIAL FACTORS**

#### **A. CAUSES:**

**Financial:** Economic instability and poverty contribute significantly to homelessness in Lake County. Many individuals and families struggle to afford housing due to low wages, unemployment, or insufficient financial resources.

**Disaster:** Natural disasters such as fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and floods can displace residents and lead to homelessness. These events can destroy homes and disrupt communities, leaving individuals without shelter or resources.

**Job Loss:** The loss of employment is a common trigger for homelessness. Without a steady income, individuals may struggle to afford rent or mortgage payments, leading to eviction or foreclosure.

**Lack of Low-Income Housing:** Lake County faces a critical shortage of affordable housing options, making it difficult for low-income residents to find suitable accommodations. The high cost of housing, relative to income levels, exacerbates the problem of homelessness.

**Resource Limits:** Limited access to social services, support programs, and community resources can hinder individuals' ability to overcome homelessness. Insufficient funding and capacity constraints may restrict the availability of essential services.

**Local and Regional Economic Limitations:** Economic challenges specific to Lake County, such as a lack of diverse industries or limited job opportunities, can contribute to homelessness by restricting residents' ability to find stable employment or affordable housing.

**Demotivational Factors – Hopelessness:** Prolonged experiences of homelessness can

lead to feelings of hopelessness and despair, making it challenging for individuals to pursue opportunities for housing stability or self-improvement.

**Substance Abuse/Dependency - Alcohol and Drugs:** Substance abuse and addiction issues are prevalent among the homeless population in Lake County. Dependency on alcohol or drugs can exacerbate homelessness by impairing individuals' ability to maintain employment, housing, and social relationships.

**Mental Health Factors Affect Income Stability:** Mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia, can impact individuals' ability to maintain stable employment and housing. Without access to adequate mental health services and support, individuals may struggle to address underlying issues contributing to homelessness.

**Lifestyle Habits - Criminal Behavior:** Involvement in criminal activities or a history of incarceration can contribute to homelessness by limiting individuals' access to housing, employment opportunities, and social support networks. Substance abuse, mental health issues, and socioeconomic factors may intersect with criminal behavior, further complicating efforts to address homelessness.

**Disabilities - Mental & Learning:** Individuals with mental or learning disabilities may face additional barriers to accessing housing, employment, and support services. Discrimination, stigma, and lack of accommodations can exacerbate their vulnerability to homelessness.

**Physical Health:** Physical disabilities or chronic health conditions can impact individuals' ability to maintain stable housing and employment. Without access to appropriate medical care and support services, individuals with disabilities may face increased risk of homelessness and social isolation.

**Legal, Statutory, and Enforcement Changes with Unintended Consequences:** Changes in laws, regulations, or enforcement practices may inadvertently contribute to homelessness by limiting individuals' access to housing, support services, or legal protections. Unintended consequences of policy decisions can exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and perpetuate cycles of homelessness.

## **B. THOSE AFFECTED: “VICTIMS”/ “CLIENTS” PERCEPTIONS & ATTITUDES:**

**Temporary, Just Need Some Help:** Some individuals experiencing homelessness may view their situation as temporary and believe they just need temporary assistance or support to regain housing stability.

**Trapped, Need Help to Change:** Others may feel trapped in their circumstances and recognize the need for external assistance or intervention to overcome barriers to housing stability, such as financial insecurity, substance abuse, or mental health issues.

**Defeated, But Will Take Aid to Survive:** Individuals who feel defeated by their experiences of homelessness may be willing to accept aid or support to meet their immediate survival needs, even if they lack hope for long-term improvement.

**Survivalist: Don't Help Me/Won't Change:** Some individuals may adopt a survivalist mindset, rejecting offers of assistance or support and preferring to rely on their own resources or strategies to meet their basic needs. Resistance to external help may stem from distrust, self-reliance, or autonomy concerns.

### C. ISSUES:

**Government Legal and Bureaucratic Environment Provides Little Motivation or Encouragement for the Homeless Individual to Attain Self-Improvement Without Outside, Expert Help:** The bureaucratic nature of government systems and legal frameworks may create barriers to accessing support services or navigating complex eligibility requirements for housing assistance, employment programs, or social benefits. Individuals experiencing homelessness may require additional support from trained professionals or advocates to effectively engage with government agencies and achieve sustainable outcomes.

**Section 8 Housing Has a Bad History:** It is repugnant to most landlords and is therefore, mostly unavailable. Housing vouchers can only be obtained for 1 to 2% of eligible homeless. Negative perceptions of Section 8 housing programs among landlords, property owners, and community members can limit the availability of affordable housing options for individuals experiencing homelessness. Additionally, bureaucratic challenges and limited funding may restrict access to housing vouchers, leaving many eligible individuals without timely support or resources to secure stable housing.

**Legal, Statutory, and Enforcement Environment Contributes and Exacerbates Conditions for Homelessness:** Existing legal frameworks, statutes, and enforcement practices may inadvertently perpetuate homelessness by criminalizing behaviors associated with poverty, addiction, or mental illness, rather than addressing underlying systemic issues or providing support services and resources to individuals in need. The criminalization of homelessness,

restrictive zoning laws, and lack of affordable housing policies may exacerbate vulnerabilities and barriers to housing stability for marginalized populations.

## **II. SERVICES BEING PROVIDED TO THE HOMELESS POPULATION**

Lake County has three Departments which provide a variety of services to the homeless community: Behavioral Health, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Veterans Services. The discussion that follows lists and details some of the major services provided by these departments. Though comprehensive, it is not all-inclusive, but intends to show how the county services can partner with HUD's Continuum of Care (COC) as they strive to achieve COC's Mission to "End Homelessness."

