

News Advisory

Harmful algal blooms identified at Yucaipa Regional Park Public should exercise caution when visiting waterways

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SACRAMENTO – The presence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) at <u>Yucaipa Regional Park</u> in San Bernardino County has prompted the State Water Resources Control Board and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to urge recreational water users and dog owners to avoid water contact until further notice.

HABs appear as bright to dull-green material near the water surface or floating, sometimes resembling spilled paint.

Toxins that can cause illness in people and animals were detected in the water at the southernmost lake at Yucaipa Regional Park (see <u>incident map</u> for toxin test location).

Fish caught in the lake should not be consumed until this advisory is lifted. These recommendations are based on the potential health risks posed by the algal organisms called cyanobacteria and the level of toxins measured in water samples collected in early September.

If the bloom continues to grow, cyanobacteria may form thick algal mats or scum on the water surface and accumulate on the shore. Bloom conditions in the lake can change rapidly as the flow of surface water and wind may mix, move or concentrate the bloom into different areas. The bloom is being monitored by the Santa Ana Regional Board and partner organizations to inform users when the bloom dissipates.

To learn how to stay safe around suspected HABs, report a bloom and more, visit the <u>harmful algal blooms portal</u>. The portal offers information on which tested waterways in California offer safe recreation options and which ones require caution.

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