

1                   **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF LAKE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

2                                   **ORDINANCE NO. 3148**

3  
4                   **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IX TO CHAPTER 15 OF THE LAKE COUNTY**  
5                   **CODE ESTABLISHING A FEE-BASED INSPECTION PROGRAM FOR ALL WATER**  
6                   **VESSELS LAUNCHED IN THE COUNTY OF LAKE**

7                   **THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LAKE ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

8                   **Section 1:**       Article IX of the Lake County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

9                   **ARTICLE IX. - WATER VESSEL INSPECTION PROGRAM**

10                   Sec. 15-52. - Findings.

11                   52.1 The County of Lake holds the waters of Clear Lake in trust for the benefit of all citizens  
12                   pursuant to legislation enacted in 1973 which conveyed in trust to the County of Lake the  
13                   submerged lands of Clear Lake for the furtherance of navigation, commerce, fishery, recreation,  
14                   and wherever possible and appropriate, preservation of the land and waters in their natural state.  
15                   Clear Lake, as well as all other water bodies within the County of Lake represent a significant  
16                   environmental resource to our citizens and are interrelated to the distribution systems of the  
17                   County's water purveyors.

18                   52.2 Aquatic non-native invasive freshwater mussel species pose a significant and imminent  
19                   threat to the water bodies within the County of Lake. Non-native invasive mussel species have  
20                   already created serious and irreparable harm to bodies of water located in other locations in the  
21                   United States and California. Once introduced into a water body, these mussels proliferate at an  
22                   alarming rate, drastically altering the ecosystem of that water body, harming and/or consuming  
23                   native species and food resources within the ecosystems they infest. Non-native invasive mussels  
24                   additionally pose a significant and imminent threat to the water distribution systems of Lake  
25                   County which draw water from Clear Lake and other water bodies within the County. These  
26                   mussels attach to inside water treatment intake structures, pipes, and facilities to such a  
27                   significant degree that the ability to distribute water through the County's existing, and in some  
28                   cases, antiquated infrastructure, will be severely compromised.

52.3 Presently, it does not appear that any water body in Lake County has been infested with  
Non-native invasive mussels. However, water vessels entering Lake County from other areas of

1 the state and country may have recently been launched in infested counties or waters, making  
2 those vessels at high risk to carry mussels (adults and larvae) into Lake County waters.

3 52.4 A screening and inspection program is integral to the preservation of the water bodies  
4 and water distribution systems within the County of Lake, and to the drainages from Lake  
5 County.

6 52.5 This article is enacted under the police power of the County pursuant to Article XI,  
7 Section 7 of the California Constitution which authorizes the County to adopt and enforce  
8 regulations for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare that are not in conflict with  
9 general laws.

10 Sec. 15-53. - Definitions.

11 53.1 For purposes of this article, the following words and phrases shall have the following  
12 meanings:

- 13 (a) Affidavit of Compliance means a declaration to be executed by all water vessel owners  
14 and operators who wish to launch said vessels in a water body in the County of Lake  
15 which attests to the responsibility of that owner/operator to ensure that his/her water  
16 vessel is properly screened and, if necessary, inspected and/or decontaminated prior to  
17 launching.
- 18 (b) Authorized Screener means an individual authorized by the Lake County Department of  
19 Water Resources to conduct the screening process necessary to determine whether a  
20 water vessel is at high risk to carry any non-native invasive mussels such as Quagga,  
21 Zebra, Golden mussels and any other aquatic, non- native invasive species.
- 22 (c) Authorized Inspector means an individual who has received the necessary training  
23 approved by the Lake County Department of Water Resources to conduct inspections of  
24 water vessels for the purpose of determining whether said vessels are contaminated with  
25 any Non-native invasive mussels such as Quagga, Zebra or Golden mussels and any  
26 other aquatic, non-native invasive species.
- 27 (d) Launch means the introduction or placing of any trailered water vessel into a water body  
28 within the County of Lake.
- (e) Live bait means any fish, or other organisms used in conjunction with fishing the waters  
of Lake County.