Every year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) compiles a Point in Time (PIT) report, publishing data regarding population, factors that contributed to lack of housing, and the amount of time spent unhoused.

The PIT count is used by HUD to determine the level of funding to be used for Lake County's Behavioral Health and Social Services Departments in support of homeless care and service needs.

In 2022-2023, Lake County, California allocated funding for homeless services and relief through various sources. Lake County Behavioral Health Services received \$3,039,323.00 for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) from the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission. [2] Additionally, Lake County Behavioral Health Services received funding for housing and homelessness programs within the Department of Housing and Community Development in the 2022-23 California spending plan, which authorized \$7.2 billion over three years to 20 major housing and homelessness programs in various counties. [1] At the present time, it is unknown what portion is made available to Lake County.

### **Homeless Shelters:**

#### **Xamatin Haven**

Xamatin Haven, located at 1111 Whalen Way in Lakeport, provides up to 35 guests with stable shelter, breakfast, dinner, showers, laundry support, and most importantly, navigational housing services with the goal of finding permanent, affordable housing. Xamatin Haven is operated by Redwood Community Services, a non-profit organization under contract with Behavioral Health for the COC, which authorizes the funding from HUD. The three-year contract amounts to \$2,417,489.00 which covers shelter service only.

The Lakeport facility is not ideal for the restorative and recovery services they provide because of the location away from city center, and it is still configured as a correctional facility, from which it was adapted. Staff are trained to handle mental health disorders and substance abuse problems.

### **Hope Center**

Hope Center, located at 3400 Emerson St., in Clearlake, provides housing and supportive services to 20 persons experiencing homelessness. It is an interim housing facility as well as a Housing Navigation Hub which provides additional navigation services and resources for those not sheltered at Hope Center. The program's goal is to provide safe housing and services that would remove barriers to housing, employment, and economic self-sufficiency, and allow for the development of skills needed to transition to permanent housing, thus reducing homelessness in the county.

Hope Center is operated by Hope Rising Lake County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community benefit organization composed of health systems and services, county leaders, non-profits and other relevant organizations that serve Lake County.

Examples of services available to participants include (but are not limited to):

- Housing case management
- Medical services and health screenings
- Mental health and substance use disorder treatment
- 12-step meetings
- Health and nutrition education
- Benefit enrollment
- Legal assistance
- Transportation.

# Lake County Housing Programs

The County provides various housing services (not restricted to housing the homeless) with funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (CDHCD), and HUD. The primary functions of these services are described below:

## Section 8

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), commonly known as Section 8, is a rental assistance program for low-income households. It is funded by HUD. The purpose of this program is to meet three primary goals:

- Provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for very low-income households while maintaining their rent payments at an affordable level.
- Promote freedom of housing choice and spatial de-concentration of low-income households of all races and ethnic backgrounds
- Provide an incentive to private property owners to rent to low-income households by offering timely rental payments

The program also supports the local rental market by encouraging unit maintenance by property owners, responsible tenancy by program participants, and self-sufficiency among participating families.

The Lake County Department of Social Services administers the Section 8 program. The annual budget is approximately \$270,000. The HCVP waiting list is currently closed and not accepting applications at this time.

Two Hundred Twenty-Four (224) housing vouchers, plus 15 Veterans Affairs Housing Support vouchers are available from HUD for those who qualify. These vouchers are available to low-income families to pay for housing. One hundred eighty-nine (189) of the vouchers have been issued by Lake County to eligible families. There is no shortage of eligible families wanting housing assistance, but voucher holders are unable to find eligible housing within allowable HUD-established payment standards. This is due, in part, to the loss of 5.5% of our housing supply due to wildfires since 2015. There are currently zero subsidized housing units available in the county. Local apartment unit complexes report wait-lists of approximately 4 years for subsidized units. Although there are vouchers available for use and a list of qualified potential voucher recipients, there is no housing available, resulting in vouchers going unused.

## **Emergency Housing Voucher Program**

The Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) program is available through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Through EHV, HUD is providing housing choice vouchers to local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in order to assist individuals and families who are:

- Homeless
- At risk of homelessness
- Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking
- Were recently homeless or have a high risk of housing instability

Less than 2% of homeless actually received an EHV.

Here is a detailed report on the HCVP and its eligibility criteria in Lake County, CA:

### **Application Process:**

The application process for the HCVP in Lake County involves the following steps:

1. Completion of pre-application during specific open periods.
2. Typically, there are more pre-applications submitted than the limited number of vouchers. A lottery system is then used to randomly select applicants for placement on a waiting list.
3. Applicants are required to list all family members, provide details about income, and select applicable preferences. Completion of a pre-application must be made during specific open periods.
4. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, and only one application per family is permitted.
5. Preferences are given to families currently living in non-subsidized housing, those who live/work in Lake County, and households with seniors or disabled individuals.
6. Once placed on the waiting list, applicants must promptly notify the housing authority of any changes in their application information.

### **Obtaining a Voucher**

Once an eligible family reaches the top of the waiting list, the housing authority issues

them a housing choice voucher (HCV). The family then needs to find a suitable rental unit in the private market that meets the program's housing quality standards.

### **Rental Assistance**

The housing authority pays a portion of the rent directly to the landlord on behalf of the HCVP participant. The amount of assistance is based on factors such as family income, family size, income deductions, and the contract rent for the unit. Generally, the HCVP participant is required to pay approximately 30% of their adjusted monthly income towards rent and utilities.

In summary, the HCVP in Lake County is intended to provide critical rental assistance to low-income families and individuals, with eligibility determined by total annual gross income and family size. The application process involves a pre-application, lottery selection, and preferences for certain household types.

