



# Media Release



## **North Complex Watershed Working Group's post-fire water quality monitoring project to conclude**

### ***Working Group transitions to normal operations***

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**BUTTE COUNTY** – Widespread testing of surface waters throughout the burn scar left by last summer's North Complex Fire in Butte and Plumas counties has been completed. Sampling results over the last few months have revealed that while contaminant levels were elevated in some instances, they were lower than anticipated and did not adversely impact drinking water treatment facilities or the quality of drinking water they deliver to their communities.

The public is reminded to always treat surface waters before drinking or cooking when recreating outdoors, and homeowners with wells along Berry Creek and Fall River should review their well construction details and consider testing their well water. Visit [www.ButteCountyRecovers.org](http://www.ButteCountyRecovers.org) to download the Private Well Safety and Testing guidance or call the Butte County Environmental Health Division at (530) 552-3880 for more information.

The North Complex Watershed Working Group was formed in late 2020 to address water quality concerns related to the fires last year and includes the Butte County Department of Public Works, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Governor's Office of Emergency Services, as well as other local, state, and federal partners.

The working group's agencies will now transition to routine water quality monitoring, which includes monitoring for issues such as harmful algal blooms. Building on the success of the collaboration, this working group will continue to meet quarterly to discuss watershed health and prepare for the upcoming fire season. The working group and its respective agencies will continue to support public health, safety, and environmental protections as they transition back to normal operations.

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