



Media Release

Cyanobacteria Bloom Triggers Danger Advisory Against Water Contact at Copsey Creek in Lake County

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Sacramento –Residents and recreational users of Copsey Creek are urged to avoid direct contact with waters containing cyanobacteria harmful algal blooms (HABs) until after the bloom subsides. Water testing from Copsey Creek in the area of Quarterhorse Lane had detectable levels of a cyanotoxin considered unsafe for recreation. Copsey Creek is located in Lower Lake, Lake County.

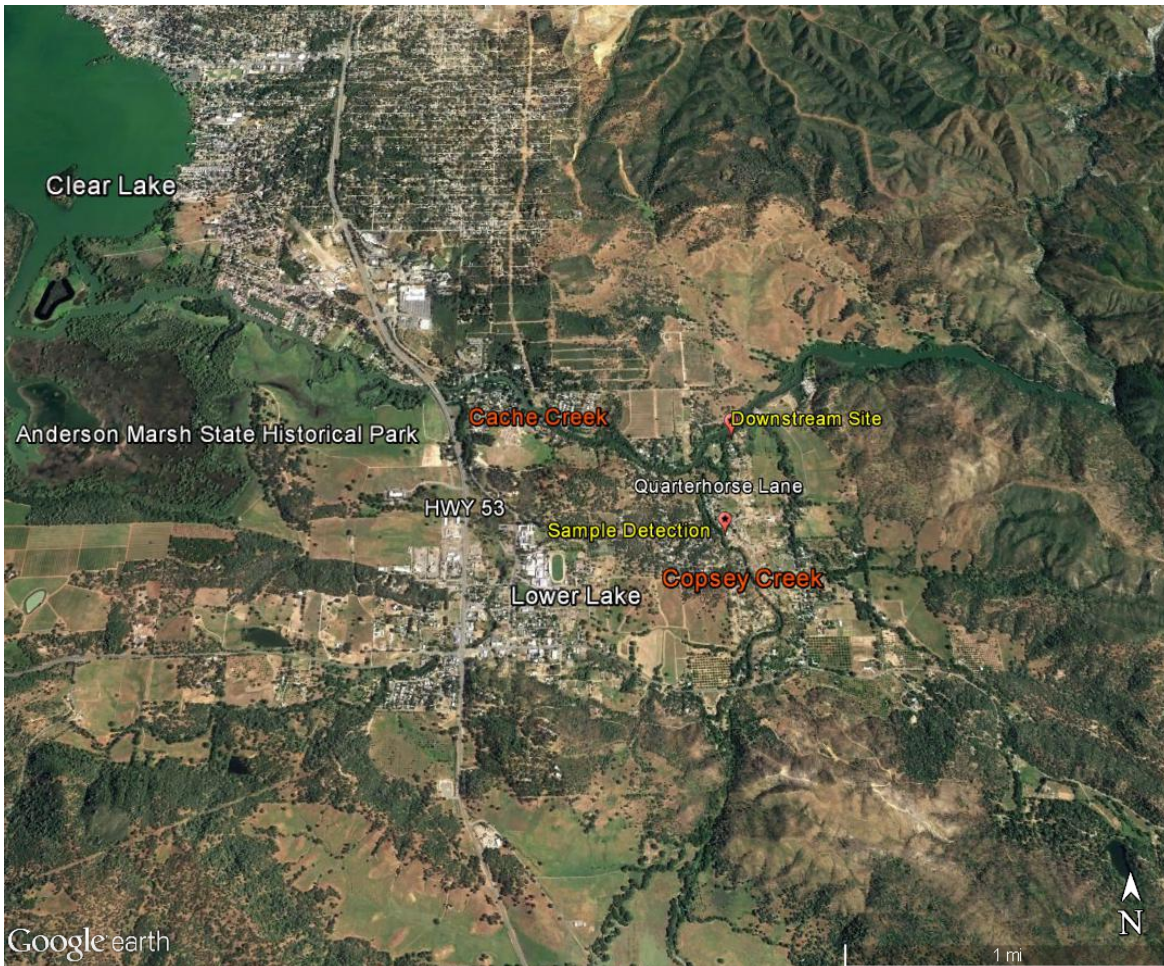
A sample collected July 8 from the creek in the area of Quarterhorse Lane had elevated levels of microcystin based on a screening test. The sample was sent to a lab for further analysis, which detected 45.1 micrograms per liter microcystin. This level exceeds the “[danger](#)” trigger of 20 micrograms per liter established in the statewide guideline for recreational water safety. A sample collected downstream of the creek, where Copsey Creek enters Cache Creek was also analyzed using a screening test and it did not detect any toxin.

Lake County Health Services Department has issued a news release warning against human and animal contact with the water. Residents and pets should not drink, swim, wade or contact visible mats or scum in the water or along the shore. Pets are particularly at risk for adverse health effects due to cyanotoxin exposure because they tend to eat the algal bloom material and lick it from their fur after swimming.

For more information on the status of this bloom, residents are advised to contact the Lake County Water Resources Department (707) 263-2344, and for health related questions associated with exposure to cyanobacteria blooms, residents are advised to contact the Lake County Public Health Department (707) 263-1090.

The blooms can appear as bright green in the water, and blue-green, white or brown foam, scum or mats can float on the water and accumulate along the shore. Recreational exposure to cyanobacteria toxins can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold and flu-like symptoms. Liver failure, nerve damage and death have occurred in rare situations where large amounts of cyanobacteria laden water were directly ingested.





Map showing the location of Copsey Creek sample detection along Quarterhorse Lane.

State officials urge those recreating in cyanobacteria impacted water to follow the recommendations below:

- Take care that pets and livestock do not drink the water, swim through algae, scums or mats, or lick their fur after going in the water. Rinse pets in clean water to remove algae from fur.
- Avoid wading, swimming, or jet or water skiing in water containing algae blooms or scums or mats.
- Do not drink, cook or wash dishes with untreated surface water from these areas under any circumstances; common water purification techniques such as camping filters, tablets and boiling **do not** remove toxins.
- People should not eat mussels or other bivalves collected from these areas. Limit or avoid eating fish from these areas; if fish are consumed, remove the guts and liver, and rinse filets in clean drinking water.
- Get medical treatment immediately if you think that you, your pet, or livestock might have been poisoned by cyanobacteria. Be sure to alert the medical professional to the possible contact with cyanobacteria. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.



For more information, please visit:

My Water Quality – Are harmful algal blooms affecting our waters? (HAB Portal)
<http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>

California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Network:
http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network/index.html

California Department of Public Health:
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Bluegreenalgae.aspx>

CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment: Information on Microcystin
<http://oehha.ca.gov/ecotoxicology/general-info/information-microcystins>

US Environmental Protection Agency: CyanoHAB website
<https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/cyanohabs>

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