## **GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM**

The General Relief Program provides necessary assistance to eligible persons who are without resources to meet their minimum basic needs for food, sanitation services, clothing and medical care. The Behavioral Health Department has several mobile units that travel around the county to those living in tents, cars, doorways or other makeshift shelters to provide meals, showers, clothing and medical services where needed. The annual budget for Lake County is approximately \$50,000.

## **CalWORKS**

Eligible families receive cash payments on a monthly basis to help pay for housing, food, utilities and other necessary expenses. Additional payments can be made if there are special circumstances, such as pregnancy or homelessness. The annual budget for Lake County CalWORKS is approximately \$5 million.

## **CalFRESH**

CalFRESH is the California implementation of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, which provides financial assistance for purchasing food to low-income California residents.

## **OTHER PROGRAMS IN THE COUNTY:**

In addition, the county's Community Development Department (CDD) is designing a program, in compliance with Accessory Dwelling Units; Preapproved Plans, Assembly Bill 1332, that went into effect January 1, 2024, to foster development of accessory dwelling units with the intent of adding housing stock and reducing overcrowding. Leaders of the CDD are expected to execute this program by the third quarter of 2024.

### **North Coast Opportunities**

North Coast Opportunities (NCO), a private non-profit organization, operates the New Digs Program in Lakeport. This program helps community members that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless to secure permanent housing. New Digs works to end homelessness as soon as possible, through interim or permanent housing, offering tiered financial assistance for a minimum of 6 months. Once a client is placed in housing, New Digs Housing Case Managers work to address any barriers that contributed to prior homelessness, whether that is job skill development or mental health support. NCO also operates a Disaster Case Management Program that supports the needs of survivors from the wildfires of 2015-2018.

### **Redwood Community Services NEST program**

Redwood Community Services offers the Nurturing Education and Skills Training program (NEST), which provides transitional housing for young (age 18-25) pregnant or parenting families and their children for 15 months. It also offers the Healthy Opportunities for Mothering Experiences Sober Living Environment (HOME), which provides long-term residential support for homeless families.

### **Lake Family Resource Center**

Lake Family Resource Center provides housing support to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and/or stalking. They offer up to 90 days of transitional housing in their 17-bed facility and up to one year of rent payments in market housing. The Lake County Resource Center's annual budget is \$4.5 million, of which approximately \$200,000 per year is provided by Lake County.

### **Restoration House**

Adventist Health operates a 10-bed transitional housing facility for individuals with complex medical needs.

### **Miracle Messages Program**

Miracle Messages provides reunion services for individuals experiencing

homelessness. After a homeless individual records a message to a loved one (or vice versa), they attempt to locate the loved one to deliver the message.

### **Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California**

The Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California prepared an Environmental Assessment in August 2023 describing their plan to develop low-income housing on 62.87 acres near the Twin Pines Casino. The project foresees development of up to 45 homes, 5 cabins, and a 21-space RV park.

### **Hospitals**

Hospitals offer charity care programs which provide free or low-cost medical treatment at hospitals for people who can't pay. This includes all emergency room care. For patients who are admitted, it also includes inpatient care. The American Hospital Association reports that for 2020, the most recent year available, more than \$8 million per hospital of uncompensated care was provided.

### **Others**

The Sheriff's Office, police departments, fire departments, ambulance services, District Attorney's Office, Public Defenders Office, all spend significant portions of their annual budgets dealing with homeless individuals. These individuals are at a higher risk of needing health and legal interventions and therefore often have recurring needs.

## **Homeless Management Information System**

Federal regulations (24 CFR 578) require the Continuum of Care to:

“In consultation with recipients of Emergency Solutions Grants program funds within the geographic area, establish and operate either a centralized or coordinated assessment system that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and services. The Continuum must develop a specific policy to guide the operation of the centralized or coordinated assessment system on how its system will address the needs of individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from nonvictim service providers. This system must comply with any requirements established by HUD by Notice.”

The Continuum of Care has established a Homeless Management Information System

(HMIS) to be responsible for planning, coordinating, and evaluating the implementation of HMIS for Lake County. The HMIS is intended to provide data needed by policymakers to better understand the complex factors contributing to homelessness and develop more targeted solutions. The HMIS is expected to collect the following types of data:

- Demographics (age, gender, ethnicity, family composition)
- Housing history (length of time homeless, previous housing, history of homelessness)
- Health (physical and mental health conditions, substance abuse issues)
- Income and employment (source and stability of income, employment status and history, education level)
- Access to services (utilization of shelters/food assistance, access to healthcare)
- Geographic information – location of homelessness, concentration of homelessness
- Causes of homelessness – job loss, eviction, domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse
- Risk factors – history of trauma or abuse, involvement in criminal justice system
- Service needs – housing preferences, supportive services needed, barriers to access
- Outcomes – housing stability, employment status, health improvements
- Qualitative data – personal narratives, feedback from stakeholders

## **FINDINGS**

- F-1: Section 8 Housing in Lake County is limited.
- F-2: Only approximately 2% of applied-for EHV's are awarded.
- F-3: Homelessness has increased despite the funds that are spent for abatement.
- F-4: Once a person or family becomes homeless, returning to a normal sheltered life seems insurmountable.
- F-5: The housing voucher system is ineffective; essentially “broken” due, in part, to the loss of the housing supply as a result of wildfires since 2015.
- F-6: The cost of homelessness abatement has risen along with everything else.
- F-7: Government rules for homeless relief are too complex.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R-1: That the Board of Supervisors investigate if a quick-response county-run Housing Agency would be more effective in finding, negotiating, and procuring available housing space in a shorter time to serve more clients with less delay. (F-1), F-2), (F-5), (F-7)
- R-2: That the Board of Supervisors improve oversight of county-wide homeless services, including comprehensive use and analysis of HMIS data. (F-3), (F-5)
- R-3: That the Board of Supervisors develop a comprehensive plan to increase low-income housing supply in Lake County. (F-3), (F-4), (F-5), (F-7).

