

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT

Report Title: Humboldt County Water Quality at the Water's Edge

Report Date: 06/27/2018

Response by: Board of Supervisors and Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS),
County of Humboldt

FINDINGS

1. The Board agrees with the findings: F1 and F2.
2. The Board and DHHS agree with the findings: F3, F4, and F5.
3. The Board disagrees wholly or partially with findings:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendations are being implemented: R1, R4
2. Recommendation has not been implemented, but is under consideration and may be implemented in the future: R2
3. Recommendation has been implemented: R3
4. Require further analysis:
5. Will not be implemented

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Number of pages attached: _____

RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY STATEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services to seek and apply for grants to fund studies in upstream locations to help pinpoint animal and vegetation sources of contamination.

Response: Recommendation R1 is being implemented.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's (NCRWQCB) project is currently assessing Humboldt County water quality. Should NCRWQCB's assessment indicate a need for additional study of upstream water sources, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has identified potential grant funding opportunities, and will apply for additional funding upon such time as it is warranted.

R2. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors publicly commend the Humboldt County Public Health Laboratory for its outstanding work in the development of tools to determine the sources of pollution in our streams and our beaches.

Response: Recommendation R2 has not been implemented, but is under consideration and may be implemented in the future.

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services may prepare and submit an agenda item to the Board, recommending a proclamation to commend the Public Health Laboratory.

R3. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors hire an outside consultant who can assess and interpret organisms as they relate to countywide human health risks and environmental issues, to make recommendations for pollution mitigation to the Board of Supervisors.

Response: Recommendation R3 has been implemented.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWCB) is currently helping with this assessment. In the last three years a large study was conducted in Humboldt County that aims to assess water quality, fecal pollution, and organisms in upstream water sources in Humboldt County.

R4. The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Board of Supervisors require an assessment of human health risk and related recommendations for pollution mitigation, provided by an outside consultant to be presented to the Board of Supervisors before April 1, 2019.

Response: Recommendation R4 is being implemented.

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWCB) is currently helping with this assessment. In the last three years a large study was conducted in Humboldt County that aims to assess water quality and fecal pollution in Humboldt County. A comprehensive review of all the data is underway and NCRWCB will be providing their assessment and making recommendations for pollution mitigation pending the analysis of organisms present in upstream water sources.