- 1 (f) Mussel Sticker means the stickers issued by an Authorized Screener/Inspector evincing  
2 the fact that the vessel to which the stickers are affixed has been screened and found to  
3 be at low risk to carry any Non-native invasive mussels such as Quagga, Zebra or  
4 Golden mussels and any other aquatic, non-native invasive species.
- 5 (g) Non-native invasive species means species identified by the State of California that  
6 establish and reproduce rapidly, and which may threaten native species through  
7 competition, predation, parasitism, introduction of pathogens, or physically or  
8 chemically alter the habitat. Such species include, but are not limited to, Quagga, Zebra,  
9 and Golden mussels, Channeled Apple Snail, New Zealand Mud Snails and non-native  
10 aquatic plants as defined in Chapter 26A of the Lake County Code.
- 11 (h) Non-resident water vessel means a vessel that does not meet the definition of a resident  
12 water vessel.
- 13 (i) Resident water vessel means:  
14 1. A vessel that has been issued an OMV registration that identifies its owner as  
15 being physically located within the borders of Lake County.  
16 2. A vessel whose owner can demonstrate that it is moored or stored at a  
17 commercial facility located in Lake County.  
18 3. Any other means deemed acceptable by the Director of Water Resources as to  
19 proof of residency in Lake County providing that the vessel is on the Lake County  
20 Assessor's current unsecured tax roll for boats.
- 21 (j) Screening and Inspection Program means the program of screening and inspection  
22 required by this article to ensure that all water vessels launching into water bodies in  
23 Lake County are free from contamination from adult and larval non-native invasive  
24 mussels and other aquatic, non-native invasive species.
- 25 (k) Water vessel means any trailered watercraft, or jet ski, or float plane capable of being  
26 launched into a water body within the County of Lake except as specifically exempted  
27 herein. Canoes, kayaks, car- top boats, float tubes, rafts, wind surfers/boards, boogey  
28 boards, nonmotorized paddle boats, and nonmotorized sail boats that are eight (8) feet or  
less in length are not considered water vessels for purposes of this article and are thereby  
exempt from the provisions herein.

- 1 (l) Water Vessel Inspection means a physical inspection, using the training approved by the  
2 Lake County Department of Water Resources, of a vessel known or suspected to have  
3 been in water in an infested county or which bears a DMV registration in a county,  
4 either within or outside the State of California, which is known to be infested with non-  
5 native invasive mussels and other aquatic, non-native, invasive species.
- 6 (m) Water Vessel Screening means the process used to verify that a vessel and its trailer  
7 have not been in contact with a body of water in a county infested with non-native  
8 invasive mussels and/or is registered in a county, either within or outside the State of  
9 California, which is known to be infested with non-native invasive mussels and other  
10 non-native, invasive species.
- 11 (n) Attempted Launch means an effort to launch a water vessel into a water body within the  
12 County of Lake as defined herein which, within one hundred fifty (150) feet of a water  
13 body and on a public launch ramp, evinces an endeavor to accomplish the launching of a  
14 water vessel, carried beyond mere preparation, but falling short of the ultimate execution  
15 of launching. In addition to any and all indicia of such attempts, directing a water vessel  
16 to within fifty (50) feet of a water body within the County of Lake shall be deemed to be  
17 an attempted launch.

18 Sec. 15-54. - Applicability.

19 This article shall be applicable to any trailered water vessel intending to launch in a water body  
20 within the County of Lake.

21 Sec. 15-55. - Mussel Stickers for Resident Water Vessels.

22 Because the weight of scientific evidence presently available strongly indicates, the greatest risk  
23 of contamination to our water bodies is by water vessels entering Lake County from other  
24 jurisdictions, the following program shall be applicable to all resident water vessels:

25 55.1 Owners and operators of resident water vessels, having submitted to screening and  
26 inspection, as applicable, shall receive Resident Mussel Stickers designating the vessel  
27 as a Resident Water Vessel and absent an event necessitating re-screening and/or re-  
28 inspection as specified in [Section] 15-57.1, these Mussel Stickers shall expire at the end  
of each calendar year.

1  
2 55.2 Every resident water vessel and its trailer must be affixed with Resident Mussel Stickers  
3 prior to launching that vessel in any water body in the County of Lake.