## **REQUEST FOR RESPONSE**

Pursuant to Penal Code, Sections 933, ad 933.5, the Grand Jury requests responses as follows:

Board of Supervisors	R-1, R-2, R-3	60 days.
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## References:

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## **RECYCLING IN LAKE COUNTY**

### **SUMMARY**

Adoption of California's waste reduction and recycling law (California Integrated Waste Management Act [AB939]) was problematic from the start. Single-stream recycling doesn't work. The state regulator, CalRecycle, has been ineffective and inefficient in recycling cans and bottles. The waste industry is a problem, not a solution. Lake County's recycling efforts are related to landfill problems only.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The Grand Jury interviewed Lake County employees who are responsible for Lake County's recycling programs.

### **BACKGROUND**

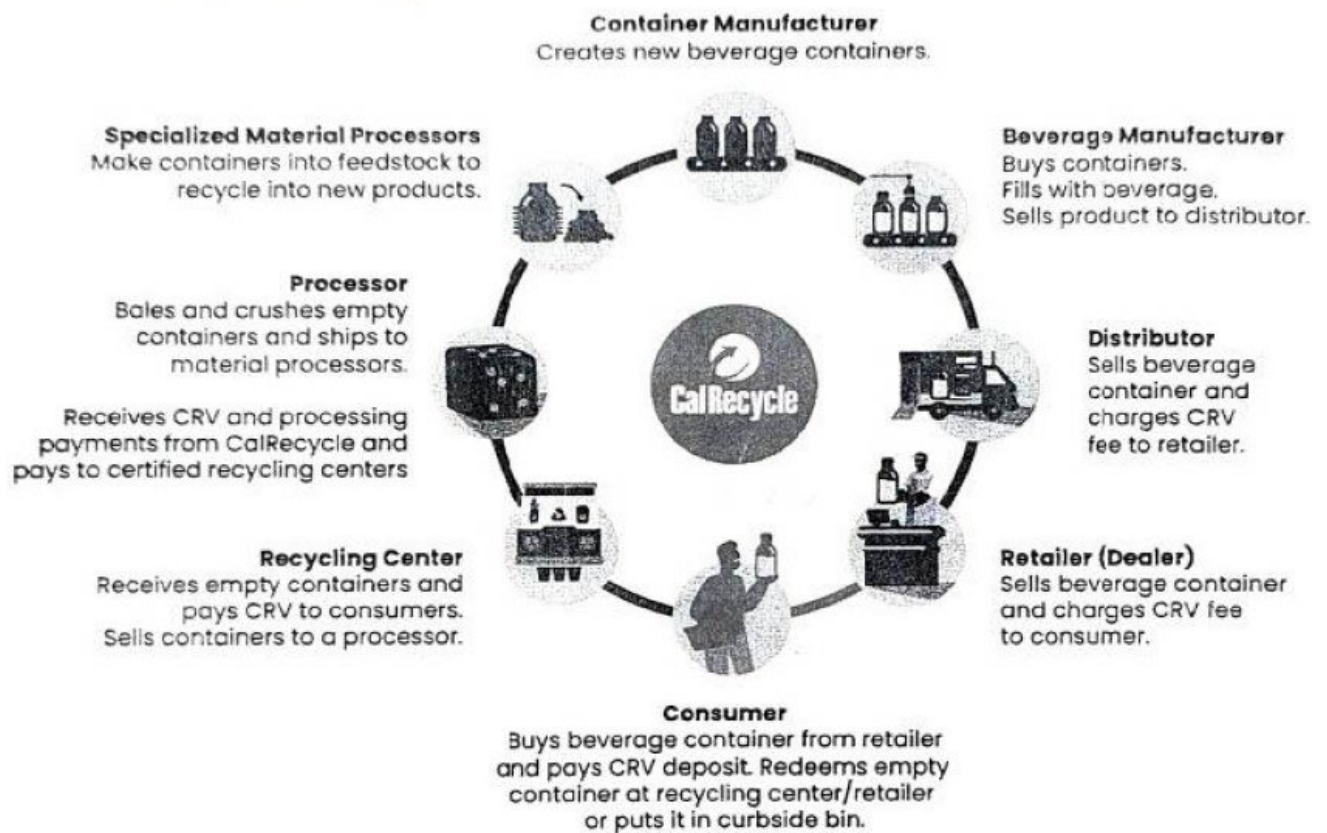
In the 1990's waste haulers introduced single-stream recycling. In 2011 the State of California had set the goal for 75% recycling by 2020. See web page:

<http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab-0301-0350/ab-341.20111006-chaptered.pdf>

In the 2000s many laws were passed by the State but only one even remotely addresses the core problems of recycling, Household Hazardous Waste: Facilities; Transportation and Acceptance, AB 2481 (amended in 2021-2022).

## SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING DOESN'T WORK

### Overview of Beverage Container Recycling Program



The single stream recycling we have today is the following: the consumer brings his recycling to a Recycle Center, who sends it to a Processor, who in turn gives it to a Specialized Material Processor. This is how a consumer gets money for his recycling efforts. See figure above. However, most get the recycling dumped with the trash. The consumer is instructed to separate the recyclables for the waste haulers, who get paid twice.

Seven other states have a multi-stream approach. They provide convenient, automated redemption at every supermarket, convenience, drug, and big box stores, so returning empties is as easy as buying a beverage.

