

Notice! As the state transitions from the COVID-19 emergency, please contact your local Water Board to arrange necessary file reviews. ✕

[About Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscribe](#) [Settings](#)



[Home](#) | [Drinking Water](#) | [Programs](#) | [Habs](#)

Cyanobacteria and Cyanotoxins in Drinking Water

The State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) [Division of Drinking Water \(Division\)](#) shares a responsibility to ensure all public water systems throughout California have access to clean, potable water at all times. The Division achieves this objective by inspecting and evaluating the ability of public water systems to meet state and federal drinking water standards; providing technical and funding assistance; and, at times, relying on industry, academic and government partnerships to address new technological advances and current public health concerns.

Recently, there has been an increase in reports of harmful algal blooms and potentially associated toxins in California. The State Water Board recognizes that cyanotoxins may present a health concern if present in drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) published non-regulatory drinking water health [advisories](#) for two cyanotoxins -- microcystins and cylindrospermopsin. Short-term exposure to these contaminants at or below the advisory levels is not expected to cause adverse health effects.

Along with health advisories, the USEPA has published [recommendations and guidelines](#) for public water systems on developing a cyanotoxin management plan and treatment strategies. The Division believes that USEPA's health advisories adequately protect public health. The Division recommends that California water systems refer to USEPA's health advisories and associated materials for guidance in managing cyanotoxins. The Division will collaborate with affected water systems on management plan development, public messaging and related matters.

The Division will continue to engage with public water systems, other agencies and other states to address the emerging health concerns associated with cyanotoxins as they relate to California's drinking water.

Learn more about cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins from additional links below:

- [California Harmful Algal Blooms \(HABs\) Portal](#)
- [Cyanotoxin Tools for Public Water Systems \(USEPA\)](#)
- [Cyanobacteria/Cyanotoxins Basic Information \(USEPA\)](#)

Notice! As the state transitions from the COVID-19 emergency, please contact your local Water Board to arrange necessary file reviews.

[About Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscribe](#)  [Settings](#)



To contact your local DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER office, please refer to the [District Map](#).

Water systems with an emergency should contact the personnel listed in their current Water Quality Emergency Notification Plan.

(Page last updated 8/12/19)

Drinking Water Resources

[California Laboratory Intake Portal \(CLIP\)](#)
[Contaminants in Drinking Water](#)
[Consolidation and Extension of Service](#)
[COVID-19 Drinking Water](#)
[Cyanobacteria/Cyanotoxins in Drinking Water](#)
[Consumer Confidence Reports \(CCRs\)](#)
[DRINC Portal](#)
[Drinking Water Branch Districts](#)

[Drinking Water Supply Service Area Lookup Tool](#)
[Drinking Water Watch Database](#)
[Electronic Annual Reports \(EAR\)](#)
[Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program \(ELAP\)](#)






[Funding for Public Water Systems](#)
[Information for Public Water Systems](#)
[Operator Certification - Drinking Water](#)
[Permits](#)
[PFAS: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#)

[Public Water System Monitoring Schedules](#)
[Public Safety Power Shutoff and Wildfire Info](#)
[Regulations and Statutes](#)
[Residential Water Treatment Devices](#)
[Safe Drinking Water Plan for California](#)
[SAFER Drinking Water](#)

Notice! As the state transitions from the COVID-19 emergency, please contact your local Water Board to arrange necessary file reviews.







[About Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscribe](#)  [Settings](#)



-  [EPA Water Sense](#)
-  [Report an Environmental Concern](#)
-  [Save Our Water](#)
-  [Flex Alert](#)
-  [Register to Vote](#)



Quick Links

-  [Board Agendas](#)
-  [Fees](#)
-  [Make a Payment](#)
-  [Grievance Procedure](#)
-  [Help / Business Help](#)
-  [Uniform Grants Guidance](#)



Resources

- [OIMA](#)
- [CEDEN](#)
- [Data & Databases](#)
- [Drought Information](#)
- [FAAST](#)
- [Language Access Form](#)
- [Formulario de Acceso al Idioma](#)
- [My Water Quality](#)
- [Performance Report](#)
- [Tribal Affairs](#)

Notice! As the state transitions from the COVID-19 emergency, please contact your local Water Board to arrange necessary file reviews.

[About Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Subscribe](#) [Settings](#)



- [Opportunities for Public Participation](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Grants & Loans](#)
- [Laws / Regulations](#)
- [Plans / Policies](#)
- [Public Records Center](#)
- [Publications / Forms](#)

[Back to Top](#)

[Conditions of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Contact Us](#)



[Website Accessibility Certification](#)

Copyright © 2023 State of California

The California Water Boards include the [State Water Resources Control Board](#) and nine [Regional Boards](#)

The State Water Board is one of six environmental entities operating under the authority of the California Environmental Protection Agency

[CalEPA](#) | [ARB](#) | [CalRecycle](#) | [DPR](#) | [DTSC](#) | [OEHHA](#) | [SWRCB](#)