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CITY OF COSTA MESA

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200 P. O. BOX 1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 18, 1988

Mr. David Fletcher
2245 Heather Lane
Newport Beach, California 92660

Subject: Cherry Lake

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Reference is made to your December 7 letter. I want to apologize for the delay in responding to your concerns but the investigation done by our Public Services Department was extensive and time consuming.

Our investigation shows that the subject area was and is in a natural drainage area based on our review of a 1949 United States Geological Survey Map. It also appears that in late 1957 or early 1958, the "Soil Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture" graded the area now known as "Cherry Lake" to create a desilting basin to help protect the upper Newport Bay.

It is also our understanding that the adjacent property owners own the property on which the lake is situated and have, over the years, made various improvements, i.e., docks, stocking with fish, and installation of an aeration system, to name a few. It is also our understanding that the open drainage swale or channel north of Cherry Lake is in County of Orange unincorporated territory and belongs to the adjacent property owners. In other words, the natural unimproved drainage course including the lake is under private ownership. No easements or authority to enter has been granted to any local governmental agency.

The developed area north of Cherry Lake is served either by enclosed storm drains or by surface flow of water in the streets. Even though the City of Costa Mesa sweeps its streets once a week, it is possible for some debris to be transmitted to Cherry Lake during a storm. However, we doubt that the fecal material mentioned in your letter is being transmitted to Cherry Lake through the storm drain. Staff is of the opinion that during a heavy or continuous rain, the area adjacent to the unimproved channel, some of which contain or did contain horses, may be the contributing factor to the high fecal count.

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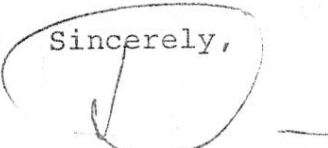
It is also possible that the majority of plant material and algae you referred to came from the unimproved channel area rather than from the storm drains.

I understand your concerns and recognize your plight. I will ask our Public Services Department to monitor and check the City of Costa Mesa's storm drain system and to see if improvements can be made in our street sweeping methods.

With regard to the swale/channel area, the City of Costa Mesa has no authority over this area. It is in County area and under the sphere of influence of the City of Newport Beach. By copy of this letter I will forward our staff findings, records and material along with your letter, to the County of Orange and the City of Newport Beach.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Bruce Mattern, Public Services Director at (714)754-5343.

Sincerely,


DONN HALL
MAYOR

BDM:fr

cc: Allan Roeder, City Manager
Bruce Mattern, Public Services Director
John Cox, Mayor of Newport Beach
Ben Nolan, DPW, Newport Beach
Supervisor Tom Riley
✓ Ernie Schneider, Director EMA, County of Orange