

LAKE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

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SEP 12 2016

The Honorable Judge Andrew S. Blum
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
County of Lake
255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

September 8, 2016

The Honorable Andrew S. Blum,

In reply to the 2015-16 Grand Jury Report, the Lake County Vector Control District respectfully submits the following responses:

Lakeport City General Plan and Zoning Ordinances Have Been Inconsistent for 20 years (pages 49-55).

Findings

- F1 Vector Control is important to the health and safety of all Lake County residents.**
Response: The District agrees with this finding.
- F2 Vector Control could better fulfill its mission with a modern laboratory and updated equipment.**
Response: The District agrees with this finding.
- F3 Vector Control cannot create a modern laboratory on their Esplanade property until inconsistencies between the Lakeport General Plan and zoning Ordinances are resolved.**
Response: The District agrees with this finding.
- F4 The Lakeport General Plan and Zoning Ordinance are inconsistent with each other. This appears to differ with State Law.**
Response: The District agrees that the Lakeport General Plan and Zoning Ordinance are inconsistent, and in 2014 applied to the City for amendments to the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance that would correct the inconsistency. City Staff and the Lakeport Planning Commission recommended amending the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance to Public and Civic Use (PCU), but the City Council rejected the amendment.

Recommendations

- R1 The Vector Control Board of Trustees assume the role of leading Vector Control and the residents of Esplanade neighborhood to communicate by or before the end of 2016 regarding a reasonable approach to their restructured operation at Esplanade which also reduces their impact on the neighborhood. (F1, F2, F3)

Response: This recommendation has been implemented; the Board has directed the District Manager to meet with Esplanade residents.

- R2 Lakeport Community Development Director take the leadership role to bring the Planning Commission, Vector Control, Lakeport City Council, and the residents of the Esplanade neighborhood into agreement over the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance changes and ensure The General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance are consistent by or before the end of the Fiscal Year 2016-2017. (F1, F2, F3, F4)

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented by the District because the District has no authority over the Lakeport Community Development Director who is an employee of the City of Lakeport. The District Manager has met with the Community Development Director and the City Manager, and is working with them to find a solution that will meet the community's needs.

Neighbors Object to Vector Control's Expansion Plans on Esplanade Street in Lakeport Findings (pages 57-62).

- F1** Vector Control provides a valuable service to the County.
Response: The District agrees with this finding.
- F2** The current lab facilities on Esplanade Street are cramped and show signs of leaks, wear and decay.
Response: The District agrees with this finding.
- F3** The Administrative building exterior on Esplanade Street appears dilapidated and unsightly.
Response: The District agrees that the exterior of the Laboratory Building, which abuts and is visible from Esplanade Street, appears dilapidated and unsightly. The Administrative Building, which is located to the east of the Laboratory building, is in good repair and is largely blocked from view by the Laboratory building.
- F4** It is in the interest of the County to allow Vector Control to complete their project. The added and updated lab space will allow them to continue to better meet the abatement needs of the county.
Response: The District agrees with this finding.
- F5** A Strategic Plan would be a good tool to keep all concerned parties informed and on track concerning the progress of Vector Control long-term projects.
Response: The District agrees with this finding.
- F6** Keeping neighbors informed of expansion plans and schedules would open communications between Vector Control and the residents.
Response: The District agrees with this finding.

Recommendations

- R1** The Vector Control Board keep neighbors informed of the progress of their expansion as it develops. (F6)
Response: The District has implemented this recommendation. The District Manager communicates regularly with the neighbors. She has met with many of the neighbors in person, and also communicates via email and telephone according to their preferences. She remains available to meet with the neighbors and encourages them to contact her regarding any questions or concerns that they have regarding the District. As any future improvements to the facility are made, the District Manager will continue to keep the neighbors informed.

- R2 The Board of Trustees and Vector Control Management develop a Strategic Plan by or before the end of calendar year 2016, and make it available to concerned neighbors. (F5)**

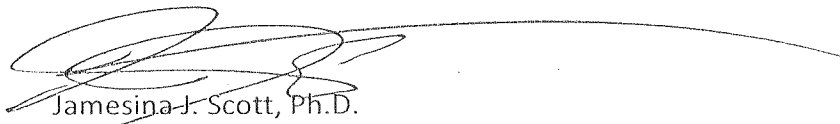
Response: Although there is no legal requirement for an MVCD to have a written strategic plan, the District agrees that a strategic plan is a helpful communication tool. The District has not prepared a formal Strategic Plan, but the elements that would be included in a strategic plan are regularly presented to the Board at its monthly meetings.

This recommendation has not yet been implemented, but the District Manager has identified this as a goal and expects to develop a strategic plan over the next 3-5 years.

- R3 Vector Control send Notices to the neighborhood one week prior to agencies using the Vector Control's meeting rooms after hours. (F6)**

Response: The recommendation will be implemented as needed. The District's meeting room has only been available for use by other agencies during regular business hours (Monday-Friday 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), and the District has no plans to allow use outside of those times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamesina J. Scott', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jamesina J. Scott, Ph.D.

District Manager and Research Director