



# News Advisory

## Public urged to avoid Lake San Antonio as officials investigate large fish die-off

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Contact: Blair Robertson – [Public Information Officer](#)

**MONTEREY COUNTY** – The State Water Resources Control Board and Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board are urging the public to avoid Lake San Antonio in Monterey County until further notice. Areas of the lake have experienced a large fish die-off and officials continue to investigate the cause, including the possibility that the lake may be impacted by harmful algal blooms. Signs have been posted indicating the lake is closed and Monterey County's [webpage](#) will provide updates on when it will reopen.

### Danger

- Stay out of the water until further notice, including watercraft.
- Do not let pets and other animals drink or go into the water, or go near the scum.
- Stay away from scum, and cloudy or discolored water.
- Do not eat fish or shellfish from this water.
- Do not use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.

Monterey County and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are coordinating the investigation. Recent extreme heat causing warming water temperatures and the potential for HAB growth could have created an unhealthy environment for fish, possibly causing the die-off. As new information becomes available at Lake San Antonio, the Water Boards will update the [HAB web map](#).

Cyanobacteria, a group of organisms that form harmful algal blooms, can produce potent toxins. Health risks are associated with HABs as they produce dermatotoxins that can cause itching skin and rashes, as well as gastrointestinal distress, headaches, agitation and weakness, or abnormal breathing if HAB material is swallowed while swimming. Dogs and children are most susceptible to exposure because of their smaller body size, increased potential to swallow water while swimming, and tendency to stay in the water longer. If you suspect exposure, wash your children and dog immediately.

Get medical treatment immediately if you think that you, your pet or livestock has gotten sick after going in the water. Be sure to alert the medical professional to the possible contact with cyanobacteria. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

### To report a bloom, do one of the following:

- Fill out the Bloom Report form on the HABs Portal:  
<https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/do/bloomreport.html>



- Email: [CyanoHAB.reports@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CyanoHAB.reports@waterboards.ca.gov)
- Call the HABs hotline: 1-844-729-6466 (toll free)
- Contact your County Public Health Office

For more information about HABs, please visit:  
[California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal](#)

[County of Monterey webpage for Lake San Antonio](#)

# DANGER

**Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and kill animals**



**Stay out of the water until further notice.  
Do not touch scum in the water or on shore.**



**Do not** let pets or other animals drink or go into the water or go near the scum.



**Do not** eat fish or shellfish from this water.



**Do not** use this water for drinking or cooking.  
Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.

**For people, the toxins can cause:**

- Skin rashes, eye irritation
- Diarrhea, vomiting

**For animals, the toxins can cause:**

- Diarrhea, vomiting
- Convulsions and death

**Call your doctor or veterinarian** if you or your pet get sick after going in the water.

For information on harmful algae, go to [mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring\\_council/cyanohab\\_network](http://mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network)

**For local information, contact:** Enter your contact information in this text box