

From: Lingzi Chen <lchen@lakeconews.com>

Date: April 6, 2026 at 3:27:26 PM PDT

To: Matthew Rothstein <Matthew.Rothstein@lakecountyca.gov>, Trevor Mockel <Trevor.Mockel@lakecountyca.gov>

Cc: Elizabeth Larson <elarson@lakeconews.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Inquiry regarding Apr. 7 Board of Supervisors meeting Item 7.2: Public Works Director reclassification

Hi Matthew and Trevor,

I have a couple of questions regarding item 7.2 on tomorrow's board agenda concerning the reclassification of the Public Works Director:

1. Could you walk me through the process used to determine that Director Lars Ewing will serve as director of the consolidated department? Have any other candidates been under consideration? When I previously reported on the consolidation, I was told Mr. Ewing was still serving in an interim capacity, so I would appreciate clarification on how the final recommendation was reached.
2. During the final consolidation presentation, Mr. Ewing stated that management-level salary savings for the director and deputies would total about \$166,000. Trevor confirmed in an email that this estimate was based on eliminating one director position. The current staff memo does not indicate whether the proposed salary increase affects that estimate. With the proposed raise, what would the updated management-level salary savings be if approved?
3. In addition to the director's role, are you anticipating salary adjustments for any other positions in the department following the consolidation?

These questions are important for helping the public understand county finances and recruitment practices for key public-facing roles. I would appreciate your response, and I also request that this be included in the public comment for the board meeting.

I may follow up with additional questions after tomorrow's discussion and potential decision. Thank you very much. I really appreciate your help!

Lingzi Chen

Reporter @ [Lake County News](#)

Mobile: +1-415-286-1422

Email: lchen@lakeconews.com