**Blue-green algae bloom in XXXXXXXXXXX;
Caution Urged in Water Contact**

**News Release: xxxxxxx, 201x Contact: xxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx**

**Sacramento –** xxagency namexxxx is urging boaters and recreational users to avoid direct contact with or use of waters containing blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) in xxwater body namexxx in xxxxxxxx County.

The recommendation is based on the potential health risks from the algae, which is currently blooming in xxwater bodyxx.

Xxxsentence on where the bloom has been observed in the water bodyxxx. Bloom conditions can change rapidly and wind and waves may move or concentrate the bloom into different regions of the xxwater bodyxx. Xxsentence detailing results of water sampling, whether toxins confirmed or notxxx

xxDescription of water body, who operates itxx. xxThe water body (is/is not) used for drinking water supply, further detail if it isxx. Xxcaution signs have been posted at these locationsxxx

Blue-green algae can pose health risks, particularly to children and pets. We urge people to choose safe activities when visiting xxxwater bodyxx and recommend that people and their pets avoid contact with water, and avoid swallowing lake water in an algae bloom area.

(insert map, pictures if available).

The algae bloom can appear as cut grass in the water or blue-green, white or brown foam, scum or mats that can float on the water’s surface and accumulate along the shoreline and boat ramp area.

Recreational exposure to toxic blue-green algae can cause eye irritation, allergic skin rash, mouth ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, and cold and flu-like symptoms. Pets can be especially susceptible because they tend to drink while in the water and lick their fur after.

The [Statewide Guidance on Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Blooms](http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/resources/index.html#recreational) recommends the following for waters impacted by blue-green algae:

* Take care that pets and livestock do not drink the water, swim through algae, scums or mats, or lick their fur after going in the water. Rinse pets in clean water to remove algae from fur.
* Avoid wading, swimming, or jet or water skiing in water containing algae blooms or scums or mats.
* Do not drink, cook or wash dishes with untreated surface water from these areas under any circumstances; common water purification techniques such as camping filters, tablets and boiling do not remove toxins.
* People should not eat mussels or other bivalves collected from these areas. Limit or avoid eating fish from these areas; if fish are consumed, remove the guts and liver, and rinse filets in clean drinking water.
* Get medical treatment immediately if you think that you, your pet, or livestock might have been poisoned by blue-green algae toxins. Be sure to alert the medical professional to the possible contact with blue-green algae. Also, make sure to contact the local county public health department.

**For more information, please visit:**

California Harmful Algal Blooms Portal:

<http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/>

California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Network:

<http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network/index.html>

California Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program Freshwater HAB webpage:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/freshwater_cyanobacteria.shtml>

California Department of Public Health:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Bluegreenalgae.aspx>

CA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment: Information on Microcystin

<http://oehha.ca.gov/ecotoxicology/general-info/information-microcystins>

US Environmental Protection Agency: CyanoHAB website

<https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/cyanohabs>

US Environmental Protection Agency: Anatoxin-a report

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-06/documents/anatoxin-a-report-2015.pdf>

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