

Audit of Water Resources Laboratory

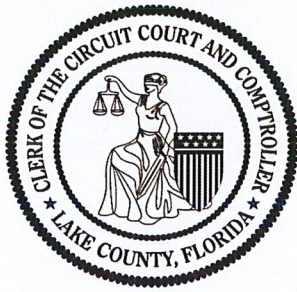
Inspector General Department Gary J. Cooney, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller **Audit Report**

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Inspector General

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Board of County Commissioners

The review of the Water Resources Laboratory that was identified in the 2021 Audit Plan is complete.

The controls that are in place are well-designed and functioning as intended.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by the Water Resources Laboratory staff contacted during the course of our audit.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri W. Freeman
Inspector General

cc: Gary J. Cooney, Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
Denise Bell, Chief Deputy Clerk
Alan Rosen, County Manager
Fred Schneider, Director, Public Works Department
Mary Hamilton, Chief of Operations, Public Works Department
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Scope and Objective

The audit objective was to assess the controls in place for the Water Resources Laboratory (Lab) in the following processes to determine if they are sufficient to mitigate risk and are functioning as designed.

- Quality Assurance System
- Regulatory Compliance
- Personnel Management
- Records Management
- Issues Management
- Contract Management

In order to meet the audit objective, tests were conducted that included interviews with staff, observations at the Lab, and reviews of documents, policies and procedures, regulations, and the Florida Statutes. The audit period was July 2020 through February 2021.

Overall Conclusion

The following controls are functioning as intended based on the testing results:

- A quality assurance system has been implemented that includes a current quality manual, detailed standard operating procedures, and an ongoing quality monitoring process to ensure compliance with Florida Administrative Code 62-160 and guidelines for the analysis of pollutants established by the Environmental Protection Agency, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 136.
- The Lab maintains current certifications as required by the Florida Department of Health.
- Staff have been appropriately trained and are able to demonstrate their knowledge of the quality assurance system.
- A laboratory information management system (LIMS) has been implemented to ensure the appropriate tracking, location, and retention of water samples and test results.
- Deficiencies identified in the State of Florida Department of Health Audit, March 2019, were resolved in a timely manner.

The inadvertent lapse of a maintenance contract of a vital piece of equipment that did not lead to a reportable condition was discussed with management.

Background

The Water Resources Laboratory provides water sampling and analytical services to citizens and businesses of Lake County. Water testing services include a Surface Water Monitoring Program, Drinking Water Testing, Landfill Permit Compliance Monitoring, Stormwater/National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program, and Industrial Waste Water Program.