4 55.3 Resident Mussel Stickers shall be issued according to a color code that will change  
5 annually.

6 55.4 Upon expiration of the annual Resident Mussel Stickers, at the end of the calendar year,  
7 the resident vessel must undergo the necessary screening/inspection requirements to  
8 obtain next year's valid Mussel Stickers.

9 Sec. 15-56. - Mussel Stickers for Non-resident Water Vessels.

10 56.1 All non-resident water vessels and their trailers must be affixed with color-coded,  
11 monthly, Non-resident Mussel Stickers after screening and prior to launch in any water  
12 body in the County of Lake. Stickers are not transferable between vessels.

13 56.2 Non-resident Mussel Stickers shall be issued according to a color-code that will change  
14 monthly.

15 56.3 Upon expiration of the Non-resident Mussel Stickers, the non-resident water vessel must  
16 undergo the necessary screening/inspection requirements to obtain valid Mussel Stickers  
17 for the next calendar month.

18 Sec. 15-57. - Screening/Inspection Requirements.

19 57.1 Screening Requirements. Screening shall be required of:

- 20 (a) All resident trailered water vessels prior to their first launch in every calendar year; or  
21 (b) All non-resident trailered water vessels prior to their first launch in every calendar  
22 month; or  
23 (c) All trailered water vessels, resident or non-resident, that have been launched in a body of  
24 water outside of the County of Lake pursuant to the executed Affidavit of Compliance.

25 57.2 Screening Process.

- 26 (a) The screening process shall be conducted by an Authorized Screener or Authorized  
27 Inspector and shall consist of:  
28 (1) A series of questions concerning the past location of the water vessel prior to  
launching in a water body in the County of Lake, designed to determine whether said

1 past location constitutes an appreciable risk that said water vessel may be infested with  
2 non-native invasive mussels. Said questions shall be answered on the County of Lake  
3 Screening Application Invasive Species Inspection Program form; and

4 (2) May require a visual verification by the Authorized Screener that the water  
5 vessel and trailer are clean, drained and dry.

6 (b) Water vessels which, as a result of the screening process, are found to be clean, drained  
7 and dry, and do not pose an appreciable risk to the water bodies of Lake County shall be  
8 affixed with Mussel Stickers in a location as designated in the instructions  
9 accompanying the Mussel Stickers which signifies that the vessel may be launched into  
10 a water body in the County.

11 (c) Water vessels which, as a result of the screening process, are not clean, drained and dry,  
12 or do appear to pose an appreciable risk to the water bodies of Lake County shall be  
13 required to undergo an inspection by an Authorized Inspector. The County of Lake  
14 Screening Application Invasive Species Inspection Program form shall identify that  
15 vessel as requiring authorized inspection.

16 (d) Affidavit of Compliance. At the time of the screening, the vessel owner/operator shall be  
17 required to execute an affidavit which attests to the responsibility of that owner/operator  
18 to ensure that his/her water vessel is clean, drained and dry and properly screened, re-  
19 screened, inspected, and, if necessary, decontaminated prior to launching in a water  
20 body in the County of Lake. The Affidavit shall be signed under penalty of perjury.

21 (e) If the Screening Application Form is filled out falsely this shall be a violation of this  
22 article.

23 (f) A water vessel owner or operator may refuse to consent to said screening. If the water  
24 vessel owner or operator refuses to consent to screening, that water vessel shall not be  
25 allowed to launch in any water body within the County of Lake and shall be in violation  
26 of this article if he/she should nonetheless attempt to do so.

### 27 57.3 Inspection Requirements.

28 (a) All water vessels determined as a result of the screening process to constitute an  
appreciable risk of contamination due to the possible presence of non-native invasive  
mussels shall submit to an inspection by an Authorized Inspector prior to launching in a  
water body in the County of Lake.

1 (b) Said inspection shall consist of a thorough search of the exterior and interior of  
2 the water vessel, including but not limited to bilge pumps, motors, and live wells, bait  
3 wells, ballast tanks, bladders, and all areas of standing water.