But in California beverage retailers from grocery chains to big box, convenience and drugstore chains, are not required to take back empties along with the redemption centers. California law (AB939) obligated retailers to be recyclers of last resort if redemption centers failed to materialize or closed. Now that redemption centers are closing, the majority of retailers are refusing to fulfill those responsibilities. Returning empties right to the store where you do your shopping dramatically increases consumer convenience.

Seven other states and the vast majority of other programs worldwide mandate redemption at both stores and redemption centers. In the State of Michigan, consumers have only one way to redeem recycling at retail stores that sell beverages. Residents there redeem 89% of the beverage containers they buy, spurred by the ease of access to deposit refunds. This creates a benefit to the recycle centers and creates more locations for the consumer to get paid for recycling.

The main reason recycling centers have closed in California is their inability to remain solvent. In 2017, waste haulers operating recycling programs wound up getting paid \$170 million by the State for container recycling, plus earned another \$13 million for scrap metal. But they recycled only 12% of the containers in the program, according to analysis of CalRecycle data by the nonprofit Container Recycling Institute (CRI).

Redemption centers, however, were paid only \$155 million for handling 88% of the containers. Waste haulers were paid ten percent more than redemption centers for recycling a fraction of the empties.

**THE STATE REGULATOR, CALRECYCLE,  
HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE AND INEFFICIENT  
IN RECYCLING CANS AND BOTTLES**

The state regulator, CalRecycle, has not policed or fined the retailers to make sure consumers can redeem their deposit. Three thousand nine hundred ninety-six (3,996) stores have

signed up with CalRecycle to redeem empties in zones with no centers. CalRecycle is abetting retailers by not widely enforcing the current bottle deposit law or cracking down on violations. Instead, the agency granted more than 1,200 exemptions from retailer recycling responsibilities in the last three decades according to agency data. If caught by CalRecycle, the penalty is between \$100 and \$1,000, depending on whether it is a repeat offense. Chances are retailers will never be inspected. After many years, CalRecycle finally made this list public, unlike a shrinking list of redemption centers that consumers have long been able to search online.

Website: <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/BevContainer/InStoreContainer> . (type in *Lake County* to get list for the County)

The redemption rates are low and getting lower, yet CalRecycle has done nothing that solves this problem. Part of the solution is to have deposit programs set deposits high enough to incentivize redemption.

CalRecycle commissioned a study on how to restructure the deposit system over a decade ago. The 2009 report, by the Sacramento-based R3 Consulting Group and CM Consulting of Ontario, Canada, compared bottle deposit programs in British Columbia, Ontario, and Germany to California’s. The report stated:

“The government’s role is to set performance standards in the public interest (with stakeholder input), and then step aside and let producers design and operate effective programs to recover their products. Then, the government’s role is to ensure transparency and accountability for outcomes.”

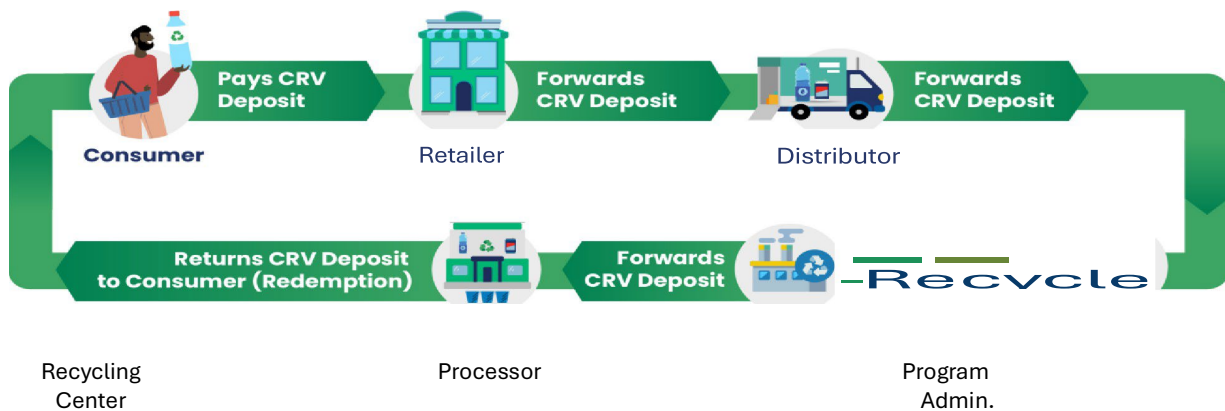
As the report pointed out, the three most important elements to successful bottle deposit programs are the amount of the deposit, consumer education, and wide access to redemption centers. (See chart below.) Yet, California’s system is the most inconvenient out of more than 50 beverage container recycling programs around the world.

To be fair to CalRecycle, this is a legislative issue, and CalRecycle’s response to this report is unknown.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF BOTTLE DEPOSIT PROGRAMS**

Characteristic	Oregon	Michigan	Norway	Germany	Lithuania	CALIFORNIA
Redemption Rates:	81%	89%	95%	98%	93%	68%
Beverage Industry						

Responsible Running Program	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Responsible Deposit Amount (in cents)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Deposit Amount (in cents)	10	10	Up to 30	25	13	5-10
Haulers Collect Consumer Deposits	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES



In the 1990s, in response to new recycling laws, waste haulers introduced single-stream recycling as a way to protect their landfill profits, not to increase recycling rates. The waste industry started investing in facilities to sort garbage and grew its profits by cutting costs on labor and delivery time. They no longer had to empty more than one recycling bin or use trucks with multiple compartments. One can never get things 100 percent clean in a single stream plant. Therein lies the root of one of the problems with the waste industry.

Contamination rates can cancel out any benefit from collecting larger quantities of recyclable materials. A 2002 study in Minnesota, compared five different methods of recycling collection in St. Paul and found single stream recycling increased tonnage collected compared to multi-sort systems. But it decreased the tonnage leaving the sorting facility ready for recycling.

