



# News Advisory

## Visitors urged to take caution after harmful algal blooms confirmed in Clear Lake

Aug. 21, 2025

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

**CLEARLAKE** – After recent testing identified the presence of harmful algal blooms at multiple locations in Clear Lake in Lake County, the State Water Resources Control Board and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Boards) are urging visitors to stay out of the lake where “Danger” advisories are posted.

The Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians conducted the testing. At this time, the Oaks Arm (bounded by Hwy. 20 on the north) has multiple areas with the highest “danger” recreational advisory, meaning visitors should avoid contact with the water until further notice. The Lower Arm (bounded by Hwy. 29 on the south) has multiple areas with lower level advisories of “warning” and “caution,” which advise visitors to avoid swimming where algae is visible or the water is discolored. Those visiting the area are encouraged to follow the guidance and check the [California HAB Reports Web Map](#) for updated advisory levels.

The bloom in the lake appears suspended on the water’s surface. Bloom conditions can change rapidly, as winds and waves move or concentrate the bloom into different regions of the lake. The water may also appear discolored as bright or dark green and brown. Because of the large size of the lake, there are currently advisories ranging from none to danger. Recreators are encouraged to follow the below guidance until further notice.

### 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.

### Warning

- No swimming
- Do not let pets and other animals go into or drink the water, or eat scum on the shore.



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
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- Stay away from scum, and cloudy or discolored water.
- Do not eat shellfish from this water.
- Do not use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.
- For fish caught here, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking.

### Caution

- You can swim in this water, but stay away from algae and scum in the water.
- Do not let pets and other animals go into or drink the water, or eat scum on the shore.
- Keep children away from algae in the water and on the shore.
- Do not drink the water or use it for cooking.
- For fish caught here, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking.
- Do not eat shellfish from this water.

Note that 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 skin inflammation, which 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. Due to the size and toxicity of the bloom with increasing temperatures and decreased precipitation this time of year, the bloom may proliferate and alter its potential to produce toxins.

The Water Boards recommend that people practice [healthy water habits](#) while enjoying the outdoors this summer at your local lake, river or stream.





Water quality monitoring for HABs in Clear Lake is conducted by Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, which began a Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxin Monitoring Program on Clear Lake in 2014 with another shoreline tribe, Elem Indian Colony. The tribes' environmental departments have collaborated to share water monitoring data with the Water Boards and local agencies. Lake County posts advisory signs to notify visitors of blooms. The Water Boards will provide regular updates to advisory levels based on monitoring results to the California HAB Reports Web Map.

### For more information about HABs, please visit:

- [California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal](#)
- Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians webpage: [Clear Lake Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins Monitoring Program](#)
- Lake County webpage: [Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins | Lake County, CA](#)

## 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 more information on harmful algae, go to <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html>  
For local information, contact:

## WARNING

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

-  **No swimming.**
-  **Do not let pets or other animals go into or drink the water, or go near the scum.**
-  **Do not eat shellfish from this water.**
-  **Do not use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.**
-  **For fish caught here, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking.**

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

- Skin rashes, eye irritation
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- Diarrhea, vomiting
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**Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water.**  
For more information on harmful algae, go to <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/index.html>  
For local information, contact:

## CAUTION

**Harmful algae may be present in this water. For your family's safety:**

-  **You can swim in this water, but stay away from algae and scum in the water.**
-  **Do not let pets and other animals go into or drink the water, or eat scum on the shore.**
-  **Keep children away from algae in the water or on the shore.**
-  **Do not drink this water or use it for cooking.**
-  **For fish caught here, throw away guts and clean fillets with tap water or bottled water before cooking.**
-  **Do not eat shellfish from this water.**

**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](https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network)  
For local information, contact: Enter your contact information in this text box



Courtesy of Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians



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