



News Advisory

Harmful Algal Blooms Identified at Big Bear Lake

Visitors Advised to Avoid Water Contact and Keep Dogs From Swimming

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SACRAMENTO – SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board are recreational water users and dog owners to avoid water contact until further notice while visiting the eastern end of Big Bear Lake at Stanfield Cutoff due to a harmful algal bloom (HAB). Water contact with algal material and discolored water should be avoided across the lake.

The areas include North Shore Drive extending approximately 0.5 miles west of the Big Bear Solar Observatory and the western side of Stanfield Cutoff. Toxins that can cause illness in people and animals were detected in the water near the shore, as well as in open water and at Carol Morrison Public Launch dock.

A popular fishing destination, Big Bear Lake is in San Bernardino County off Highway 18 and surrounded by the San Bernardino National Forest. Visit the [State Water Board Twitter page](#) to see a map and pictures of the cyanobacteria bloom.

The recommendation is for people and their dogs to stay out of the water and avoid contact with floating algal material and scum in the water or along the shore. Fish caught at the lake near the Stanfield Cutoff should not be consumed until this advisory is lifted. Fillets from fish caught at other locations around the lake can be consumed. This recommendation is based on the potential health risks posed by the algal organisms called cyanobacteria and the level of toxins measured in water samples collected in August. The harmful algal bloom appears as bright to dull-green material near the water surface or floating, sometimes appearing similar to spilled paint.

As 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 of the lake. The bloom is being monitored by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and partner organizations to inform users when the bloom dissipates.

To learn how to stay safe around HABs, report a bloom and more, visit the [CA HABs Portal](#).

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