Manufacturers who buy processed material to make into new products, are rejecting more offerings after finding that they have to divert larger amounts of substandard scrap. They have to pay landfill for what is unusable and then buy clean substitutes, a losing proposition.

Hand sorting by consumers “would save billions of dollars currently spent to remove contaminants from the recycling stream”.

Bottle deposit programs are an example of that hand-sorting. Glass processors report that 60% of glass coming from single-stream programs, is usable for making into glass bottles or fiberglass, according to CRI. Another 19% goes into glass fines (small bits that can be used as road base or landfill cover), but another 21% is mixed with contaminated non-glass residue and must go straight to a landfill.

In contrast, 90% of the glass that comes from dual-system programs which divert it from other materials, can become new containers or fiberglass. The other ten percent can be used for low-end applications. Bottle deposit programs deliver color-sorted glass, resulting in 98% being recycled into high-end applications.

Letting these companies control recycling is a conflict of interest. “The key takeaway is that a critical activity such as recycling in U.S. cities should not be entrusted to consolidated companies whose main business is landfilling and incinerating garbage,” according to the Institute For Local Self-Reliance. “This is an obvious conflict of interest that has been the focus of attention in the grassroots recycling movement for quite a while.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/16/business/local-recycling-costs.html>

Overall recycling rates for solid waste have fallen in California from a peak of 33-50% in 2012 to 42% in 2017. Since 2012, trash disposal has increased per resident from 5.3 pounds to 6 pounds every day. That amounts to the weight of a subcompact car per person per year. But the redemption rate for consumers is a mere 66% because operators of consumer curbside and recycling “*drop-off progCalRecycle* fund,” fund “supplemental programs” that have never been assessed for their environmental or cost effectiveness. These include \$15 million annually in “supplemental payments” to curbside and drop-off programs, up to \$10 million for “quality incentive payments” directly to glass processors to improve the cleanliness of glass, and \$5 million in “market development payments” for plastic bottles. These curbside operators take in 12% of the beverage containers in the recycling program, while shrinking numbers of recycling centers take in 88%, according to CRI’s analysis of CalRecycle data.

The operators running curbside pickup or drop-off programs are overpaid by Cal-Recycle. In 2017, these operators collected \$170 million in consumer deposits and payments to make up for materials worth less than the cost of recycling.

The cost of actually handling the containers was \$43 million, leading to a calculation by CRI of \$140 million in gross profits, or a profit of 326%. CalRecycle pays operators this deposit, known as a California Redemption Value (CRV) of a nickel or a dime corresponding to the container size based on tonnage of container materials collected. Curbside operators submit weight records to CalRecycle and the agency then calculates the value per pound based on statewide survey data. CRI found that the current system of providing CRV based on weight of baled containers results in overpayments of \$10 million a year. That is because contaminants present in those bales make them heavier, creating a perverse incentive for waste haulers to continue contaminating recyclables. In addition, operators are allowed to submit the results of their own surveys and also apply to CalRecycle for higher than standard refund rates, likely totaling millions of dollars more in extra payments.

In 2017, curbside and drop-off operators received 17 times more in payments from CalRecycle for PET (a type of plastic), than the material would normally be worth, according to CRI. They received about nine times as much as it cost them to recycle aluminum cans, and three times as much as it cost them to recycle glass bottles.

Meantime, the agency radically underpays redemption centers. CRI estimates that redemption centers were shorted by \$42.7 million between 2013 and 2016 by the State. As the value of aluminum has fallen, these centers that rely on the risky scrap metal market to generate 80% of their revenues, have closed in droves.

As of January 24, 2020, only 1,205 redemption centers remained open statewide, according to CalRecycle. That leaves fewer than 50% that operated in 2013, making it harder for consumers to get their recycling deposits back.

Today, the virtual closing of China's market because of the U.S.'s high rates of scrap contamination, has these waste haulers increasing rates for their recycling services, but it is unclear how much of recyclables that they collect go straight to landfills or incinerators instead.

The only industrial sector that benefits from single-stream recycling is waste hauling. Waste haulers hold lucrative waste and disposal contracts, and municipal recycling contracts.

## **POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF WASTE COMPANIES, CONTAINER MAKERS, AND USERS**

Some municipal leaders are growing wary of Waste Haulers/Recyclers Total

Contributions to the Legislature from 2017-2019:

Recology PAC	\$284,150.00;
Recology	\$278,050.00
Republic Services	\$102,449.99
Athens Services	\$ 48,200.00
Waste Management	\$ 42,500.00
CR&R	\$ 17,880.00
Waste Connections	\$ 17,800.00

The total sum contributed was \$791,029.99

These companies control virtually every aspect of the waste and recycling system.

In addition, the industry that produces, distributes and retails beverages simply does not want to spend any money helping to recycle the waste it creates. The American Beverage Association, representing soda brands in the U.S. from Cokecola to Pepsico, plows money into initiatives promoting single-stream recycling that protects their financial interests.

Powerful lobbies representing beverage makers, distributors, and retailers successfully resisted any responsibility for the end-of-life of containers by fighting off a bottle bill in California until 1986 when they wound up shaping key elements of it.

Last year, the American Beverage Association, that represents Pepsi, Coke, Dr. Pepper, Red Bull and other brands, spent \$914,000 on lobbying compared to \$380,000 the year before, according to the Los Angeles Times.

In the State of California, many bills have passed since 2020, but none of them have addressed the core problem, which is single stream recycling and corporate container control of recycling.

The Governor of California, lawmakers and recycling stakeholders agreed that a major reform of the bottle deposit system was needed and should have been undertaken in 2020 but was ineffective.