4 (c) A water vessel owner or operator may refuse to consent to said inspection. If the  
5 water vessel owner or operator refuses to consent to inspection, that water vessel shall  
6 not be allowed to launch in any water body within the County of Lake and shall be in  
7 violation of this article if he/she should nonetheless attempt to do so.

8 (d) At the time of the inspection, if any water vessel is found to contain other  
9 aquatic, non-native invasive species, the water vessel owner or operator shall be required  
10 to remove said invasive species prior to launching in a water body within the County of  
11 Lake.

12 (e) If, pursuant to the required inspection, a water vessel is found to be clean,  
13 drained and dry, and free of any possible non-native invasive mussels infestation and  
14 any other aquatic, non-native invasive species is either not found or removed from the  
15 water vessel, the Authorized Inspector shall certify that the water vessel can be launched  
16 in Lake County after receiving the appropriate Mussel Stickers from an Authorized  
17 Screener.

18 (f) Affidavit of Compliance. At the time of the inspection, the vessel owner/operator  
19 shall be required to execute an affidavit which attests to the responsibility of that  
20 owner/operator to ensure that his/her water vessel is properly inspected and, if  
21 necessary, decontaminated prior to launching in a water body in the County of Lake.  
22 The Affidavit shall be signed under penalty of perjury.

23 (g) If, pursuant to the required inspection, a water vessel is found to be infested with  
24 adult non-native invasive mussels, the vessel owner shall be informed that his/her water  
25 vessel shall be quarantined by the California Department of Fish and Game. If the vessel  
26 is found to possibly be infested with non-native invasive mussels, the vessel owner may  
27 not launch his/her vessel until such time as that vessel has been decontaminated and re-  
28 inspected by an Authorized Inspector. The vessel owner shall be directed to a  
decontamination station where the vessel will undergo a decontamination process. Once  
the vessel has been decontaminated, reinspected and found to be at no risk of

1           contaminating Lake County waters, the vessel can be affixed with Mussel Stickers as  
2           described hereinabove.

3           57.4   Decontamination.

4           Decontamination stations shall be operated by the County of Lake, Department of Water  
5           Resources. Said stations shall be open to all owner/operators of water vessels. There  
6           shall be no fee associated with decontamination. Decontamination shall be required of  
7           all vessels that have been determined to be at high risk of being infested with non-native  
8           invasive mussels. Such determination shall be made if the vessel is not clean, drained  
9           and dry, OR was last in the water of an infested county, less than thirty (30) days ago.

10          Sec. 15-58. - Screening/Inspection Stations.

11          58.1   Designated locations are available within the County. The current list of Authorized  
12          Screeners is available at [www.co.lake.ca.us/mussels](http://www.co.lake.ca.us/mussels).

13          58.2   Inspections shall be carried out by County personnel at any time. Vessel owners shall be  
14          referred to the nearest Authorized Inspector when required. Inspections may be  
15          scheduled by calling the Department of Water Resources, (707) 263-2344.

16          58.3   Nothing in this article precludes screening and/or inspections at other locations within  
17          the County which may be offered by private persons and/or organizations if such  
18          screenings are performed by Authorized Screeners and such inspections are performed  
19          by Authorized Inspectors.

20          Sec. 15-59. - Fees.

21          The following fees are hereby established for County-operated screening and inspection services:

22          (a)    The fee for each screening and/or inspection performed by the County of Lake shall be  
23          approved by the Board of Supervisors and listed under the currently adopted master fee  
24          schedule.

25          (b)    Fees collected for screening and/or inspection, that are not otherwise encumbered, shall  
26          be used to fund the Water Vessel Inspection Program.

27          Sec. 15-60. - Disposing of Live Bait into a Water Body in Lake County is Prohibited.

1           60.1    It shall be unlawful in the unincorporated areas of the County of Lake to launch or to  
2                    attempt to launch a water vessel in a water body in the County of Lake in violation of  
3                    the requirements of this article.

4           60.2    Live Bait. It shall be unlawful to dispose of any live bait and/or any liquid containing  
5                    live bait or any liquid which previously contained live bait in a water body in Lake  
6                    County.

7           Sec. 15-61. - Criminal Sanctions.

8           61.1    Criminal Penalties.

