



News Advisory

Danger advisory issued at Lake Hemet after pre-Labor Day testing confirms Harmful Algal Bloom

Thursday, August 22, 2025
[Information Officer](#)

Contact: Blair Robertson – [Public](#)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY – The State Water Resources Control Board and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Boards) are urging everyone to stay out of the water at Lake Hemet in Riverside County after recent tests confirmed the presence of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). The lake is posted with a "[DANGER](#)" advisory to alert visitors of the elevated health risk to humans and their pets. Anyone planning to visit the lake is 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.

The Santa Ana Regional Water Board sampled the northern shore of Lake Hemet on August 12 as part of the Water Boards' pre-holiday assessment monitoring program. The results noted microcystin concentrations over 70,000 ug/L. A danger advisory is recommended above 20 ug/L, with these results 3,500 times above the danger recreational advisory threshold.

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, along with high temperatures and decreased precipitation this time of year, the bloom may proliferate and alter its potential to produce toxins.



The bloom in the lake appears suspended on the water's surface. Bloom conditions can change rapidly, as the winds and waves move or concentrate the bloom into different regions of the lake. In some areas, the bloom may concentrate and form a film or scum on the water surface. The color of the water may also appear discolored as bright or dark green and brown.

The Water Boards has recommended physical signs be posted around the lake to keep the public informed and will provide regular updates to inform the community when the advisory is removed on the [California HAB Reports Web Map](#).

Get medical treatment immediately if you think that you, your pet or livestock has gotten sick after going in the water. Be sure to alert the medical professional to the possible contact with cyanobacteria. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

To report a bloom, do one of the following:

- Fill out the Bloom Report form on the HABs Portal:
<https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/bloom-report/>
- Email: CyanoHAB.reports@waterboards.ca.gov
- Call the HABs hotline: 1-844-729-6466 (toll free)
- Contact your County Public Health Office

For more information about HABs, please visit:
[California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal](#)

DANGER - PELIGRO

Toxins from algae in this water can harm people and kill animals
Toxinas de algas en estas aguas pueden causar
daño a la gente y matar animales



Stay out of the water until further notice. Do not touch scum in the water or on shore.
Manténganse fuera del agua hasta nuevo aviso. No toque la espuma lamosa en el agua o en la orilla.



Do not let pets or other animals drink or go into the water or go near the scum.
No deje que sus mascotas o animales beban o se metan al agua, o se acerquen a la espuma lamosa.



Do not eat fish or shellfish from this water.
No coma pescados o mariscos de estas aguas.



Do not use this water for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.
No use esta agua para beber o cocinar. Hervir o filtrar el agua no hace que sea segura.

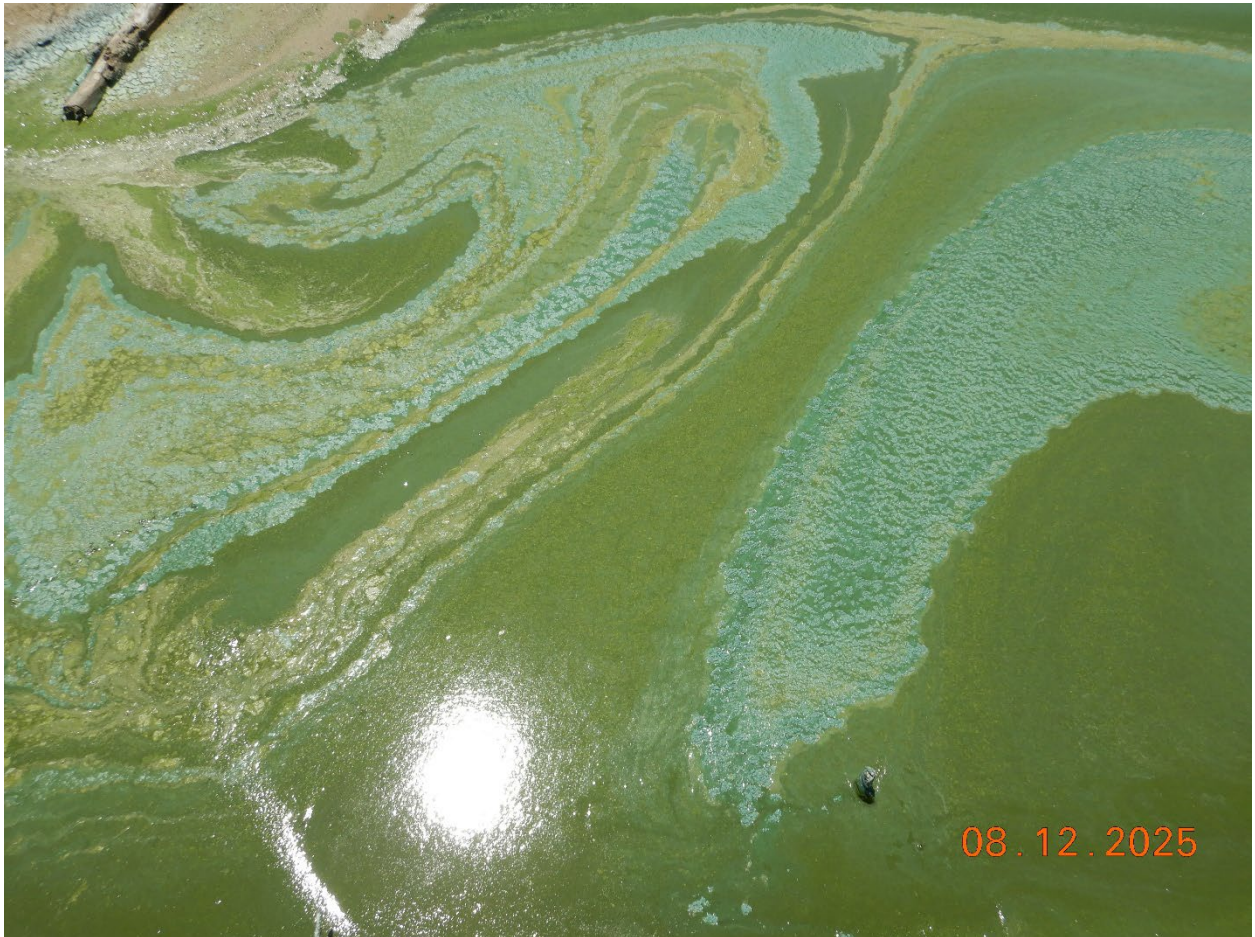
Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going into the water.
Lláme a su médico o veterinario si usted o su mascota se enferman después de meterse al agua.
For more information go to (Para información): <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>
For local information, contact (Para información local comuníquese con):



Photo of a bloom at Lake Hemet observed on August 12, 2025.

Additional photos from Lake Hemet:











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If you would rather not receive future communications from State Water Resources Control Board, let us know by clicking [here](#).
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