## **LAKE COUNTY RECYCLING EFFORT RELATED TO LANDFILL ONLY**

Lake County has two inspectors who make sure the landfill is within county specifications, yet none for recycling. It has been stated the County has no control of recycling, it is a state matter. While that is true, the State does give recycling grants to counties.

### **GRANTS**

Here are two grants the County could have applied for:

#### **GRANT 1:**

##### **Notice of Funds Available: Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment Program (FY 2023-24).**

The Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) administers a program to provide opportunities for beverage container recycling and litter cleanup activities. Pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 14581(a)(3)(A) of the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, CalRecycle is distributing \$10,500,000. In fiscal year 2023-24 to eligible cities and counties specifically for beverage container recycling and litter cleanup activities.

Cities are eligible to receive a minimum of \$5,000 and counties are eligible to receive a minimum of \$10,000 per award.

The calculation is based upon the population in the incorporated areas of a city, or a city and county, or in the unincorporated area of a county as of January 2023 (Department of Finance E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State with Annual Percentage Change – January 1, 2022, and 2023, Sacramento, California May 2023).

#### **GRANT 2:**

##### **Notice of Funds Available: Beverage Container Redemption Pilot Project Grant Program (FY2021-22).**

The Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) allows any previously approved pilot project grantee to apply for additional funding after the initial \$1 million funding allocation is expended (or close to).

Additional funding shall be used for expending the pilot project in some way. This may include, but is not limited to, adding additional areas, increasing redemption methods use, serving an increasing population and/or disadvantaged communities,

serving various geographic locations throughout the state, including new ideas for reaching consumers, adding additional locations, and increasing hours of operation.

Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) administers a program to provide opportunities for the California local government and recycling center operators to improve redemption opportunities for eligible beverage containers and increase recycling rates in unserved convenience zones statewide.

### **Possible Solutions**

There are a number of possible steps to solve the problem, including the following:

- Unveil regulations that require at least one automated redemption point for every 9,000 people in every area designated for a recycling center so California can hit the statutory goal of consumers returning 80% of all CRV containers.

- Direct supermarket cooperatives to propose where new automated redemption points go based on population density.

- Designate that every big box-style store selling CRV beverages provides consumers with at least two automated recycling machines on-site.

- Ensure that both supermarket redemption locations and depots are open at least 70 hours a week – and not just during the typical 9a.m. to 5p.m. hours when most people are working.

- Require CalRecycle to enforce the existing bottle deposit law by levying meaningful fines on retail stores for each day, including retroactively, that they shirk their current recycling responsibilities.

- Double consumer deposits to incentivize consumers to recycle.

- Require CalRecycle to educate consumers about their in-store return options and the new availability on their website of a searchable list of stores redeeming deposits.

- Eliminate unjustified subsidies to waste haulers.

- Call for reform of the bottle law to shift responsibility for the recycling of containers to the beverage industry with the legislature setting a 90% redemption target with CalRecycle enforcing the law and efficiently run bottle deposit systems at a lower cost.

- In addition to a redemption target of 90%, add new financial penalties to the beverage industry if the target is missed.

Fortunately, CalRecycle already has a partial solution with Household Hazardous Waste: Facilities: Transportation and Acceptance, AB2481 (paint recycling.). AB2481 has a

stewardship approach. A bill like AB2481 for can and bottle recycling would be a good foundation for changing to a multi-stream recycling system.

This stewardship started on October 18, 2012.

### **Product Stewardship/Extended Producer Responsibility**

CalRecycle ensures sustainable funding is available for end-of-life management for carpet, paint and used mattresses through partnerships with statewide, industry-led stewardship organizations. The regulated communities include manufacturers, brand owners, recyclers, and renovators. CalRecycle compliance responsibilities fall into two main categories: ensuring stewardship organizations for each product are administering programs to increase the recovery and recycling of products and listing compliant manufacturers/brands/renovators. Activities include reviewing and approving stewardship plans and conducting investigations to verify regulated manufacturers' or renovators' compliance to ensure a level playing field.

The American Coatings Association's non-profit, PaintCare Inc., runs the program in California.

#### **Program Goals and Activities:**

- Reduce the generation of postconsumer paint;
- Promote the reuse of postconsumer paint;
- Properly manage postconsumer paint at end-of-life in an environmentally sound fashion, including recovery, recycling, and proper disposal of postconsumer paint; and
- Properly manage paint containers and undertake market development activities, if a manufacturer or stewardship organization chooses to engage in these activities.
- Describing how each consumer of architectural paint in California will have an opportunity to recycle and properly manage their unwanted architectural paint on a statewide basis, including the proposed number, location, and type of collection points located in the State.

- Address the coordination of the architectural paint stewardship program with existing local household hazardous waste collection programs.
- Address the coordination of the architectural paint stewardship program with potential retail collection points.

California Public Resources Code, Section 48703 states, in relevant part:

“(d) The plan shall include goals established by the manufacturer or stewardship organization. Under the California law, paint manufacturers are required to submit plans to CalRecycle and report annually on their progress. Noncompliance can bring civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per day. “

## **FINDINGS**

- F-1 The role of waste management companies needs to be reevaluated and regulated.
- F-2 The California State Legislature should consider passing legislation that entails multi-stream, free market-driven system.
- F-3 CalRecycle should be responsible to audit, oversee, and enforce mandates of the State.
- F-4 Lake County has no one to oversee the recycle grants from the State of California.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R-1 That the Lake County Board of Supervisors should appoint someone to oversee recycling grants. (F-4)

## **RESPONSES**

As per California Penal Code, Section 933.05(a), (b), (c), the following responses are required:

Lake County Board of Supervisors	R-1	60 days.
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*Ladies in Horse-drawn Buggy with Lakeport Pavilion in Background*

# **PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC UNDERGROUNDING IN LAKE COUNTY**

## **SUMMARY**

Several comments about Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) traffic issues and construction issues were brought forward to the Civil Grand Jury in September 2023. The Spring Valley and Cobb areas were of concern to residents about the performance of PG&E.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Civil Grand Jury conducted the following:

- Interviews with Lake County Public Works (DPW) personnel.
- Review of Encroachment Permits issued by DPW.
- Public comments at the Cobb Area Council meetings.
- Interviews with residents of the Cobb area.
- Review of California Temporary Traffic Control Handbook (CATTCH).
- Comments by Spring Valley residents.