9           (a)    Any person violating any provision of this article shall be guilty of an infraction or  
10                   misdemeanor as hereinafter specified. Such individual shall be deemed guilty of a separate  
11                   offense for each launch in a water body in the County of Lake. The Lake County Sheriff is  
12                   authorized to enforce this article and that power may be exercised by any deputy of the sheriff  
13                   and/or by any person so authorized by law.

14          (b)    Any individual convicted of a violation of this chapter shall be:

15                1.    Guilty of an infraction and punished by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00)  
16                   for the first offense;

17                2.    Guilty of an infraction and punished by a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00)  
18                   for the second offense;

19                3.    The third and subsequent offenses shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be  
20                   punishable by a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) but not to exceed  
21                   one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and/or up to six (6) months in the county jail or both.

22          (c)    Notwithstanding sections (a) and (b) of Section 61.1 hereinabove, the first or second  
23                   offense may be charged and prosecuted as misdemeanor.

24          61.2    Impound. A water vessel unlawfully launched or which is attempted to be unlawfully  
25                   launched in a water body in the County of Lake may be subject to impound pursuant to a  
26                   misdemeanor arrest or issuance of a misdemeanor citation by a peace officer for  
27                   violation of this article.

28          (a)    Any water vessel which is operated, managed, controlled, or otherwise used in violation  
                 of the provisions of this code may forthwith be impounded by any authorized officer and

1 held pending determination of the charge of the violation pursuant to which the water  
2 vessel was impounded.

3 (b) When a water vessel is impounded from the immediate possession of any person, the  
4 authorized officer shall immediately deliver to said person a notice in writing signed by  
5 the authorized officer which shall state:

- 6 1. The fact of such impound;
- 7 2. The name of the owner of the water vessel;
- 8 3. The name of the person from whom possession was taken;
- 9 4. A description of the water vessel sufficient for identification;
- 10 5. Any identification number of the water vessel;
- 11 6. The particular location at which the impounded water vessel will be stored; and
- 12 7. A statement of the charge of violation pursuant to which the water vessel has  
13 been impounded.

14 (c) Upon conviction of any person for any said charge of violation pursuant to which the  
15 water vessel is impounded, any person lawfully entitled to the possession of said vessel  
16 who demands possession shall pay to the County all storage charges as well as all  
17 charges incident to the impoundment of said vessel.

18 (d) In the event any person is acquitted of the charge of violation pursuant to which the  
19 water vessel is impounded, said vessel shall be released to any person entitled to  
20 possession thereof and the costs of storage shall be a County charge.

### 21 61.3 Lien and Sale of Impounded Water Vessels.

22 (a) The County shall have a lien upon any impounded water vessel and the proceeds  
23 of any sale thereof for the payment of impound and storage charges incurred pursuant to  
24 the provisions of this article.

25 (b) Irrespective of the disposition of any criminal charge against a person for a  
26 violation of this article pursuant to which a water vessel is impounded and stored, if  
27 possession of said water vessel is not obtained by a person lawfully entitled to such  
28 possession within thirty (30) days of such disposition, the County is empowered to sell  
the water vessel at public auction in satisfaction of its lien for impound and storage  
charges. For California registered vessels, the California Boaters Lien Law shall apply.

1 61.4 Payment of any penalty herein shall not relieve any individual from the responsibility of  
2 correcting the violations as found by the authorized officer.

3 61.5 Any person found not in compliance with the provisions of this article shall be ordered  
4 off the water body and shall be subject to any other legal action as deemed necessary by  
5 the authorized officer.

6 61.6 Forfeiture. Whenever any person is convicted of a misdemeanor violation of this article,  
7 the judge may, upon the conviction of the person, order the forfeiture of the water vessel  
8 that was used in committing the offense charged.

9 Sec. 15-62. - Public Nuisance Declaration.

10 62.1 Declaration. Any violation of this article is hereby declared to be unlawful and a public  
11 health nuisance and may be abated by an Enforcement Official as defined in Chapter 13  
12 of the Lake County Code irrespective of any other remedy provided herein.

