



Media Release

Harmful Cyanobacteria Detected around Fabian Tract; Caution Urged with Contact

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SACRAMENTO – A harmful cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom has been identified in Grantline Canal and Old River surrounding Fabian Tract. Fabian Tract is located in San Joaquin County near the cities of Tracy and Mountain House. Due to its potential health risks, swimmers, boaters and recreational users are urged to use caution and to avoid direct contact with, or use of, the water when recreating in these waters. Dogs and livestock should be kept out of the water. Do not allow them to drink the water or eat algal material along the shoreline.

Monitoring has identified an extensive cyanobacteria bloom of *Microcystis* occurring in the waterways surrounding Fabian Tract. Testing has confirmed the presence of the cyanotoxin microcystin at concentrations that exceed the trigger levels for the protection of human health from the California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom Network's Voluntary Guidance. Due to the potential health risks, the San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department (SJC EHD) has posted health advisories at the local marinas. For more information about the posted health advisories, please contact Lisa Medina (SJC EHD) at (209) 468-3455.

Cyanobacteria blooms can appear as bright green with white or brown foam, scum or mats that float on the water's surface. Scums and mats can accumulate along the shoreline and in boat ramp and boat dock areas.



Cyanobacteria bloom photos taken at the Grantline Canal site. Images were taken next to the Grantline Canal (GLC) water quality monitoring station. Second photo shows a close-up view of the bright green bloom.



Monitoring locations and toxin test results for total microcystin are shown on the map below. Concentrations of the toxin are patchy with the highest levels observed at the western edge of Fabian Tract. A Caution Health Advisory is in place for the Tracy Oasis Marina and a Warning Health Advisory for the Tracy Wildlife Area. However, water users, pets and livestock should avoid water contact in these waters because bloom conditions can change rapidly and wind and tides may move or concentrate the bloom into different regions of the canal and river.



Ingestion of algal material, scums and mats could be dangerous. Children should be kept away from algae in the water or on the shore. Children should not play in the shallows with algae material, scum or dried algal mats and not put algae in their mouths. Dogs and livestock are in danger because they tend to eat the algae and drink the water. Dog deaths have

occurred in California each year from this type of exposure so care should be taken to keep them out of the water or from playing in algal mats or scum accumulated on the shore. If they do swim in the water, they should be rinsed off with fresh water to remove any algae from their fur.

Recreational exposure to cyanobacteria and associated toxins can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold and flu-like symptoms.

We recommend that water users use healthy habits when recreating in waters that have identified cyanobacteria blooms. The [Statewide](#)

[Guidance on Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Blooms](#) recommends the following for waters impacted by cyanobacteria:



- Keep pets and livestock out of the water. Do not allow them to drink the water or eat algal material on shore. If they do get in the water, do not let them 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 and toxins from fur.
- Avoid areas of accumulated algae, scums or mats when wading, swimming, or jet or water skiing.
- Do not drink untreated surface water from these areas or use it for cooking; 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 toxins. Be sure to alert the medical professional to the possible exposure with cyanobacteria. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

For more information, please visit:

San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department: <http://www.sicehd.com>

San Joaquin County Public Health Service: <http://www.sjcphs.org>

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

California Water Quality Monitoring Council – Harmful Algal Bloom Portal:
<http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>

State Water Resources Control Board - California CyanoHAB Network:
http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network/index.html



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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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