## **BACKGROUND**

PG&E is undergrounding electricity county wide at various locations throughout Lake County.

## **DISCUSSION**

The importance of PG&E's performance, and its subcontractors adhering to the DPW permit for safety concerns, cannot be overemphasized. Traffic control and road construction are of concern to residents of Lake County due to the scope and length of time to do the work that is

required to help reduce fire danger and increase resiliency for a reliable supply of electricity. This process will take several years to complete. Concerns are noted by observing PG&E's performance in several locations by multiple eyewitnesses. PG&E should strive to correct the issues.

The County of Lake Department of Public Works issues the Encroachment Permits to PG&E for construction. DPW permitting processes specifically under the CATTCH, recommends traffic to not be held for more than 10 minutes. The length of traffic held in the Spring Valley area was reported from numerous sources to be over 30 minutes.

In addition, DPW specifically highlighted in a recently issued Encroachment Permit to PG&E in bold letters: "**ADEQUATE TRAFFIC CONTROL per approved traffic control plan and per CATTCH guidelines.**"

During inspections in the Golf Road area in Cobb, there were several crews working at the same time choking off emergency vehicle access. DPW inspectors also had difficulty doing inspections due to roads being restricted so no vehicle could pass. The issue was not with just one crew in the Golf neighborhood, there were several crews working at the same time without coordination to allow emergency vehicle access.

DPW inspectors were not able to adequately inspect county wide as the PG&E work was undertaken simultaneously at various locations in Lake County.

## **FINDINGS**

F1. PG&E did not follow the guidelines set forth in the CATTCH handbook to which PG&E is a signatory. DPW stated explicitly in writing, that PG&E was to follow CATTCH recommendations.

F2. PG&E did not notify emergency services when it closed off access to the Golf Road area in Cobb.

F3. PG&E did not notify the Golf Road area residents that the access to individual roads would be closed, with no alternative routes set out.

F4. There was insufficient oversight by Lake County DPW, due to simultaneous projects by PG&E running county wide.

F5. The distance between several PG&E crews working simultaneously stretches DPW inspection resources.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

R1. That DPW explore funding additional inspectors, at the expense of PG&E. F4, F5

R2. That DPW contract with a licensed engineering firm to perform inspections of PG&E, and their subcontractors, during heavy inspection times. F4, F5

R3. That DPW enforce the CATTCH guidelines, per their encroachment permits. F1

R4. That DPW ensure that PG&E make all required emergency service and residential notifications in a timely manner. F2, F3

## **RESPONSE**

As per the California Penal Code, Section 933.05(a), (b), (c), the following responses are required:

Lake County Department of Public Works (DPW) R1, R2, R3, R4 90 days



*Steam Dredger*

## EXHIBITS:

### Exhibit A: SIGNATORY PAGE OF THE CATTCH HANDBOOK

#### California Temporary Traffic Control Handbook

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The California Temporary Traffic Control Handbook (CATTCH) is a joint effort among members of the California Inter-Utility Coordinating Committee. This handbook was previously known as the California Joint Utility Traffic Control Manual (CJUTCM). The member logos below are proudly displayed as a sign of their support in developing safe working conditions for their employees as well as for the traveling public. We are a dedicated group who wants safety first. As you read through this handbook, please keep in mind that safety is everyone's business and it is up to each one of us to do our part in ensuring a safe work zone.



## **Exhibit B: Excerpts from the California Temporary Traffic Control Handbook**

“Many cities and counties have granted Southern California Edison, as an electric utility, Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas), as a gas utility, and Pacific Gas and Electric Company as an electric and gas utility the right to use public streets. These grants, known as the city or county franchises, are granted in accordance with: (1), the Broughton Act, set forth in Section 6001, et seq. of the Public Utilities Code, or (2) the Franchise Act of 1937, set forth in Section 6201, et seq. of the Public Utilities Code.

...

Illustrative of the franchise rights granted by counties and cities to public utilities, Section 6265 of the Public Utilities Code provides that:

...

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...

g. Early coordination with officials having jurisdiction over the affected cross streets and providing emergency services should occur if significant impacts to roadway operations are anticipated.

...

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...

- R. Good public relations should be maintained by applying the following principles: a. The needs of the road user should be

assessed such that appropriate advance road notice is given and clearly defined alternative paths are provided. California Temporary Traffic Control Handbook 12 b. The cooperation of the various news media should be sought in publicizing the existence and reasons for TTC zones because news releases can assist by keeping the road user well informed. C. The needs of abutting property owners, residents, and businesses should be assessed and appropriate accommodations made. D. **The needs of emergency service providers (law enforcement, fire, and medical) should be assessed and appropriate coordination and accommodations made.** [emphasis added] The needs of railroads and transit should be assessed and appropriate coordination and accommodations made. F. The needs of operators of commercial vehicles such as busses and large trucks should be assessed and appropriate coordination and accommodations made.



*Cliff Face With Apparent Mine Shaft  
At Base*