13 62.2 Summary Abatement. A violation of this article constitutes an immediate threat or  
14 danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the public and may, therefore, be summarily  
15 abated pursuant to Lake County Code Section 13-9.1 and Section 5-37, excepting that  
16 the notice provisions of Section 5-37.2 shall not apply. The Enforcement Official may  
17 require the immediate abatement of a violation of this article, including the  
18 impoundment of water vessels which were launched or attempted to launch in violation  
19 of this article as provided in Section 61.2 herein.

20 (a) The owner/operator of the water vessel launched or attempted to be launched in a  
21 Lake County water body shall be responsible for all costs associated with the summary  
22 abatement, which shall be confirmed in accordance with Sections 13-41 and 13-42 of  
23 Chapter 13 of Lake County Code, including but not limited to a post-abatement Hearing  
24 on Account and Proposed Assessment. In addition to any evidence required to be  
25 presented at the Hearing on Account and Proposed Assessment, the owner/operator shall  
26 have the right to present evidence to prove that a nuisance did not exist at the time of the  
27 summary abatement. In the event the Board of Supervisors finds that such evidence  
28 satisfactorily proves a nuisance did not exist at the time of the summary abatement, the  
costs of the summary abatement shall be a County charge.

1 (b) If the Board of Supervisors confirms the costs of a summary abatement, any  
2 water vessel(s) impounded consequent to said abatement shall not be released by the  
3 Enforcement Official until the costs of the abatement have been paid in full.

4 (c) The amount of the unpaid costs of a summary abatement may be declared a  
5 special assessment against any real property owned by the owner/operator pursuant to  
6 the requirements of Section 63-11 of this article. The Board of Supervisors may impose  
7 the special assessment on one (1) or more parcels. The amount of the assessment may  
8 not exceed the amount of the confirmed costs of the summary abatement.

9 Sec. 15-63. - Administration Citations-Fines.

10 63.1 Findings and Purpose. The Lake County Board of Supervisors finds there is a need for  
11 an additional method of enforcement for violations of this article and further finds an  
12 appropriate method of enforcement is an Administrative Citation because it will reduce  
13 the burden on the judicial system while providing full due process for those cited and  
14 promote and protect the public health safety and welfare of the residents of the County  
15 of Lake by minimizing potentially extremely harmful County code violations. The  
16 procedures set forth in this article may be used to impose a penalty on violators and shall  
17 be in addition to criminal, civil or any other legally established procedures that may be  
18 pursued to address violations of this Code.

19 63.2 Administrative Citations. Whenever an Enforcement Official who has authority to  
20 enforce a violation of any of the provisions of this article determines that a violation has  
21 occurred, the Enforcement Official shall have the authority to issue an Administrative  
22 Citation to any responsible party. For purposes of this article, "responsible party" means  
23 the person or entity responsible for the violation and may include the person or persons  
24 who owns the water vessel which is the subject of the violation, the person or persons in  
25 charge of the water vessel which is the subject of the violation and/or the person or  
26 persons using the water vessel which is the subject of the violation. If any of those  
27 persons are minors, the parent or guardians of such minor(s) shall be the responsible  
28 party. If the person or persons is a business entity, the manager or on-site user of the  
water vessel which is the subject of the violation shall be the responsible party.

1 (a) A civil fine shall be assessed by means of an administrative citation issued by the  
2 Enforcement Official and shall be payable directly to the Lake County Treasurer-Tax  
3 Collector. Each and every day a violation of this article exists constitutes a separate and  
4 distinct offense.

5 (b) Administrative fines for the violation of this article shall be assessed as follows:

6 1. Administrative fines for the violation of this article which would be  
7 punishable as an infraction shall be assessed as follows: A fine of one hundred dollars  
8 (\$100.00) for a first violation; a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a second  
9 violation of this article within one (1) year from the date of the first violation; and a fine  
10 of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each additional violation of this article within one  
11 (1) year from the date of the first violation.

12 2. Administrative fines for the violation of this article which would be  
13 punishable as a misdemeanor shall be assessed as follows: A fine of one thousand  
14 dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation.

15 63.3 Service of Citation.

