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**From:** Joab, Christine@Waterboards <Christine.Joab@waterboards.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 06, 2016 1:40 PM  
**To:** Lisa Medina [EH]  
**Subject:** Smith Canal and Cyanobacteria monitoring

Hi Lisa:

Michelle told me you contacted her on Friday during my leave of absence and was inquiring about any cyanobacteria monitoring data for Smith Canal. I can tell you that the Department of Water Resources does not conduct any cyanobacteria monitoring in Smith Canal. Most of the research on cyanobacteria that DWR is conducting is in the Central Delta.

Dr. Peggy Lehman and Sarah Lesmeister are the staff of DWR that are conducting research on cyanobacteria. They do not participate in the DWR monitoring runs as that is performed by a different group (Jenna Rinde). The information I provided you from the water quality monitoring runs that DWR conducts is only done in the Deep Water Ship Channel from Prisoners Point to the Port of Stockton's Turning Basin. They do this monitoring as part of their water right permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. Plus, in regards to cyanobacteria the information is qualitative only not quantitative. They do not collect samples. Thus, there is no analysis on concentrations or the presence of toxin. They only perform visual observations and classify those observations into categories of low, medium, high and very high concentrations of colonies in the river.

The only way to know if it is safe for dogs to be swimming in Smith Canal and the American Legion Park (terminous end of Smith Canal) is to first identify if cyanobacteria are present, identify what kind of cyanobacteria are present and then analyze for toxin and the concentration. Cyanobacteria (like Microcystis) have been present and observed in the San Joaquin River (Deep Water Channel) since 1999. So far as I know, there have been no reported dog deaths from swimming in the river. For Smith Canal, the main water quality problem is low dissolved oxygen due to poor flushing and high organic (nutrient rich sediment) loading at the terminous end, which during first flush events (first good stormwater flows) has caused fish kills in the past. If the water looks visually unappealing with a surface scum present and possible odor due to the surface scum then I would suggest that people keep their pets out of the water. Aside from that common sense approach, the water would need to be tested to confirm the presence/absence of cyanobacteria and then an analysis to identify the genus/species and if any toxin is present. The big concern with dogs is mainly with Anatoxin-A as they are highly sensitive to low concentrations. However, we do need to be careful with any toxin as the dose makes the poison.

Please let me know if this information helps you and if you have further questions. I will be in the office tomorrow.  
Thanks.  
-Christine Joab

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**From:** McNeel, Sandy (CDPH-DEODC-EHIB) <Sandy.McNeel@cdph.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 25, 2016 1:06 PM  
**To:** Lisa Medina [EH]  
**Cc:** Joab, Christine@Waterboards  
**Subject:** Spanish versions of algal bloom signs  
**Attachments:** BGA\_LetterCAUTIONsp\_6-14-16.pptx; BGA\_LetterDANGERsp\_6-14-16.pptx; BGA\_LetterWARNINGsp\_6-14-16.pptx

Hello Lisa - I apologize for the delay in getting these signs to you. These signs can be modified in PowerPoint: you may delete any of the messages that may not be appropriate for the affected water body. For instance, if dogs are not allowed in the waterbody, the icon and text message about keeping dogs and livestock out of the water can be removed by clicking on that part of the sign and deleting it. The only items that cannot be deleted or changed are the title and subtitle on each sign.

I hope this is helpful.

*Sandy*

Sandra McNeel, DVM  
Environmental Health Investigations Branch  
California Department of Public Health  
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Bldg P, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Richmond, CA 94804

510-691-0310 (cell)

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**From:** Joab, Christine@Waterboards  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2016 9:47 AM  
**To:** McNeel, Sandy (CDPH-DEODC-EHIB)  
**Subject:** Contact information for Lisa Medina

Hi Sandy:

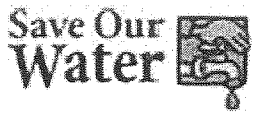
It was a pleasure speaking with you about the OHHABS website.

Here is the email for Lisa Medina (San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department): [Imedina@sicehd.com](mailto:Imedina@sicehd.com)  
She works jointly with staff from the public health department to release joint press releases for HABs. So, if you send her the Spanish signs she can share with the Dept of Public Health personnel.

Thanks.

*Christine Joab*

Environmental Scientist  
Central Valley Water Board  
11020 Sun Center Drive #200  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114  
Phone: (916) 464-4655



*For tips on what you can do to save water, visit <http://saveourwater.com/>*

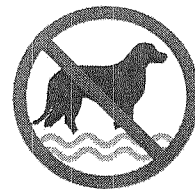
# PRECAUCIÓN

SJC-028

**Puede haber algas dañinas en estas aguas.  
Para protección de su familia:**



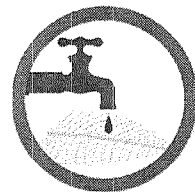
**MANTÉNGASE ALEJADO** de algas y agua espumosa.



**NO** deje que sus mascotas o ganado se metan o beban el agua, o coman la espuma lamosa en la orilla del agua.



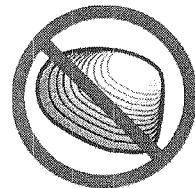
**MANTENGA A LOS NIÑOS ALEJADOS** de algas en el agua o orilla del agua.



Al pescado que pesque aquí, debe **QUITARLE Y TIRAR LOS INTESTINOS A LA BASURA Y LIMPIAR LOS FILETES** con agua de la llave o embotellada.



