



# News Advisory

## **Danger advisory issued for harmful algal bloom at Harveston Lake in Temecula**

***Boating and water contact of any kind are discouraged***

May 20, 2026

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

**TEMECULA** – The State Water Resources Control Board and City of Temecula are urging the public to avoid contact with water at Harveston Lake in Riverside County due to a harmful algal bloom that can pose a health risk to humans and dogs.

Water sampling conducted by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board confirmed cyanotoxins at levels exceeding the state's Danger advisory threshold. The advisory applies to all areas of the lake until further notice.

The public is advised to:

- Stay out of the water, including all watercraft activities.
- Keep children and pets away from the water, shoreline scum and discolored water.
- Do not allow pets or other animals to drink the water or swim in the lake.
- Do not eat fish from the lake.
- Do not drink or cook with the water. Boiling or filtering will not make it safe.
- Avoid water spray from the lake fountain.

Following reports of dead fish, a water sample was collected May 12 detected 3,170 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) of microcystins and nodularins, toxins produced by cyanobacteria.

To learn more about how to recognize harmful algal blooms and protect yourself, your family and pets, visit the Water Boards' [Memorial Day HABs guide](#).

Cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae, can form harmful algal blooms that produce toxins dangerous to humans and animals. Exposure may cause skin rashes, eye irritation, headaches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and other symptoms. Pets can become seriously ill or die after exposure.

Children and dogs are particularly vulnerable because they are more likely to swallow water while swimming or playing near the shoreline.

Harmful algal blooms can appear as green or brown discoloration, floating mats, foam or paint-like scum on the water surface. Conditions can change rapidly as wind and water movement concentrate blooms in different areas of the lake.



The City of Temecula has posted advisory signs around the lake. The advisory will remain in effect until monitoring confirms toxin levels have dropped below state health thresholds.

For current advisories and additional information, visit the California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal: <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs>

The Water Boards encourage the public to practice [healthy water habits](#) while enjoying lakes, rivers and streams:

- Avoid algae, scum and discolored water
- Keep children and pets away from bloom areas
- Rinse off with clean water after water recreation
- If fish are caught, throw away guts and rinse fillets with clean water before cooking

Anyone experiencing symptoms after water exposure should contact a healthcare provider. Pet owners who suspect exposure should contact a veterinarian immediately.

To report a suspected harmful algal bloom:

- Online: <https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/do/bloomreport.html>
- Email: [CyanoHAB.reports@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:CyanoHAB.reports@waterboards.ca.gov)
- HABs Hotline: 1-844-729-6466