16 (a) Personal Service. The Enforcement Official shall attempt to locate and  
17 personally serve the responsible party and obtain the signature of the responsible party  
18 on the administrative citation. If the responsible party served refuses or fails to sign the  
19 administrative citation the failure or refusal to sign shall not affect the validity of the  
20 administrative citation or subsequent proceedings.

21 (b) Service of Citation by Mail. If the Enforcement Official is unable to locate the  
22 responsible party, the administrative citation shall be mailed to the responsible party by  
23 certified mail postage prepaid with a requested return receipt. Simultaneously the  
24 citation may be sent by first class mail. If the citation is sent by certified mail and  
25 returned unsigned then service shall be deemed effective pursuant to first class mail  
26 provided the citation sent by first class mail is not returned.

27 63.4 Contents of Notice.

28 (a) Each administrative citation shall contain the following information:

1. Date, approximate time, and address or definite description of the  
location where the violation was observed;

1                   2.     The Code sections or conditions violated and a description of the  
2 violation;

3                   3.     An order to the responsible party to correct the violations within the time  
4 specified and an explanation of the consequences of failure to correct the violation;

5                   4.     The amount of the fine for the violation;

6                   5.     An explanation of how the fine shall be paid and the time period by  
7 which it shall be paid;

8                   6.     Identification of rights of appeal including the time within which the  
9 citation may be contested and the place to obtain a request for hearing form to contest  
10 the administrative citation; and

11                   7.     The name and signature of the Enforcement Official and, if possible, the  
12 signature of the responsible party.

13 (b)     Failure of the citation to contain all the required information shall not affect the  
14 validity of the citation or any subsequent proceedings related to the citation.

15 63.5     Satisfaction of Administrative Citation. Upon receipt of an administrative citation the  
16 responsible party must either correct the violation, pay the corresponding fine, and  
17 contact the County to request an inspection prior to the compliance date specified in the  
18 citation or file an appeal pursuant to the requirements of Section herein.

19 63.6     Appeal of Administrative Citation. Any recipient of an administrative citation may  
20 contest that there was a violation of this article or that he or she is the responsible party  
21 or the amount of any fine imposed by completing a Request for Hearing form and  
22 returning it to the County Clerk within ten (10) days from the date of the administration  
23 citation together with an advanced deposit of the fine imposed. Any administrative  
24 citation fine which has been deposited by that responsible party shall be refunded if it is  
25 determined after a hearing that the person charged in the administrative citation was not  
26 responsible for the violation or that there was no violation as charged in the  
27 administrative citation. The failure of any responsible party to file an appeal in  
28 accordance with the provisions of this section shall constitute a waiver of that  
responsible party's rights to administrative determination of the merits of the  
administrative citation and the amount of the penalty. If no appeal is filed or if the  
appeal is abandoned in writing or by failure to appear at a hearing without being excused

1 the administrative citation shall be deemed a final administrative order, a forfeiture of  
2 the fine and a failure to exhaust the responsible party's administrative remedies.

3 63.7 Hearing Procedure. No hearing to contest an administrative citation before the Board of  
4 Supervisors shall be held unless and until a request for hearing form has been completed  
5 and submitted and the amount of the fine has been deposited in advance.

6 (a) A hearing shall be set for a date that is not less than fifteen (15) and not more  
7 than sixty (60) days from the date that the request for hearing is filed. The person  
8 requesting the hearing shall be notified of the time and place set for the hearing at least  
9 ten (10) days prior to the date of the hearing.

10 (b) The Board of Supervisors shall only consider evidence that is relevant to whether  
11 the violation occurred, whether the responsible party has caused or maintained the  
12 violation of this article on the date specified in the administrative citation and regarding  
13 the amount of the fine imposed.

14 (c) The responsible party contesting the administrative citation shall be given the  
15 opportunity to testify and present witnesses and evidence concerning the administrative  
16 citation.

17 (d) The administrative citation and any additional documents submitted by the  
18 Enforcement Official shall constitute prima facie evidence of the respective facts  
19 contained in those documents.