**NO** beba de esta agua o use para cocinar.



**NO** coma mariscos de estas aguas.

Llame a su médico o veterinario si usted o su mascota se enferman después de meterse al agua.  
Para obtener más información, comuníquese con: Enter your contact information in this text box

# PELIGRO

SJC-028

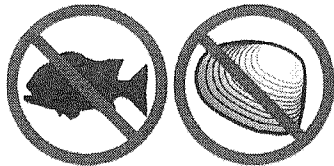
**Toxinas de algas en estas aguas pueden causar daño a la gente y matar animales domésticos y de ganado**



**MANTÉNGASE LEJOS DEL AGUA HASTA NUEVO AVISO. No toque la espuma lamosa en el agua u orilla del agua.**



**NO** deje que sus mascotas o ganado beban o se metan al agua, o se acerquen a la espuma lamosa.



**NO** coma pescado o mariscos de estas aguas.



**NO** use esta agua para beber o cocinar.  
Hervir o filtrar el agua no hace que sea segura.

**En las personas** the las toxinas pueden causar:

- Erupciones en la piel, irritación en los ojos
- Diarrea, vómito

**En los animales** las toxinas pueden ocasionar:

- Diarrea, vómito
- Convulsiones y muerte

**Llame a su médico o veterinario si usted o su mascota se enferman después de meterse al agua.**

**Para obtener más información, comuníquese con:** Enter your contact information in this text box

# ADVERTENCIA

SJC-028

## Toxinas de algas en estas aguas pueden causar daño a la gente y matar animales domésticos y de ganado



**PROHIBIDO NADAR.**



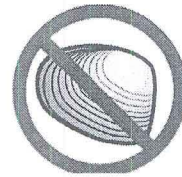
**MANTÉNGASE ALEJADO** de la espuma lamosa, y agua turbia o descolorida.



**NO** use use esta agua para beber o cocinar. Hervir o filtrar el agua no hace que sea segura.



**NO** deje que sus mascotas o ganado se metan o beban el agua, o se acerquen a la espuma lamosa.



**NO** coma mariscos de estas aguas.



Al pescado que pesque aquí, **DEBE QUITARLE Y TIRAR LOS INTESTINOS A LA BASURA Y LIMPIAR LOS FILETES** con agua de la llave o embotellada antes de cocinarlo.

### En las personas the las toxinas pueden causar:

- Erupciones en la piel, irritación en los ojos
- Diarrea, vómito

### En los animales las toxinas pueden ocasionar:

- Diarrea, vómito
- Convulsiones y muerte

Llame a su médico o veterinario si usted o su mascota se enferman después de meterse al agua.

Para obtener más información, comuníquese con: Enter your contact information in this text box

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**From:** Centers for Disease Control & Prevention <cdc@service.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 22, 2016 11:24 AM  
**To:** Linda Turkatte [EH]  
**Subject:** CDC Launches Harmful Algal Blooms Website and Reporting System

## **CDC Launches a New Website on Harmful Algal Blooms and a New Reporting System to Monitor Associated Illnesses**

Have you ever been by a lake and noticed mats of green scum on its surface? Wondered if you should let your dog drink out of that foamy water in a lake? Found yourself coughing at a beach that was experiencing a “Red Tide”? You’re not alone. Many of us have had our plans affected by algal blooms – the overgrowth of algae and cyanobacteria – on rivers, lakes, and oceans. Some blooms – harmful algal blooms or HABs -- produce toxins that can cause illness in animals and humans, contaminate our drinking water or seafood, or damage the local environment.

HABs are an emerging public health issue. In recent years, toxin-producing HABs have caused the shutdown of the water supply of a major US city, resulted in massive fish die offs, and sickened hundreds of people and animals with a variety of skin, breathing, stomach, and intestinal symptoms. Because animals are more likely to swim or drink from water that may contain a HAB, they are often the first affected when a HAB occurs. Therefore, it is very important to know what the possible health effects are before you swim, fish, or let your pets drink or play in suspicious-looking water.

To help partners and the general public learn more about HABs, CDC launched a [new website](#). The website contains:

- Information about HABs
- Illnesses and symptoms related to being exposed to HABs
- Sources of exposures and risk factors
- Prevention and control
- HABs and the environment

Additionally, the website includes [publications on HABs](#) and a [toolkit](#) to help public health partners get the word out about the effects of HABs on human and animal health and the environment.

### **The One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System**

To understand the frequency, severity, and health effects of HABs, CDC, along with partners, developed the One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System (OHHABS). OHHABS is a new, voluntary reporting system accessible to state and territorial public health departments and their designated environmental or animal health partners to report HAB-associated human and animal cases of illnesses, as well as environmental data about HABs. Visit the [OHHABS webpage](#) to learn more.

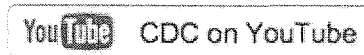
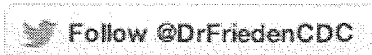
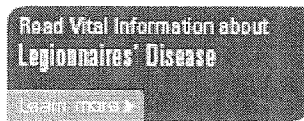
**Take Action**

- Use our [partner communication toolkit](#) to share information about HABs, OHHABS, and our [new website](#).
- Spread the word on social media using the **tweets below**, or create one of your own!
  - Did you know algae can grow into blooms that are harmful to people, animals, & the environment? [cdc.gov/habs](http://cdc.gov/habs)
  - NEW! [@CDC\\_NCEZID](#) launches reporting system for harmful algal blooms and associated illnesses [cdc.gov/habs/ohhabs](http://cdc.gov/habs/ohhabs)

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