



News Advisory

Harmful algal bloom “Danger” advisory issued for portions of Eastman Lake in Madera County

**For Immediate Release:
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SACRAMENTO – The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and Madera County are advising visitors to avoid contact with portions of Eastman Lake due to a harmful algal bloom that could pose health risks to people and animals, especially children and dogs.

Water samples collected May 4 found elevated levels of microcystins – toxins that can sicken humans and dogs – near the west boat ramp area of the lake. Based on California’s Harmful Algal Bloom guidance, the area is now under a Danger advisory.

The east boat ramp area remains under a lower-level Caution advisory.

For the areas of the lake under a Danger advisory:

- People and pets should stay out of the water near the west boat ramp until further notice.
- Do not swim, wade, kayak, paddleboard or boat in affected areas.
- Do not let pets enter or drink the water.
- Do not eat fish or shellfish caught in affected areas.
- Do not drink the water or use it for cooking.

Harmful algal blooms can appear as green, blue-green, brown or reddish discoloration in the water, floating mats or scum, or streaks on the water’s surface.

Children and dogs are most vulnerable because they are more likely to swallow water while swimming or playing.

Symptoms of exposure can include skin irritation, stomach illness, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches or breathing problems.

Conditions can change quickly depending on wind, temperature and water movement. Visitors should follow posted signs and avoid affected areas until further notice.

Visitors are encouraged to practice [healthy water habits](#) while enjoying California lakes, rivers and reservoirs this summer, including avoiding algae and scum, keeping children and pets away from affected water, and washing after water contact.

Updates and advisory information are available on the [California HABs Portal](#).



To report a bloom:

- Submit a [report through the HABs Portal](#)
- Email CyanoHAB.Reports@waterboards.ca.gov
- Call the HAB hotline at 1-844-729-6466