20 (e) The Board of Supervisors may continue the hearing from time to time for good  
21 cause and may request additional information from the Enforcement Official or the  
22 recipient of the administrative citation prior to issuing a decision.

23 63.8 Decision of the Board. The decision of the Board of Supervisors shall be final. If the  
24 Board of Supervisors dismisses the administrative citation all fines paid consequent to  
25 the issuance of the subject citation shall be refunded to the responsible party within  
26 thirty (30) calendar days.

27 63.9 Failure to Pay Fines.

28 (a) The failure of any person to pay a fine assessed by administrative citation within  
the time specified on the administrative citation constitutes a debt to the County of Lake.  
To enforce that debt, the County may file a civil action impose a special assessment as

1 set forth below or pursue any other legal remedy to collect such debt including  
2 reasonable costs of collection and attorneys fees.

3 (b) The Board of Supervisors may impose a special assessment against property  
4 owned by the responsible party. The County shall record a notice of lien in the office of  
5 the county recorder of the county in which the property is located when the special  
6 assessment procedure is used. When so made and confirmed, the cost shall constitute a  
7 lien on that property for the amount of the assessment.

8 (c) After confirmation and recordation, a copy shall be turned over to the tax  
9 collector for the county in which the property is located. At that point it will be the duty  
10 of the tax collector to add the amounts of the respective assessments to the next regular  
11 property tax bills levied against the lots and parcels of land for municipal purposes.  
12 Those amounts shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner as ordinary  
13 property taxes are collected and shall be subject to the same penalties and procedures  
14 under foreclosure and sale as provided for with ordinary municipal taxes. In the  
15 alternative, after recording the lien may be foreclosed by judicial or other sale in the  
16 manner and means provided by law in the county and state in which the property is  
17 located.

18 (d) Nonpayment of fines which the County has made reasonable effort to collect  
19 may be deemed a misdemeanor for which the Responsible Party may be prosecuted.

20 (e) Administrative citation fines collected pursuant to this shall be deposited into an  
21 appropriate fund to be administered in furtherance of the purposes of this article to fund  
22 such actions and proceedings consistent with the goals of this article.

#### 23 63.10 Right to Judicial Review.

24 Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1094.5 or 1094.6 of the Code of Civil Procedure,  
25 Within twenty (20) days after service of the final administrative order or decision of the Board of  
26 Supervisors, a person contesting that final administrative order or decision may seek review by  
27 filing an appeal to be heard by the superior court, where the same shall be heard de novo,  
28 pursuant to Government Code Section 53069.4.

#### 63.11 Civil or Criminal Actions Not Affected.

Any administrative citations pursuant to this Part shall not prejudice or adversely affect any other  
action civil or criminal that may be brought to abate the public nuisance or violation or to seek

1 compensation for damages suffered. A civil or criminal action may be brought concurrently with  
2 any other process regarding the same public nuisance or violation.

3  
4 **Sec. 15-64. - Administrative Costs.**

5 An Enforcement Official is authorized to assess any reasonable administrative or legal costs  
6 arising out of or related to a nuisance abatement and/or administrative citations issued pursuant  
7 to this article. Administrative or legal costs may include scheduling and processing of the  
8 administrative hearing and all subsequent actions related to the administrative hearing, or judicial  
9 actions. Administrative costs may include assessments recorded on the tax rolls collected by the  
10 Lake County Tax Collector Treasurer and the costs of such recording.

11 **Sec. 15-65. - Nonexclusive Remedies.**

12 The remedies provided in this article are cumulative and shall be in addition to any other  
13 remedies provided by law.

14  
15 **Sec. 15-66. - Use of Fines Collected.**

16 Fines collected as a result of violating this article, that are not otherwise encumbered, shall be  
17 used to fund the Water Vessel Inspection Program.

18  
19 **Secs. 15-67-15-69. - Reserved.**

20 **Section 2:** It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this Ordinance may  
21 have a significant effect on the environment. However, even if the proposed action is  
22 determined to be a “project”, the proposed action would be categorically exempt from  
23 CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15307 as a Class 7 Categorical Exemption  
24 which, “consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by State law or  
25 local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration or enhancement of a natural  
26 resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the  
27 environment.”  
28

