



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Information Officer

## San Luis Reservoir Algal Bloom Advisory Now at “Warning” *Public Still Advised To Avoid Water Contact*

**SACRAMENTO** – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) changed the algal bloom advisory for San Luis Reservoir from “Danger” to “Warning” today based on two consecutive weeks of tests that reveal reduced toxicity levels in the reservoir. The advisory has been “Danger” since June 30

Boating is allowed, but swimming is still not considered a safe recreational activity under a “Warning” advisory due to potential adverse health effects. O’Neill Forebay remains free of algal bloom advisories.



Bloom conditions can change rapidly, and wind and waves may move or concentrate the bloom into different regions of the reservoir. Warning signs will be posted at the Basalt Boat Launch, which is at the southeast corner of the reservoir in Merced County.

The algae bloom can appear as blue-green, white or brown foam, scum or mats that can float on the water’s surface and accumulate along the shoreline and boat ramp area.

Recreational exposure to toxic blue-green algae can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold and flu-like symptoms. Pets can be especially susceptible because they tend to drink while in the water and lick their fur afterwards.

The [Statewide Guidance on Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Blooms](#) recommends the following for waters impacted by blue-green algae:

- 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 blue-green algae toxins. Be sure to alert the medical professional to the possible contact with blue-green algae. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

For more information, please visit:

**California Department of Public Health**

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Bluegreenalgae.aspx>

**State Water Resources Control Board – Interactive Map Showing Lakes’ Status**

[http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/bulletins\\_newsletters/index.html](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/bulletins_newsletters/index.html)

**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/cyanoHAB>

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Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at [SaveOurWater.com](http://SaveOurWater.com).

